WHAT MAKES THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON HOME
People, Places and Programs Make it a Special Place
UA’s athletic teams create a sense of home for the student-athletes who come to Akron from all over the world. Home can also be a student organization or club. And there are many ways in which we create the feeling of home around food and events such as our annual Robsgiving dinner.

UA’s performance spaces, such as Guzzetta Hall and E.J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall, and places like the Emily Davis Gallery and Dr. Shirla R. McClain Gallery feel like home at times to me and my wife Georgia because of our deep appreciation of arts and culture. I always feel at home in my office in Buchtel Hall, which for UA’s presidents has been a home base for more than a century. What truly makes my office feel like a home is not necessarily the physical elements of the space, but the colleagues with whom I share it.

I am so grateful to all the UA students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members who contribute to that feeling of home on campus by filling it with warmth, energy and UA spirit.

Gary L. Miller
President

What truly makes my office feel like a home is not necessarily the physical elements of the space, but the colleagues with whom I share it.

Home can sometimes be much more than a physical place, as highlighted in a Cummings Center for the History of Psychology’s exhibit that explores the concept and definition of “home.” It can be a feeling of security, like the ways in which ZipAssist supports students with temporary housing and other needs.
Over the years, the campus has changed quite a bit. Yet, amidst this evolution, one constant has remained: “The Rock.” Positioned in the center of campus for more than 144 years, it stands as a steadfast symbol of tradition at UA.

What most don’t realize is that UA is home to two separate rocks. The smaller of the two is the original rock, from the Class of 1879, whereas the larger rock is from the Class of 1880. The Class of 1880 wanted to outshine the Class of 1879, so they discovered a much larger rock that would do just that. Originally situated in West Akron on the farm of Col. Simon Perkins, son of Akron’s founder, Gen. Simon Perkins, “The Rock” found its way to campus.

However, its journey was far from simple. Transporting the massive boulder via wagon posed challenges, particularly when a bridge along the route was unable to bear its weight. This obstacle led to a delay until the bridge could be reinforced, allowing “The Rock” to continue its journey.

“The Rock” stood firmly for nearly eight decades, while the campus surrounding it changed. In September 1961, it was decided that the landmark stood in the way of progress, which led to its relocation. The move to its current location became inevitable with the construction of Zook Hall, which today houses the LeBron James Family Foundation School of Education.

Despite its enduring presence, “The Rock’s” appearance has undergone transformation over the decades. Various entities, including Greek life, student organizations and athletic teams, have contributed to its ever-changing appearance with a plethora of paint colors and designs. You’ll find that beneath all the layers of paint, “The Rock” has “1880” engraved into it.

In 2013, a dedicated group of students from the Geoscience Club began a mission to restore the beloved rock. Amidst layers of paint, their efforts unearthed intriguing artifacts, such as a T-shirt and other memorabilia. Ironically, on the very day of its restoration unveiling, “The Rock” found itself adorned with fresh paint once again.

While things continue to change and evolve across campus, this landmark remains an enduring symbol that alumni of all ages can relate to and share fond memories of, serving as an unwavering reminder of their University experience. Affectionately known as ‘The Painted Rock’ by UA students, “The Rock” serves as a reminder of our shared history at UA. “It is a living canvas that has been shaped by the contributions of countless students and alumni over the years,” said Willy Kollman ‘08, ‘10, assistant vice president of alumni relations and executive director, the UA Alumni Association. “I think it’s fascinating to consider that what many see as a single monument is actually a composite of two — a class rivalry turned into an ever-changing, colorful symbol of UA tradition.”

Some traditions are not meant to be broken, and painting “The Rock” is one that has endured at UA.

Left: “The Rock” before it was stripped, showing its depth of paint. Middle: “The Rock” after it was stripped and repainted in 2013. Right: “The Rock” painted by members of Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji).
OPPORTUNITIES IN chiropractic medicine

UA students interested in chiropractic medicine will have a new opportunity to complete their bachelor and doctorate degrees in less time as part of the Advanced Scholar Program. National University of Health Sciences (NUHS) has partnered with UA to allow students to complete both undergraduate and Doctor of Chiropractic (D.C.) degrees in as little as seven years.

The Advanced Scholars Program is a joint recruitment and dual admission effort that creates a coordinated curriculum specifically for exceptional students who maintain a 3.5 GPA or higher at UA. Students have the option of enrolling in the chiropractic program at NUHS’s Illinois campus or at its Florida site.

Welcome TO THE BOARD

Mark Lerner ’75 was appointed to the UA Board of Trustees on Oct. 27, 2023. He is president emeritus of GOJO and a graduate of the UA MBA program. Dr. David James, director of the Summa Education Initiative, was welcomed back to the Board as an Advisory Trustee. His reappointment was announced at the September 2023 Board meeting. David Reese ’03 was appointed as an Advisory Trustee during the March 2024 meeting. Reese is currently vice president, Off Highway, at The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company and earned an MBA at UA.

CAMPUS NEWS

The University of Akron Board of Trustees recently approved the renaming of the institution’s Center for Intelligence and Security Studies in honor of distinguished alumnus Michael J. Morell ’80, former acting director of the CIA and prominent commentator on U.S. intelligence and national security issues.

