

To the family of:

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Goodbye Rubber Bowl



UA Zips battle Buffalo in the last game at the Rubber Bowl Nov. 13, 2008.



UA President Luis Proenza and Zippy sign the topmost I-beam of the new stadium.

Your first-year student may have been one of the many students who signed the uppermost I-beam for the Oct. 21 "Topping Off" ceremony for the new InfoCision Stadium.

And if, just three weeks later, he or she also was one of the 18,500 fans who attended the last Zips football game played at the Rubber Bowl Nov. 13, your son or daughter truly is part of UA history as a witness to the end of one era and the beginning of another.

University administrators, faculty and students joined community leaders and construction workers at the building site for InfoCision Stadium/Summa Field for the traditional ceremony marking the placement of the uppermost I-beam on a new building.

The week before the event, the entire university community was invited to write their names and messages on a metal I-beam. Then, adorned with the traditional pairing of an American flag and a pine tree, the beam was hoisted aloft and placed on the new on-campus football facility.

The stadium complex is on schedule to open Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009, and it appears fans can't wait. All 16 of the facility's luxury boxes are sold, 31 of 38 loge boxes are spoken for, and more than 2,400 season tickets already have been purchased.

While workers are busy getting InfoCision Stadium ready for its debut next year, Akron fans and the Zips football team gave the venerable Rubber Bowl a great send-off Nov. 13. Special tickets and posters were distributed to the first fans to arrive, and so many commemorative shirts were sold that retailers had to take back-orders to accommodate the demand.

The game itself carried its own significance as the University of Buffalo came to town to challenge the Zips for leadership of the Mid-American Conference Eastern Division. The ensuing brawl went into a record four overtimes, until a fumble by the Zips gave Buffalo the ball, and with a 40-yard field goal, the Bulls pulled off a 43-40 victory.

Despite the late hour, many fans remained after the game for an emotional ceremony honoring past Zips players and the stadium's history, followed by a thundering fireworks display that painted the night sky.



The signed beam is hoisted in place.

Hello InfoCision Stadium

www.uakron.edu/stadium

ENGAGING STUDENTS BEFORE AND AFTER ORIENTATION

As we near the end of the fall semester, it is important for students to reflect on their college experiences thus far during college. In this same spirit, the Office of New Student Orientation is doing a bit of our own reflecting.

This past year the office rolled out Akron Adventures and a campus-wide Week of Welcome, two new programs for our incoming first-year students. The office also assumed responsibility for planning UA's annual Student Appreciation Day. Just as we expect students to reflect on their experiences, it is important for those of us who help provide some of those experiences to do the same.

About a year ago, several staff members decided we wanted to offer a pre-enrollment program designed to help introduce students to the UA campus and get them more comfortable with the transition to college. From this idea came Akron Adventures, a set of off-campus, outdoor adventure trips that bring together students to discuss many of the transitional issues they'll face when coming to college. The program also allows them to meet other new students and some of the campus administrators who can help enhance that transition. This inaugural class of Akron Adventure students had a great time and seems to be fitting into campus life very well.

This past fall we also launched the University's first coordinated, campus-wide Week of Welcome to welcome all our new students. The week was filled with a variety of activities and programs that combined to make for a great start to the fall semester. Among them were a few major events,

Akron Adventures White Water Rafting Trip



Student Appreciation Day Activities

some long-standing traditions, and some exciting new opportunities that were not to be missed.

These two programs, which took place before and during the first week of classes, were followed by Student Appreciation Day, which was held Sept. 10 during the third week of the semester. This campus-wide celebration helped us get to know students better and to say thank you for choosing UA. During the celebration, departments and colleges set up and decorated booths, while faculty and staff members greeted students and handed out free hot dogs, T-shirts and other goodies. It was a great time for students to meet the people in their colleges and across campus.

As a campus community, the faculty and staff members who teach and interact with your students daily are committed to their success and development. It is our hope that providing programs, such as those mentioned above, will allow students to feel more comfortable with their choice of UA for their higher education. As we look toward the future and begin planning for the next Akron Adventures, Week of Welcome and Student Appreciation Day programs, we are ourselves reminded to reflect and learn from the experiences of the past in much the same way we hope your student will reflect on his or her own college experience to date.

CHRIS TANKERSLEY
DIRECTOR, NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

University College Offers

HELP TO STUDENTS

in Their Studies

What should your student do if he or she is experiencing difficulties in class?

First, your student should realize that it is common for students who earned average or even good grades in high school to underperform as they adapt to the increased requirements of college courses. Their next step should be to contact the Office of Student Academic Success, which offers programs that support students' academic efforts.

The office can provide your student with access to the Math Lab, Writing Lab, subject tutoring, and the Learning Assistant program, located on the ground floor of Bierce Library. Those services have been centralized at Bierce so students can have a single, convenient location to get assistance.

Students in math classes up through Intermediate Algebra can get help at the **Math Lab** in Room 69. Appointments aren't necessary. For College Algebra through Ordinary Differential Equations, students can go right next door to the **Tutorial Services** in Room 68. Again, no appointments are needed for these subjects.

The **Writing Lab** also is located in Room 69 in Bierce Library. Here, trained writing tutors can assist students at any stage of the writing process. Students can receive support for writing assignments in any subject, but they need to make appointments to ensure that a tutor will be available at the time they need.

Subject tutoring is offered through **Tutorial Services**. Peer tutors are available for all subjects offered in the General Education curriculum, with special emphasis on science and math. For peer subject tutoring, students will need to make appointments to ensure that a tutor is available.

