The "ghost town" days on campus from just a few short months ago have been replaced by the more traditional goings on of our students, faculty, and staff. Although there is a different feel around campus, it is uplifting seeing the students filling the sidewalks as they move to and from class. I was recently reminded that challenges have been part of the world around us since the beginning of time, and, although it seems bleak now, this too shall pass. Let's all do our best to remain positive as we move forward through this semester and remember...we are stronger together!

Sincerely,

VP for Student Affairs
Mr. Richard Hester
Admissions

Mrs. Libba Baker

By the Numbers

- Fall 2021 vs Fall 2020
  - Applications: 25 (-11)
  - Transfer: 3 (+1)
  - Freshman: 22 (-12)
  - Admits: 2 (-10)
- Spring 2021 vs Spring 2020
  - Applications: 43 (+6)
  - Transfer: 21 (+6)
  - Freshman: 22 (NC)
  - Admits: 24 (+15)

Student Life

Mr. Byron Thetford

Student Involvement

- The SGA, despite unprecedented challenges due to COVID-19, has gotten off to strong and positive start.
- Executive Council members are preparing for elections and are eager to welcome the newly elected Senators. They have also produced a promotional video for the Governor’s Office highlighting College Colors Day and safety on the UWA campus.
- In preparation for the upcoming Presidential election, the SGA is planning an extensive voter registration drive to take place in the coming weeks.

Greek Life

- UWA Panhellenic sororities welcomed 27 new members into their ranks on Bid Day.
- This year, 100% of women who signed an MRABA stating that they would accept a bid received a bid from a sorority.
- This year’s recruitment saw more overall “matches” than just one year ago. Coupled with high retention, this proves to be a positive for the Greek system as a whole despite the challenges due to the pandemic.
- IFC Rush is ongoing with 16 men registered to attend the three IFC fraternity events hosted by TKE, Delta Chi, and Sigma Pi.

Fitness Center

- UWA Fitness will sponsor the first blood drive of the year in collaboration with the UWA Softball team.
- Special thanks to Mrs. Shonna Tatum for all of her hard work in organizing this event.

Upward Bound

Ms. Vickie Pullum

- August 14 - Marked the conclusion of the Virtual 2020 UB Summer Program
  - 19 of 28 (68%) of the initial students enrolled completed the program.
  - An additional incentive was awarded to the top two students per classification (These students exemplified exceptional academic performance, attendance, and dedication during the session).
  - UB Staff completed planning 2020-2021 academic year calendar.
  - Events include eight (8) scheduled Saturday Sessions and 11 weeks of After School Tutoring to be held Monday through Thursday.
  - Due to recommended social distancing due to COVID-19, all upcoming UB events to be conducted online until further notice.

By the Numbers

- Upward Bound celebrated 14 seniors that graduated in May.
- 13 of 14 (93%) of those graduates enrolled in post-secondary education.
- 6 of 13 (46%) are in enrolled at the University of West Alabama. Four (4) of these students participated in the Upward Summer 2020 Bridge program.

Upcoming

- Recruitment planning for the upcoming year is ongoing.
- Methods for recruiting include...
  - Upward Bound Facebook Page Announcements
  - Promotional video via YouTube
  - Local Newspaper Ads
  - Zoom Meetings
  - Current and previous UB participants

Student Affairs
Student Activities

Mr. Jason Gardner

- The resiliency of the UWA students has been apparent as they have embraced the necessary changes required to help reduce health risks for the campus population.

- A new calendar of events has been created to ensure the student experience is not diminished due to limitations based on social distancing guidelines. This “new approach” has been a team effort and has highlighted the innovative nature of the entire Student Engagement staff.

By the numbers

- 346 people UWA app downloads this month. Since January 1, 2019, the app has been downloaded 2,530 times.

Campus Activities Board (CAB)

- Hosted four (4) events in August boasting 766 students participants.

- Purchased a 20’ x 17’ inflatable movie screen. The screen can not only provide a large display for movies (p. 11) to accommodate the social distancing requirements, but it can also be used for other events as well. CAB collaborated with Intramurals to host a Madden ‘21 Tournament. (right)

Event Totals

- Dale K Hypnotist 285
- Bingo for Bucks 293
- Movie on the Lawn (Trolls) 153
- Madden 21 Tournament 35

- Efforts to create socially-distanced programming for the UWA students that is compliant with the health and safety standards is ongoing.

Financial Aid

Mr. Steve Smith

2020-2021 Financial Aid Processing:

- As of August 31, 2020 (increase since last report)...

- Downloaded 6,757 ISIRs (804)
- Packaged 6,289 awards (1,319)
- 553 selected for verification (20)


- This year, the Office of Financial Aid set a new high-water mark for FAFSA award packages. Ninety three percent of all FAFSAs filed with UWA had an award package in place by the start of the fall semester.

- 2017 76%
- 2018 71%
- 2019 75%
- 2020 93%
Counseling Services (cont.)
- Participated...
  - Orientation sessions including Parent, Transfer, and Freshman sessions.
- Received notification that Counseling Services was awarded a $5,000.00 Suicide Awareness and Prevention Grant (AHESPP).