Now known as the Michael J. Morell Center for Intelligence and Security Studies, the Center is a resource to prepare the security professionals of tomorrow by bringing together students, faculty and security practitioners for training, research and education in the areas of intelligence, national security and cybersecurity. Morell is a Cuyahoga Falls native who graduated from UA with a degree in economics. He also has a master’s degree in economics from Georgetown University. Before his retirement, he served for 33 years as a CIA intelligence analyst and a manager of analysts, and a leader in roles that included acting director, deputy director and director for intelligence, a position that oversees all the CIA’s intelligence analysts.

Visit uakron.edu/ciss

Four years after Osama Bin Laden was killed in 2011, the Situation Room was a staging area for U.S. intelligence and law enforcement agencies to hunt for the Al Qaeda leader. Michael Morell was in the situation room — fourth person on the left side in the dark suit with arms folded — when former President Barack Obama and other U.S. officials watched live as Osama Bin Laden was killed.

Michael Morell was in the situation room — fourth person on the left side in the dark suit with arms folded — when former President Barack Obama and other U.S. officials watched live as Osama Bin Laden was killed in 2011.

Visit uakron.edu/finaid

The University of Akron remains dedicated to its mission of providing accessible and affordable higher education opportunities for all students. To further this commitment, the University introduced the Making Akron Possible (MAP) Grant, aimed at opening doors to higher education for more local students. Starting in fall 2024, the MAP Grant is designed to alleviate the financial burden that often comes with pursuing a college degree. This grant confirms the complete coverage of full tuition and general fees for eligible first-year students from Summit, Stark, Medina, Portage, Cuyahoga and Wayne counties whose total family adjusted gross income is $50,000 or less, as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Visit uakron.edu/aid

Thanks to the generosity of honorary alumna and longtime benefactor Kathy Coleman, students and faculty in the UA School of Music will have access to one of the most unique musical instruments in the world, expanding performance and education opportunities for generations to come. The new Steinway & Sons Spirio D piano is considered the world’s finest high-resolution player piano. A concert grand-sized instrument, the Spirio will be used in the School of Music’s Guzzetta Hall, where UA musicians will create, rehearse and perform using its capabilities. The piano arrived on campus in January, and faculty recently underwent specialized training from representatives of Steinway Piano Gallery, based in Boston Heights, Ohio.

Visit uakron.edu/music

Theron Brown, assistant professor of practice, marvels at the new Spirio D piano.
BY JESSICA WHITEHILL

As winter break drew closer near the end of the fall 2023 semester, Elise*, a University of Akron (UA) freshman from Cleveland, realized she might not have a place to stay from December to January. She couldn’t return to her home — it wasn’t a healthy place for her at the time — and with the UA residence halls closed between semesters, she was running out of housing options.

Elise remembered that in previous visits to UA’s ZipAssist office in Simmons Hall, she had seen information about temporary housing opportunities. She spoke with Heather Barhorst, assistant director of student basic needs, who works closely with students who come to the Campus Cupboard for food supplies. Elise learned about her options and applied for funding from the University’s Student Emergency Financial Assistance (SEFA) program and another special fund designed to help students remain in on-campus housing due to unique circumstances, like displacement, homelessness or emergency need. She was approved, and was granted a temporary place to stay on campus during winter break.

“I have a lot going on at home, so it was like an escape for me to be here,” said Elise, who is undecided on a major. “It was nice just to be in my own space. It gave me more of a sense of learning how to be fully independent.”

Independence is one of the goals of ZipAssist, UA’s multifaceted student advocacy and support office. ZipAssist operates the Campus Cupboard and a host of other initiatives such as financial wellness courses, parent and family relations, off-campus and commuter student assistance and the Help-A-Zip program. ZipAssist also manages the SEFA program, which provides critical support to at-risk students who must overcome financial obstacles to persist at the University. Students who meet the eligibility criteria can receive up to $1,000 in tuition-related emergency need. Examples of expenses that are eligible for funding include childcare, food or meals, gas, housing/rent, personal automobile expenses and utilities.

“We know that a student’s academic progress can be derailed if emergencies aren’t addressed quickly,” ZipAssist Senior Director Alison Doehring said. “That’s why the programs within ZipAssist are so important. They address not only the immediate hardship facing a student, but also get to the root cause.”

Students self-identify to ZipAssist when they need emergency funding or can be referred by a faculty or staff member through Help-A-Zip, the University’s student early alert and intervention program.

*Pseudonym was used to protect identity.
New and returning students often ask, “What is there to do around here?” Zips 100 is the answer to the question.

Originally launched in 2017, the Zips 100 list is a carefully curated list of 100 exciting activities and must-visit places designed to elevate the UA experience. The list is a combination of on-campus and Downtown Akron opportunities, encouraging students to take advantage of the unique setting of UA as an urban campus with downtown just a stone’s throw away.

Recently updated, the list has a variety of things to do — from solo adventures to group outings. It includes recommendations for things to see, and food and drinks to try, all while catering to both those on a budget and those looking for free opportunities to create lasting memories.

A unique element to the Zips 100 list is that some of the downtown businesses are also owned by UA alumni. One of the businesses featured at #18 on the list, “Create art in Splatter Alley in Street Craftery” is owned by DaShika Street ’16. Street was extremely honored to have her business added to the list.

