Good people of Student Affairs,

And so, it begins. As I write this brief introduction to our August Newsletter, outside my window students are headed to class or lunch, and the intramurals staff are active with a football throwing event in the parking lot. It is great to see students back on campus and feel the energy that they bring with them. This is what we have planned, pushed and worked for so please keep everything going in the right direction. With good procedures and luck, we can work to put our pandemic years behind us.

We are all looking forward to a great fall semester and new academic year!

All the best,

Mr. Richard Hester
ADMISSIONS

Mrs. Libba Baker

By the Numbers

- Fall 2021 vs Fall 2020
  - Applications: 1,767 (-876)
  - Transfer: 303 (+18)
  - Freshman: 1,464 (-894)
- Admits: 1,115 (-83)
  - Transfer: 163 (+5)
  - Freshman: 952 (-87)
- Fall 2021 vs Fall 2020 (Freshmen)
  - Scholarships Reviewed: 743
  - Awarded: 721 (+147)
  - Accepted: 198 (+80)
- Fall 2021 vs Fall 2020 (Transfers)
  - Scholarships Reviewed: 111
  - Awarded: 87 (NC)
  - Accepted: 54 (-2)

Campus Tours (individual):
- August 15, 2020 - July 30, 2021: 352 students
  - 92.88% check-in rate
  - Group Tours: 100
  - Virtual meetings: 28
- August 15, 2020 - July 30, 2020: 212 students
  - 87.24% check-in rate
  - Group Tours: 346 students
  - Virtual meetings - 15

Orientation:

- Fall 2021 Registrations: 359
  - Freshmen - 250
  - Transfer - 109

Staff Notes

- Mrs. Sonia Shaw attended college fairs at Spring Hill College and Coastal Alabama-Fairhope campus on July 20. She was able to speak with rising seniors about attending UWA upon graduation.
- Mrs. Sonia Shaw attended an Alumni Planning Meeting on July 22 at Felix’s with Dr. Chris Thomasson. Topics discussed included engaging more young alumni in Mobile and planning an alumni event in the area.
- Mrs. Juley Rutherford administered the Residual ACT on July 23 with 10 students participating. The participants were a combination of UCS students working on Dual-Enrollment requirements and prospective UWA students.

Student Affairs

Mrs. Libba Baker

- Created and printed monthly calendar for August
- Created and scheduled posts for Reach screens.
- Maintain Intramural Fields.

Campus Activities Board

- The schedule is complete for the fall and updates are being completed on the website, the Tiger Hub, UWA app, and the social media sites to reflect the fall schedule.
- Implementing new marketing strategies designed to better inform students about campus events.

Cheer

- July 14-15 - Participated in team camp at Mississippi State University.

BAND

Dr. Doug Overmier

- Expecting 77 students for the marching band. There could be a few more by the beginning of the semester.
- August 3-14 - Marching Band Camp
  - Planning a trip to Clinton, MS for the football game versus Mississippi College.
  - Exploring recruiting opportunities at area high schools.

Leadership

- The Bands hosted a Leadership Camp for students and staff of the UWA Marching Band. Fifteen students and three staff members participated in the two-day event.

Upcoming

- October 23 - Alumni Band for Homecoming
- October 28-30 - In conjunction with the Theatre Department, planning a Haunted House for university students and community.
- November 13 - Marching Honor Band
- December 5 - Christmas Concert
- Community Band starting November 2021. Open to all interested parties.
Greek Life

- Preparation for the recruitment cycle is in full swing for all councils and remain hopeful that all can be conducted in-person.

- **August 19-23** - National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) Sorority Recruitment

- **August 30 – September 2** - North American Interfraternity Conference (IFC) Fraternity Recruitment

- **September 8** - National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) annual Convocation

Student Involvement

- All groups are preparing for a more normal fall as we approach the 2021 Academic year. Groups are being asked to have an online option for certain events for those students who have been placed into quarantine in an attempt to provide similar experiences for everyone.

  - **September 3** - College Colors Day
  - **September 4** - Family Day

Fitness Center

- The UWA Fitness Center is geared up for a busy semester.

  - **August 30 - October 1** - Be A Fit Tiger
  - **September 1 - 30** - Stairtember
  - **October 4 - 7** - Health Awareness Week
  - **October 19** - Blood Drive
  - **November 1 - 30** - Rowvember

Student Support Services

- Staff members are meeting with all new students to assist students with:
  - Understanding financial aid packages
  - Assisting with KHEAA Verify process
  - Budgeting for fall semester
  - Exploring major options at UWA
  - Making changes to fall schedules as needed
  - Addressing any other questions or concerns

- Staff members are meeting with returning students to assist with:
  - FAFSA verification questions
  - Fall budgeting
  - Course planning
  - Financial aid appeals

By the numbers

- **33 students added to 2021-2022 SSS Scholar cohort**
- **297 students will be reported on as part of the 2020-2021 APR data collection.**
Housing Operations

By the numbers (housing applications)

• 252 new freshmen (+37 from this time last year and -47 from 2019).
• 69 transfer students (+17 from this time last year and -11 from 2019).
• 272 current students. (-59 from this time last year and -154 from 2019).

TOTALS: 593 housing applications for Fall 2021 (-5 from this time last year and -212 from 2019).

Summer Occupancy

• Full Summer = 12
• Summer I = 0
• Summer II = 5
• Summer Camps
  • The first CentriKids Camp ended on July 2. It had 16 staff members and 99 campers.
  • The second CentriKids Camp ended on July 16. It had 18 staff members and 256 campers.

Room Selection

• Freshman room selection took place July 9 for those who paired with a roommate in My College Roomie and on July 14 for anyone who had not paired with a roommate. Starting July 15, anyone applying for housing was automatically placed into the Freshman Room Selection process; so, they were able to select their room as soon as they completed their housing application.