The Office for Student Academic Success also supports the **Learning Assistant** program, which places trained tutors in selected sections of General Education courses. These Learning

Assistants attend the classes with the students and offer regular study sessions. Learning Assistants are partnered with faculty members and work as a team to help students develop the critical thinking and problem-solving skills they need to succeed in their university classes. Working with peers is a very effective way of learning new materials, and this is shown in the level of academic success achieved by students in classes with Learning Assistants.

The Math Lab and Writing Lab have day and evening hours. To learn more about the Math Lab, students can call 330-972-5214. To make an appointment with the Writing Lab or to learn more about the services offered, students can call 330-972-6548. For information on subject tutoring, students can call the Tutorial Services at 330-972-6552.

The Math Lab and Writing Lab also have facilities in Summit College in the Polsky Building that are also open to all students. For information on either of those labs, students can call 330-972-6984 for the Writing Lab or 330-972-6550 for the Math Lab. To learn more about all the services offered through the Office of Student Academic Success, visit their website: <http://www.uakron.edu/colleges/univcoll/OSAS.php>.

LAURA MONROE
COORDINATOR, WRITING LAB



For more information about the resources mentioned in this newsletter, visit these links:

University College Dean's Office: <http://www.uakron.edu/colleges/univcoll/>

Office of Student Academic Success: <http://www.uakron.edu/colleges/univcoll/tutor.php>

Academic Advisement Center: www.uakron.edu/advising

Service Learning: <http://www.uakron.edu/colleges/univcoll/ServiceLearning.php>

Department of Student Life: <http://www.uakron.edu/studentlife/>

On-campus Events: www.eventsatua.com

ZipLine (Online Information and Registration Center): zipline.uakron.edu



Cadet Brian Scanlon *Cadet Dakota Willener*

Training Future Leaders

The University of Akron's ROTC program has just completed a terrific fall semester. This fall, a large group of freshman cadets came to campus ready and eager to meet the challenges of training, with the goal of developing the leadership skills they will need to graduate as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army.

This fall UA's newest cadets learned about the Army through a wide variety of experiences and activities. Cadets received combat water survival training and learned basic rifle marksmanship and land navigation. They rappelled down the side of a building using a rope. In addition, these new cadets participated in an outdoor field training exercise, where they learned infantry and leadership tactics and techniques.

Included in this year's freshman class are two cadets who have received four-year, full-tuition scholarships to The University of Akron. Brian Scanlon of Saint Ignatius High School and Dakota Willener of Barberton High School will graduate with commissions as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army. Their scholarship funding includes book funding and a monthly stipend. Ten more freshman cadets are currently waiting for their scholarships to be finalized. With these scholarships, the students can concentrate on their courses rather than worry about expenses.

Cadet Willener, a political science major, has great things to say about what Army ROTC has done for him in just one semester of college: "I like the wide variety of activities and the constant chance to learn something new—things people don't normally get to do on a daily basis." Willener also said, "ROTC has helped me get used to being at college pretty fast. As a freshman, it's good to have friends in the program, and familiar faces I run into in my classes and around campus."

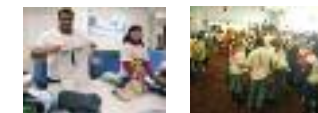
Cadet Scanlon, a sociology and criminal justice/law enforcement major, said, "ROTC has helped me put my future in perspective and focus on the goals I have in college and life." He also shared, "I like the opportunity to become friends with people from many different places and backgrounds."

UA Army ROTC is looking forward to the spring semester, our new and returning cadets, and the continued growth and development of our country's future leaders. Students can learn more about these opportunities by contacting The University of Akron ROTC battalion at 330-972-7454 or <http://armyrotc.com/edu/akron/index.htm>.

CPT DANIEL TITUS
UA ARMY ROTC

Students "Make a Difference" Once Again in the Akron Community

On Oct. 25, The University of Akron participated in its fourth consecutive national Make a Difference Day. Make a Difference Day was started 18 years ago by USA Weekend Magazine as a national day of neighbors helping neighbors.



Students sorting clothes at the Haven of Rest and awaiting departure to their projects.

This year The University of Akron sent out almost 700 students, faculty, staff, parents, and community volunteers into the greater Akron community to complete 57 service projects. The volunteers provided 2,100 service hours, which in dollars would be valued at \$36,813!

The day began with volunteers receiving t-shirts and a light breakfast. Ron McDonald, director of Leadership Development, encouraged and thanked everyone before they headed out to make a difference. Projects included home repairs for the elderly/disabled, landscaping at local churches/shelters, helping staff at a local school prepare for its move into a new building, spending time with residents at a local nursing home, winterizing the dog shelter at the Humane Society, and many more!

The volunteers were very excited to serve their community in such a meaningful way, even though the 7:45 a.m. start-up time is almost unheard of for most college students. The agencies/organizations were very grateful for all of the help and have remarked at how impressed they were with the attitudes and determination of the volunteers. Make a Difference Day 2008 was a great success. The University of Akron looks forward to helping our neighbors throughout the year and for Make a Difference Day 2009. The University of Akron will be organizing a similar volunteer opportunity for students on Monday, January 19 from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. to celebrate the life and ideals of Martin Luther King, Jr.

KRISTIN KULLANDER
COORDINATOR, SERVICE LEARNING

Mark Your Calendar

Spring 2009 Semester Begins

Monday, Jan. 12

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday and Day of Service

Monday, Jan. 19

Contact Kristin Kullander to volunteer at x6232
no classes

President's Day Observance

Tuesday, Feb. 17 - no classes

Spring 2009 Semester Recess

March 16 - 20

Spring 2009 Semester Final Exam Week

May 4 - 8