“As a UA grad, it’s especially gratifying to be supported by the university that I love so dearly. It’s exciting to see UA making such great efforts to connect students with the community around them,” said Street. “As a business owner, we have such anticipation for activating student culture in our storefront and throughout downtown and look forward to seeing how the guide helps make that connection.”

The possibilities of things to do are endless, but the Zips 100 list makes it easy for students (and alumni/friends) to cross things off their UA bucket list.

At UA, we strive to create a sense of belonging, inspire personal growth, and nurture a lifelong connection between students and their surrounding communities. Zips 100 is just a piece of that puzzle, and a fun one at that.

Visit uakron.edu/zips100
BY CRISTINE BOYD

New on the bustling University of Akron (UA) campus, there is a unique presence that brings smiles to faces and a sense of security to all who encounter him. It’s Dunkan, the beloved two-year-old UA Police Department canine who has become an integral part of campus life.

Dunkan’s journey began when Tre Richardson ’20, a former UA football player with a degree in criminology, joined the University’s police force in 2022. Handpicked from a pool of six officers, Richardson became Dunkan’s handler in early 2023, forging a tight bond between the two.

When Dunkan isn’t patrolling the campus alongside Richardson, he resides in a special indoor kennel at the Richardson home. But it’s on campus where Dunkan truly shines, spreading joy and goodwill wherever he goes.

“Being away from home can be stressful for students. Seeing their faces light up when they see Dunkan makes my day,” Richardson shared, reflecting on the positive impact Dunkan has on the University community.

Indeed, Dunkan’s presence goes beyond basic security. He exudes positivity, bringing people together and fostering a sense of camaraderie among students, faculty and staff alike.

One memorable moment for Richardson was taking Dunkan to a football game between UA and Kent State. As they entered the student section, students began to chant Dunkan’s name, a testament to his popularity and the bond he shares with the campus community.

But Dunkan is more than just a friendly face; he is a highly trained working dog with a vital role in campus security. Funded by the Department of Homeland Security and trained to focus on explosives detection and tracking, he plays a crucial role in preventative sweeps at sporting events and investigating potential threats in the community.

Despite his serious training and the work he does with explosives, Dunkan’s approachability is evident to all who encounter him. People are drawn to him, allowing Richardson to more easily communicate with students. For Richardson, being Dunkan’s handler is more than just a job — it’s a calling rooted in his passion for community and campus policing. He envisions a future where Dunkan’s talents are showcased on a broader stage, perhaps even competing on a broader stage, perhaps even competing

BY ALEX KNISELY

In the heart of Akron, Ohio, 4,000 miles away from her native Brazil, Ana Clecia Alves Almeida has found more than just a university; she discovered a new home in a small corner of the world at The University of Akron (UA).

As a senior studying mechanical engineering, Almeda’s journey embodies the transformative power of education and the profound sense of community that transcends borders.

In Brazil, Almeida learned about UA through a friend while exploring college options. She was captivated by UA’s prestigious engineering and polymer science program, as well as its appealing opportunities, such as scholarships and co-op placements.

Since enrolling at UA four years ago, Almeida has built her home with its walls supported by the Akronauts, where she serves as liquid propulsion lead, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) where she is currently president of the UA chapter, and UA’s Williams Honors College. She’s also an engineering Dean’s Team member and a UA Ambassador.

Within these groups, Almeida has discovered a supportive network where fellow students offer unwavering encouragement. Together, like a family at home might often do, they celebrate successes and overcome challenges, forming lasting memories that go beyond cultural differences.

“The most important way to feel like being at home is surrounding yourself with people that you feel comfortable around,” she shared. “I think I was able to achieve that by looking to groups that shared similar interests.”

But Almeida’s “home” extends to off-campus locations as well.

“I love going downtown and glancing over new things or just strolling the Towpath Trail,” Almeida said. “Sightseeing helps me learn more about the place I’m living in and what I connect most with. Every college should have easy access to its city and nature so all students can run errands and decompess from professional aspirations whenever needed.”

With aspirations to pursue a doctoral degree and advance space propulsion technologies, Almeida stands poised to leave an indelible mark on the aerospace engineering landscape.

“Whatever your dream is, you will find opportunities at The University of Akron to get closer to it,” Almeida said. “Here, there’s a supportive community to help your passion meet possibility.”
Among the numerous activities at The University of Akron (UA), fraternity and sorority life stand out as a vibrant community fostering camaraderie, support, and personal and professional growth. Led by passionate individuals such as coordinator Ben Collopy, staff within UA’s Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life champion diversity within the Greek community, challenging stereotypes to ensure every student finds their place.

“I like to say that our community isn’t a ‘typical’ Greek community,” said Collopy. “We have chapter members from all over the country and across the globe; we have members with all different races and ethnicities, and members with all different interests.”

There are nearly 600 students involved in sororities and fraternities at UA.

For Izzy Boscarello, joining a sorority meant entering a realm of tight bonds and mutual experiences. Boscarello, a member of Alpha Gamma Delta, sees her journey as one underscoring the support of the sisterhood’s profound influence on her social life.