ADA Services:
- Completed 19 ADA plans for Fall 2020
- Presentations:
  - Assisting School Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Counseling Programs with their 2020 Fall 1 Term Residency Program for students.
  - Completed one (1) UWA 101 Presentation on Suicide Awareness and Prevention.
  - Sessions for students in UWA 200 on “Education Planning, Expectations, and Study Strategies”
  - Session with Student Support Services Students on “The Importance of Flexibility.”
- Two (2) training sessions with Housing Staff on Suicide Awareness and Prevention and Mental Health.

Upcoming:
- Continued Counseling and ADA Services
- Referrals:
  - UWA Athletics – 1

Employer information and connections:
- Attended...
  - Enterprise Holdings College Appreciation (virtual).
- Job opening communications for Spring ’20 graduates...
  - Contacted 14 graduates about an Accounting/Finance opening at Whitfield Regional Hospital.
  - Contacted 8 Accounting graduates in regards to an opening at Swain & Collins PA in Meridian, MS.

Counseling Services
Individual Student Contacts: 16
- Counseling - 13
- Intakes - 3

Events/Meetings/Other:
- Attended...
  - Orientation Committee Meetings
  - Virtual Training on Suicide Assessment and Treatment planning.

Student Support Services
Ms. Andrea Farquhar

Student Support Services
- August 5 - TRIO SSS received notification that grant funding will continue through 2020-2025
  - The grant will allow UWA to direct $1.7 million over five years to support first-generation and low-income students to improve the retention and graduation rates of 160+ students each year

By the Numbers
- 92% of SSS Scholars returned for fall 2020
- 90% of new 2019 SSS Scholars returned for fall 2020

- All TRIO SSS services will be provided virtually throughout the fall semester including meetings, tutoring, and workshops.
- Staff will be meeting individually with all new and returning students and scheduling requested tutoring sessions throughout August and September.
- 45 new students have been added to the program so far this fall.
- 47 tutoring sessions have been scheduled to-date.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Career Services & Counseling Center
Ms. Tammy White

Counseling Services
Individual Student Contacts: 200
- Resume advice/critiques: 63
- Mock Interviews: 0
- Other: 137

Events/Meetings/Other:
- Attended...
  - Mini Virtual AACE Conference
  - NACE & CPI Town Hall meetings
  - Resume Writing and Career Services - UWA 101 class – 20 freshmen attended
- Virtual meetings...
  - Welcome to Career Services - 15 students attended
  - Preparing to take the MBTI Assessment - Professional Development class – 10 students attended
  - Practice Interview, Tech Ready & Professional First Impression Tips
  - Alabama Connection meeting
  - CPI Monthly Check-in call and C2C team meeting
  - Personality Type Information - BA402 class – 11 students attended
  - Updated Career Services webpage
  - Spoke to students during orientation

Ms. Gena Robbins worked with committee and developed the Tiger Career Logo

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Registrar
Mrs. Susan Sparkman

- **July 28** - 2020 Summer Campus Semester ended.
- **August 6** - Summer Two Online Session ended.
- **August 11** - Degrees for Summer Graduation were posted.
- **August 13** - 2020 was Registration Day
- **August 17** - Fall 2020 Campus and Fall One Online began.
- 797 transcripts were processed during the month of August 2019 compared to 873 transcripts processed during August 2020.
Donald will shine as the cheer coach of UWA like he does in all aspects of his life. As an athlete, Donald was respectful, responsible, determined, and full of spirit, and I have no doubt he will be all of those things and more as a coach.” ~ Amy Harbuck (former coach at EMCC)

Housing
Mr. Luther Gremmels

Housing Operations:
- 586 students currently living on campus (-176 from this time last year)
  - 216 freshmen, 54 transfer students, and 316 returning students.
- Move-In 2020 was highly successful, with positive feedback regarding the use of scheduled appointments for checking in. Eight (8) check-in sessions spanning 7 days was offered and with the success and positive feedback, the scheduled appointments it is likely this method will continue into the future.
- Twenty residents were in quarantine on campus and five residents quarantined at their permanent homes during August. For those on campus, members of the Housing staff delivered meals from the Young Hall cafeteria to residents that were not able to arrange friends to pick up their meals.

Residence Life
- Gilbert Hall Director, Kaitlyn Strachan, created the Housing staff shirt design this year. The design was also used as the “door dec” design.
- August 4-13 - Members of the Housing staff participated in a socially distanced workshop. In addition to members of the Housing staff, several University faculty and staff members contributed to the success of the workshop: Dr. Jane Coleman, Mr. Robert Upchurch, Mr. Caleb Walters, Chief Jeff Manuel, Mr. Bobby Holycross, and Mrs. Amanda Gilliland. RAs received training on a variety of topics including:
  - Marketing & Advertising
  - Emergency Procedures
  - Title IX and Legal Issues
  - Community Development, including virtual engagement
  - Dealing with Roommate Conflict
  - Helping Students in Distress
  - Student Development and Identity
- Community development and programming looks very different this year. For August, each staff was challenged to create an engaging virtual activity:
  - Gilbert Hall focused on stress management, distributing coloring sheets and crayons for residents before starting a Zoom and Kahoot event with activities, information, and trivia.
  - Stickney challenged their students with a UWA trivia night via Zoom and Kahoot.
  - Hoover RAs became cooking show hosts, demonstrating via Zoom how to make an easy pasta dish.
  - Reed and Patterson staff issued a TikTok challenge to residents.

Welcome...