• Pre-occupancy room change continues for upper division students and started for freshmen on July 15.

Move-In Week 2021

• The individual Check-In appointment process has been successful. More than 200 students signed for their check-in appointment on July 15, the first day appointments scheduling opened. At this time, we only have about 20 students who have not signed up for their check-in appointments. These students are being contacted, to see if their attendance plans have changed.

Residence Life

• Summer residents have enjoyed weekly socials, including playing bingo, participating in an activity to get to know each other, and closing out the summer with s’mores around a fire pit.

• Hall Director training started on July 23. They have been working diligently to get the halls ready for residents and training finalized for RAs.

• Prior to their arrival to campus, Resident Assistants finished an online training module via an RA 101 Blackboard Course and an RA 201 course through ACUHO-I, a national Housing Officers organization. This training supplements what they will learn during their in-person training.

• RA Training began on July 31 and will continue August 12. Guest speakers from across campus will be presenting, including Dr. Jane Coleman, Dr. BJ Kimbrough, Ms. Andrea Farquhar, Mr. Robert Upchurch, Mr. Caleb Walters, Dr. Angel Jowers, Mr. Jason Gardner, Mr. Troy Maddox, Officer Josette White, and Mrs. Amanda Gilliland.

FINANCIAL AID

Mr. Steve Smith

2021-2022 Financial Aid Processing:

• As of August 2, 2021...
  • Downloaded 5,809 Applications (+1,298 since last month)
  • Packaged 5,105 awards (+1,415 since last month)
  • 242 selected for verification (-102 since last month)
  • 448 verifications completed (+240 increase since last month)

Delinquent Loans Activity

• Currently, student borrowers are set to begin repayment in September. Congress is expected to discuss the implications of the return to repayment in the next session and may extend the end date of forbearance.

News

• The Office of Financial Aid is experiencing a 45% decrease in the number of applications still in verification. This is in part thanks to a recent decision by the U.S.D.E. to waive verifications for students selected in a specific group. The result is also a 14.7% increase in the number of verification completed. These figures are compared to the same information at this time last year.
By the numbers
• 216 active Job board listings

Other
• Provided the College of Business and Technology with a report of Career Services activities from 2017-2021 for their Accreditation Quality Assurance Report.
• Planning for events for 2021-22, website content update and Tiger Threads Career Closet

Attended...
• AACE Annual (Virtual) Conference
• CPI related meetings included the monthly check in call, submission of quarterly milestones and budget update, and virtual meeting with other CPI schools related to our joint presentation for the Advisory Board during the annual convening in September.
• Alabama Connection (Virtual) planning meeting
• Governor’s Office of Education and Workforce Transformation DACUM meeting

Direct Employer Contacts:
• Enterprise Holdings virtual meeting to discuss partnership and the events for the year.
• Emailed 308 employers/professional organizations an invitation to the UWA TIGERCareer Fair scheduled for September 29.
• Reached out to Spring ‘21 graduates about the following job listings...
  • Pickens Academy (Elementary teacher)
  • Bright Beginnings Learning Center in Centreville, AL (Pre-K Lead Teacher)
  • Wilcox County Schools (Elementary teaching position at ABC Elementary)
  • Novartis in the Montgomery/Auburn area (Sales position)
  • Fastenal in Demopolis (Account Specialist)

Counseling Services
Individual Student Contacts: 14
• Counseling - 11
• Intakes - 3
Referrals: 2
• Will Atkinson (ADA/Student Affairs) -1
• Healthcare.gov to apply for health insurance - 1

Presentations/Meetings/Other
• Planning for orientation and finalizing distribution of materials on the campus-wide Suicide Awareness and Prevention Program

Attended...
• Three (3) Go West Parent Orientation Parent meetings – Financial Aid, Housing, and UWA Essentials.
• Weekly Orientation Team meetings x 3
• Renewal of QPR Certification
• Participated in the interview for the position of Media Lab Technician/Lecturer of Digital Communication
• West Alabama Counselors’ planning meeting for the annual workshop
• Workshop on Addiction and the Brain (virtual) ADA Services
• Meeting with four (4) ADA students to review accommodations.

UPWARD BOUND
Ms. Vickie Pullum

• June 14 - July 23 - Upward Bound Staff Summer Scholar Virtual Program
• June 28 - August 6 - UB Bridge Program (4 students participated). These students are taking summer classes at UWA and have a 3.0 or higher GPA
• UB Applications are still being received for 9th graders.

• Summer Scholar Program Classes included:
  • Virtual ACT Prep (English, Math, Reading, Science, & Writing/ Vocabulary)
  • Nucleus Entrepreneurship
  • Photo-Study- 24/7 Virtual Tutoring Service

CAREER SERVICES & COUNSELING CENTER
Ms. Tammy White

Career Services
Individual Student Contacts: 17
• Resume advice/critiques: 9
• Mock Interviews: 5
• Other: 3
August 5 - 2021 Summer Online ends and grades are due by 5:00pm.
August 9 - 2021 Campus Summer Semester ends and grades are due by noon.
August 12 - Deregistration for the Fall Semester and Fall Online one Session
August 16 - Classes will begin for 2021 Fall Semester and Fall One Session
Registration for both Fall Semester on-campus and Fall Online Sessions are open.
Mrs. April Atkinson finalized the 2021 Academic Catalogues.
Mrs. Susan Sparkman is completing the catalogue approval process for the Veterans Affairs and State Approving Agency. All catalogues must be submitted to the State Approving Agency with detailed documentation of all changes, additions, and deletions in order to be deemed approved to offer VA benefits.
Working to certify all students receiving veteran benefits for the fall term with the VA.

By the numbers
Transcripts processed for the month of July 2021 (657) compared to July (805).