“Coming into college, I was very nervous to meet new people, and then I had an experience that I was proud of and excited to share with my friends and family,” said Boscarello. “Joining a sorority helped me to meet some of my best friends that I know I will have for the rest of my life, helped make networking connections for my future, offered leadership experience and gave me opportunities that I know I wouldn’t have been able to get anywhere else.”

Similarly, Khatonia Ford, National Panhellenic Council president and member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, found solace within her sorority during a difficult time when friends matter most.

“During a challenging period recently, I faced a horrific loss,” Ford shared. “My sorority sisters and fellow members of the Greek community provided unwavering support with comfort and encouragement. Even now, they continue to check in on me, ensuring that I am maintaining a levelheaded mindset and providing a sense of belonging during my healing process.”

Beyond fostering friendships and providing support, sorority and fraternity organizations at UA are dedicated to making a difference in the community. Chapters rally together to raise funds for philanthropic causes, embodying the spirit of service and social responsibility.

Last year, UA’s fraternity and sorority chapters raised more than $62,000 for philanthropic partners, and members completed 9,600 service hours.

Andy Feltman, a member of Phi Delta Theta, emphasizes the role of Greek life in personal and professional growth.

“My involvement has taught me how important it is to be a team leader,” said Feltman. “Motivating members of the group to work together and complete their responsibilities is not easy. Communicating is necessary to ensure that everyone is on the same page with our goals as a group. And this involves being a good listener.”

Greek life and its impact as a “home” on students extends far beyond campus borders, with members completing 9,600 service hours. Last year, UA’s fraternity and sorority chapters raised more than $62,000 for philanthropic partners, and members completed 9,600 service hours.

For Feltman, that means being empowered with skills he can use in a future role as a social worker.

“Social workers will often work on large community change,” he said. “I had the opportunity to do that in college with the fraternity system. I wanted to see the community at The University of Akron be better off than when I came into it.”

And for Ford, these experiences helped fuel her aspirations of working in law and federal government.

“By holding many executive positions, I’ve learned the importance of responsibility and effective time management, which will undoubtedly benefit me in my future career endeavors. Additionally, as I aspire to become an attorney and eventually a congresswoman, my experiences in my sorority, particularly attending the nation’s capital conference as a delegate, have provided me with firsthand knowledge of how Congress operates and what it takes to succeed in such positions. This exposure has further fueled my aspirations and motivated me to strive for excellence, knowing that one day I can make a meaningful impact in similar roles.”

uakron.edu/studentlife/involvement/fraternityandSororityLife
Envision this — it’s move-in day, and your parents just said goodbye to you at the residence hall that will become your new home. You’re feeling a mix of emotions, both excitement and nerves, eager to uncover what the academic year holds. As you settle into your new living space alongside your roommate for the next nine months, you both take a moment to soak in the ambiance. The windows are open and that’s when you hear it … your favorite song. In that instant, it feels like a reassuring sign confirming that you’re exactly where you’re meant to be.

For University of Akron (UA) freshmen, Kylee Schwartz and Elyse Schmitt, that is exactly what happened. Originally from Salem, Ohio, the two girls were already best friends when they decided to make UA their home for the next four years.

Living in Spicer Hall, their room quickly transformed into a hub of activity, with board game nights becoming a fun tradition. Schmitt, a criminal justice and criminology major, and Schwartz, a psychology major, found camaraderie not only with each other, but also among their fellow roommates.

“It was kind of a requirement that if you wanted to come into our room, you had to play ‘Just Dance’ with us,” Schwartz said, reminiscing about the bonds formed over friendly competition playing the electronic dancing game. As they have navigated through their first year on campus, the sense of community within Spicer Hall formed. From events organized by Residence Life staff to random gatherings with their neighbors, UA quickly began to feel like home.

“We connected with everybody on our floor, so we got lucky. I really consider this whole floor family,” Schmitt said.

But beyond the friendships and camaraderie, it was the little amenities provided by the University that truly solidified UA as their home away from home. From free toilet paper, menstrual products and cleaning supplies to the support offered by Residence Life staff, the sense of belonging was more than just the physical space.

The girls reflected on their journey so far with a mixture of nostalgia and anticipation. “UA feels like home because of all the friends I’ve met. I truly can see them being future bridesmaids at my wedding,” Schwartz shared.

And as they contemplated the inevitable departure that awaits in just a few years, a bittersweet realization settled over them.

“I remember bawling my eyes out, not wanting to leave my hometown. But now, I’m going to be really sad when it’s our time to leave UA,” Schmitt said.

“Recently, on our way back to Akron from our hometown, Kylee mentioned, ‘I can’t wait to go home,’ meaning back to Akron,” said Schmitt. “In that moment, I found myself saying ‘me too.’ I miss Akron when I’m away. I like being here, having a sense of belonging, being around my friends and the feeling of home that I’ve built here.”

For Schwartz and Schmitt, The University of Akron has become more than just a campus and, as they looked ahead to the future, one thing is certain — no matter where life takes them, UA will always hold a special place in their hearts.

Visit uakron.edu/housing
ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE: Serving students at home and abroad

BY EMILY PRICE ’24

In a world where communication knows no boundaries, the journey of pursuing academic aspirations often transcends borders. For international students venturing into the realm of higher education, mastering a second language can be both a daunting challenge and an exhilarating opportunity. The English Language Institute (ELI) at The University of Akron (UA) stands as a pillar of support and direction for these students as they navigate the complex landscape of language acquisition.

The ELI provides an array of services for students learning how to teach English or students looking to develop their skills in a nonjudgmental space with programs suitable for a variety of specific needs. “We assist international students with individual tutoring and small-group instruction,” says Morris. “I have helped students write papers, review notes and practice presentations.”

Morris also explained that there is even a space for graduate students to talk about their future as teaching assistants and practice their English fluency. Sajjad Emadi Mahdimahalleh, a student working toward a doctorate in electrical engineering, is one such person who has benefited from services at the ELI. “I have helped students write papers, review notes and practice presentations.”

At the ELI, international students benefit by having a place to go where they feel comfortable asking questions without being judged for English fluency.

“My experience with the ELI has been incredibly beneficial for me,” said Mahdimahalleh. “Participating in the weekly English-speaking classes has significantly aided in identifying and addressing my linguistic challenges. Moreover, the ELI offered a more cost-effective alternative for fulfilling my English proficiency requirements compared to traditional exams like the IELTS or TOEFL. Despite a busy schedule, I make it a point to attend their informative Thursday seminars whenever possible.”

The ELI can offer an enriching personal experience for international students and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) students alike. “For students who are pursuing a TESOL certificate, we have materials to work with and I am happy to assist them since I have earned the certificate myself, in addition to having many years of teaching experience both here and abroad,” said Morris.

BY JESSICA WHITEHILL

What is Home?

Is it a physical space or is it a feeling? Why do our homes look the way they do? What happens if we don’t have a home, lose our home or we’re away from home for some time?

The Drs. Nicholas and Dorothy Cummings Center for the History of Psychology at The University of Akron (UA) explores these concepts in an exhibit called “Beyond the Picket Fence: The Places and Spaces We Call Home.”

“Our vision at the Cummings Center is to create exhibits and programs that help us explore our shared humanity,” said Dr. Cathy Faye, the Margaret Clark Morgan Executive Director of the Cummings Center for the History of Psychology. “This exhibition tells a series of diverse stories about something we all share: a sense of home. We all have different experiences of home, but it is something that we share.”

The exhibit was curated by Case Western Reserve University intern Kellyn Toombs and overseen by Cummings Center Assistant Director Dr. Jennifer Bazar. It features five sections that are explored through artifacts from the Center and other collections. The “Making Home” section considers the physical space of a home, how homes are laid out and why homes look the way they do.

“The people and organizations highlighted here demonstrate what home is for everyday Akronites and what our community organizations do to provide a sense of home,” Faye said. “As visitors explore this exhibit, they have an opportunity to reflect not just on what home means to them, but also what it means to those around them in their community and around the world.”

“Beyond the Picket Fence” will be on display through the spring. Visit uakron.edu/chp.
SPACES for and UA STUDENTS create a HOME for UA STUDENTS

BY JESSICA WHITEHILL

There’s something that Hannah Kelly always notices when she walks into Robertson Dining Hall on the University of Akron (UA) campus around dinnertime. Very few students are sitting alone at tables. She doesn’t see many diners wearing headphones or earbuds, and most aren’t staring at their phones. Instead, UA students in the dining hall, affectionately known as Rob’s, are often sitting in groups. They’re laughing, talking and catching each other up on their days. It’s clear that the experience of communal dining helps foster a sense of home at UA and expands the social lives of students.

“Rob’s is a lot less about the food and more about being surrounded by people,” said Kelly, a junior from Canfield, Ohio, who is the president of the Residence Hall Council (RHC). “It’s a community space that’s not just about nourishment.”

Dr. Melinda Grove, associate vice president for student affairs and chief housing officer, works closely with both students and Aramark, the company that manages the University’s dining services at Rob’s, Jean Hower Taber Student Union, the Polsky Building and other locations.

“We know from years of working with students that eating together is very effective as they adjust to time,” she said. “It’s a huge component of community development and helping people feel like they belong.”

For the past nine years, Dining Services has hosted Robsgiving. This event has turned into a sort of new tradition for students and notable UA faculty and staff members are often invited to carve turkeys — UA President Gary L. Miller and other administrators have worked the event in past years.

“Robsgiving is a big deal for students,” said Kelly, who is a double major in business data analytics and psychology. “You make a game plan for it, get together a group of friends, claim a table, and go back and do different rounds of food. It’s a shared experience.”

RHC and Aramark collaborate on study breaks during finals weeks. Students enjoy late-night desserts or sweet breakfast options and the opportunity to take a few minutes away from studying to socialize.

Kelly said RHC and Aramark welcome student feedback and has seen herself what happens when students submit their ideas. Students have expressed, for example, an interest in more fun treat options at the campus Union Market. A few weeks later, students noticed that new desserts were available in the refrigerator for purchase.

“They care about our experience and what we're getting out of it,” Kelly said. “Feedback is meaningful when it comes from students.”

The food is, of course, very important to students. Aramark develops menus that offer a wide range of comfort food, healthy choices and options for those who want specialized meals, such as gluten-free or vegetarian/vegan. Recent options at Rob’s include beef goulash, a kimchi fried rice bowl, butter chicken and a buffalo chicken taco.

“There’s consistency, but the menus change enough so that I don’t think we get bored,” Kelly said.

Aramark also designs specialty menus to highlight the cuisine of a particular nation or ethnicity and offers holiday-themed menus. Grove said UA staff review the menus in advance.

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“There’s consistency, but the menus change enough so that I don’t think we get bored,” Kelly said.

Aramark also designs specialty menus to highlight the cuisine of a particular nation or ethnicity and offers holiday-themed menus. Grove said UA staff review the menus in advance.
Every August, just as University of Akron (UA) students are arriving for the fall semester, Zips women’s swimming and diving Head Coach Brian Peresie takes his team off campus. The team heads to Camp Muskingum near Carrollton, Ohio, where they spend a weekend sleeping in tents, cooking meals outside and completing outdoor activities. It’s always a fun weekend, but for Peresie there’s a greater importance to the trip than just a weekend away. It’s the start of creating a home-like atmosphere for a group of student-athletes and coaches who come from all over the world, with a huge range of life and swimming experiences, who must work together as a team in just a few weeks.

“One of the most impactful activities of the camping trip takes place on the final evening, when team members share some of the experiences that have transformed their lives. The trust that develops through that activity helps transform a team of around 30 individual student-athletes into one tight-knit group. The trust that develops through that activity helps transform a team of around 30 individual student-athletes into one tight-knit group.

The trip is always a unique experience and sometimes there’s a fear factor to some of the activities that we do,” Peresie said. “But everyone supports each other, and it becomes a positive experience. The more opportunities we create for them to be together outside of the pool, stronger the relationships on the team are going to be when we’re in the pool.”

The team recently won its 10th Mid-American Conference championship in the past 11 years, so it’s clear that the bonding experience early in the academic year strengthens team dynamics and fosters an atmosphere of success — something that all UA coaches and teams strive to do.

More than one-third of the UA swimming and diving team is international, with eight countries represented on the Zips roster. Even the student-athletes from the U.S. are diverse, with team members coming from 10 states across the country.

Sara Bozso, a fifth-year swimmer from Budapest, Hungary, was unsure of what to expect when she attended her first team camp in 2019. Not only was she new to the country, but as an only child, she had never shared a room or a bathroom with others.

“We had to set up a tent, make a bonfire, cut wood, cook dinner,” said Bozso, a breaststroke specialist who is majoring in exercise science, applied exercise physiology. “We spent the whole weekend together and it showed how we can work together as a team and a family. I felt like there was such a great connection after the camping trip. It was the weekend I started to learn names and to see other people’s personalities and their backgrounds.”

Brian Armelli, a coordinator of academic support services for UA Athletics, knows from experience at different institutions in his higher education career that international student-athletes sometimes need extra support to feel at home. Many international student-athletes simply want opportunities to speak their own language to feel more at home, he said.

Around 50 of UA’s approximately 425 student-athletes come from outside the U.S.

In 2023, Armelli started the International Student Athlete Club (ISAC) at the University. Meetings have given student-athletes a chance to share information about and pride in their home countries, get to know other student-athletes who may also be missing home, and learn about career services information for international students.

“We’re seeing more students from other teams bonding at meetings, and that really makes it feel like home,” Armelli said. “It’s important to get those students together so they know they have other student-athletes to work with and rely on.”

He also connects student-athletes with UA’s English Language Institute, which offers free tutoring and study space for all international students.

In addition to the August camping trip, the women’s swimming and diving team also volunteers for the Akron Marathon. During weekends when recruits are visiting, the entire team might go apple picking or participate in game nights. The team continues to practice outside of the winter competition season and will occasionally take a trip to Cedar Point for a fun day off.

One of the most impactful activities of the camping trip takes place on the final evening, when team members share some of the experiences that have transformed their lives. The trust that develops through that activity helps transform a team of around 30 individual student-athletes into one tight-knit group.

Bozso has relied on that environment during her UA career. From the shock of the COVID-19 shutdown in 2020 to dealing with injuries and illness, she has been able to rely on her teammates and Peresie for support.

“I’ve gone to his office a million times, and he never says no when I need help with something,” Bozso said. “He always picks up the phone, calls people and makes sure we have everything we need to build up a successful team. We all have a huge amount of respect for each other, and he always looking for ways to make that even stronger.”
SEASON TICKET HOLDERS FIND A HOME AWAY FROM HOME WITH ZIPS ATHLETICS

BY CRISTINE BOYD

Athletic facilities aren’t just places for UA teams to compete; they’re like a second home to dedicated fans. Just like the student cheering section (AK-Rowdies), season ticket holders bring spirit and dedication to games.

The Dort Brothers
Brothers Steve Dort ’93, a computer drafting major, and Paul Dort ’91, who majored in engineering, grew up going to the annual Arno Zip football games at the Rubber Bowl with their parents. They are some of the most loyal season ticket holders for Zips football, men’s basketball and men’s soccer. Their wives, Missy and Christine, often accompany them to games, making it a family affair.

The two brothers laughed when thinking back to memorable moments such as the legendary Thanksgiving Day in 2005 when the football team battled Kent State in a near blizzard at the Rubber Bowl, clinching the Mid-American Conference East Division title. Or the epic bus trips to away basketball games, where the camaraderie was as fierce as the competition on the court. And let’s not forget the time Zippy crashed Steve’s wedding reception!

Paul’s a sports fanatic through and through. But ask him his favorite spot, and he’ll tell you it’s FirstEnergy Stadium during a soccer match. He says there’s something magical about watching the game while gazing out at the campus.

As for Steve, well, he says he and Paul have no plans of giving up their season tickets anytime soon. They’re in it for the long haul, supporting the Zips through thick and thin. “We believe in them,” Steve says with a grin.

Chalker Fadel
Chalker Fadel ’56, ’70, is a true-blue Zips fan with a heart of gold. For more than 20 years, he’s been a fixture at football and men’s basketball games, proudly holding his season tickets.

Hailing from Akron, Fadel knows the campus like the back of his hand. Back in the day, he juggled soccer games with his civil engineering studies, proving his dedication early on.

As a proud graduate, Fadel’s roots run deep. He put in the hours as a student worker for (then-dean) President Guzetta and pulled night shifts managing the student center, all while being an active member of the Lambda Chi fraternity. After earning a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and Industrial Management, he served in the Air Force before returning to earn a Master of Business Administration.

Being a season ticket holder isn’t just about catching games for Fadel; it’s about staying connected and giving back. Favorite memories include hanging out inside with other football season ticket holders when the weather got too cold, and dining in the Tommy Evans Lounge before basketball games with other fans. “I enjoyed when Coach (Keith) Dambrot and his family would come in and address the group. We also often had access to the coaches after the games at the University Club.”

But Fadel’s love for the Zips goes beyond the games. He’s on a mission to share that UA spirit with everyone he knows. “I make it a point to bring along friends to the games, introducing them to the Zips family,” he says with a smile. “It’s more than just sports; it’s about seeing old friends and making new ones.”

To purchase tickets visit gozips.com

Above: Chalker Fadel enjoys a meal in the Tommy Evans Lounge in the James A. Rhodes Arena.

Opposite: (left to right) Steve and Missy Dort with Christine and Paul Dort before the start of a Zips men’s basketball game.
There are very few of us. ACSS will who work in 3D art," said Davis-Branner. “I hope ACSS will be a haven for those Coalition of Student Sculptors (ACSS).

Sculpting major, was a freshman when she noticed something needed to be added to campus: a club for sculpting majors. With this idea in mind, Davis-Branner was driven to create an organization fueled by art, community and inclusion. Davis-Branner’s hard

Despite ACSS just beginning, the organization has already held events, such as workshops, gift exchanges and company findings affect our $100k actively managed portfolio,” said Nick Maricocchi, a senior majoring in finance and president of the Investment Club.

Investment Club

Experience is essential for college students; learning firsthand, industry-specific strategies will jumpstart students’ full-time careers. Finance is no different, as knowing how to properly manage large sums of money and make informed decisions based on current markets and data is imperative. UA’s Investment Club does exactly this, allowing members to manage and make decisions with a $100,000 portfolio.

“We discuss the overall economic standing of markets and how news, data and company findings affect our $100k actively managed portfolio,” said Nick Maricocchi.

BEYOND THE MAT

UA’s Wrestling Club

Wrestling is one of the oldest and most physically demanding sports. To be successful on the mat, you need to work hard, be accountable and have discipline. UA’s Wrestling Club provides no better example. The team has weekly practices and has attended more than 10 tournaments throughout the year, while hosting their own tournament in the Student Recreation and Wellness Center.

Their hard work makes them no stranger to success. Seven members recently qualified for the Club Wrestling National Championship and member Derrick Andolesk took eighth place nationally.

“Wrestling is more than a sport,” said Anthony Janowski, a second-year biomedical engineering student and president of the Wrestling Club. “It is a time to get away from the stress of school, focus on your physical health and be around others who share the same passion for wrestling.”

STEADY GROWTH

Geo-Challenge Design Team

Success doesn’t usually follow a smooth path; it’s full of twists and turns. Challenges pop up along the way and can shake up your progress. However, for the UA Geo-Challenge Design Team, success has been remarkably steady.

Each week during the spring semester, the Geo-Challenge Design Team meets to prepare for the national design competition at Geo-Congress. Each competition is held in different states, such as North Carolina and California. The goal of the competition is to assemble your team’s Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) wall with the lightest amount of reinforcement within a designated time frame.

“Each year, the team has gotten better,” said Jesse Pennington, senior civil engineering major with a minor in geology and president of the Geo-Challenge Design Team. In 2022 and 2023, the team won third place in the Geo-Wall student competition. This year, the team won second place in the Geo-Wall competition, second place in the Geo-Video competition, where teams develop short videos explaining various engineering concepts that could be used in classrooms at various levels, and first place in the Geo-Shirt competition, where teams design a T-shirt for students participating in the Geo-Challenge competitions.

GIVING BACK WITH GIVE

GIVE (Global Initiative for Volunteer Efforts)

One of the most eye-opening experiences is giving back to others. The activity allows a glimpse into others’ lives and cultures, building lasting memories for years to come. GIVE, a global organization dedicated to immersing its members in local communities and cultures while giving back to those communities, has made its impact on the Akron community.

This is the exact reason why Gracyl Collins, a second-year Spanish major, minor in sociology and dance, and current president of GIVE, joined the club her freshman year.

“GIVE focuses on looking after our local community, as well as communities around the world. It also offers various travel abroad programs,” said Collins.

“That’s why I joined GIVE — because I am extremely interested in traveling abroad. I stayed in the club because I enjoyed the community service aspect.”

The group has hosted events and gatherings dedicated to helping the Akron community, such as donating holiday cards to Akron Children’s Hospital, holding blanket-making gatherings and organizing trash pick-ups.

FINDING OUR VOICE

AshBelt

Publishing one’s writing is often an intimidating task, especially if it’s a students’ first time. The fear of putting their works and voice on display may deter them from publishing, in addition to the fees that often accompany the submission process. However, AshBelt — a student-run literary journal that exclusively features UA undergraduates’ creative literary work — does the opposite.

The official AshBelt journal is published annually during the spring semester. Each year’s journal offers a diverse array of creative expressions, such as fiction, flash fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry and scriptwriting. AshBelt’s acceptance of different creative literary works allows students to articulate their voices with authenticity and style. Moreover, unlike many journals, there are no submission fees, ensuring accessibility to all aspiring contributors.

“I always want people to feel encouraged to submit their work,” said Emily Price, a fourth-year English major and president of AshBelt. “It’s wonderful to have such a variety of student voices in one published volume.”

UA has almost 300 student organizations to keep students engaged on campus.
Gerard Neugebauer ‘87, ’91, is deeply rooted in Akron. Growing up in Firestone Park, and the sixth born of nine children, he was no stranger to the importance of education and community. All nine of the Neugebauer children attended UA, with eight of them obtaining degrees. Most of their spouses and children also became Zips.

However, Gerard’s journey through UA began with a decision that shaped his life and his family’s future. With an engineering degree and a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Finance, Gerard found success in the utility services and construction industry. But his achievements extended beyond academics and business. He also served as the Mayor of Green for two terms, leaving a mark on the city he loved.

Yet, amidst his accolades, Gerard found some of his fondest memories in the mascot suit of Zippy, UA’s beloved kangaroo.

“One basketball game, the cheerleading coach was filling in for Zippy, because the student Zippy had quit that year. While in costume, the coach came up to me at that game and asked for help, because he suddenly wasn’t feeling well. He couldn’t find someone to unlock the office where he had stored his street clothes,” Gerard recounted. “So, I met him in the bathroom, and I gave him my jeans and hoodie and he gave me Zippy. That’s how I ended up being Zippy. I never thought for a minute before that moment that I would be a college mascot, but I felt comfortable because I already knew all the cheerleaders. I ended up continuing as Zippy for the rest of the season, and then an additional two years.”

Rachel’s journey began even before she officially became a student. In high school, she immersed herself in College Credit Plus courses at UA’s campus, forming bonds with professors and fellow students. By the time college decisions approached, UA was the obvious choice.

“I already felt at home on campus before I had to make the decision where to go to college. This made my decision to attend UA an easy one,” said Rachel. Rachel ended up graduating from UA in four years as a double major, with a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish, as well as an advanced Spanish for Health Care certificate.

But her time at UA wasn’t just about academics; it was about building connections and embracing the vibrant community that had become a second home. From her involvement in various campus activities to her transformative experience studying abroad in Peru, every moment shaped her into the person she was meant to become.

One of her proudest accomplishments was co-founding the Kangablue A Cappella group, where she served as president with one of her cousins as vice president.

Rachel walked the same paths her parents once did, and she couldn’t help but feel a sense of belonging, a connection to something greater than herself. The legacy of the Neugebauer family lived on in every corner of the campus, in the memories shared between generations and in the pride they felt for their alma mater. As Rachel and Gerard reflected on their respective journeys, it was clear that UA had left a huge mark. From forging lifelong friendships to pursuing their passions, their experiences at The University of Akron had shaped not just their careers, but their family’s legacy for generations to come.
Class Notes

1990s

Mary L. Alexander-Lee, M.P.A. ‘93, started a nonprofit organization, Sweeters' Sheroes and Heroes NOLA, named after her daughter. Trinity, whose nickname was Sweeter. Sweeter died in 2017 of complications from Sickle Cell Disease (SCD). Sweeters' Sheroes and Heroes NOLA’s initial focus is three-fold: to motivate people to support the vision by donating blood to save lives; to advocate for the voiceless and those treated with malice, contempt and accused unfairly due to their specific medical requirements; and to educate people about the myth surrounding the misinformation and stigma of having SCD, who it affects, and how the trait/disease appears in a family lineage.

Heather M. Barnes, B.S. ‘96, has been named president and CEO for the 2024 Ohio Super Lawyers List. Super Lawyers is a rating service of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. The patented selection process includes independent research, peer nominations and peer evaluations.

Christopher J. Benko, B.A.S. ‘95, was awarded a Global Partners in Care and Adult Day Services. With more than 25 years of experience in hospice and palliative care leadership, he has been a tireless advocate for increasing access and enhancing the quality of care, locally, nationally and internationally.

Thomas Saylor, B.S.I.M. ’88, M.A. ’95, recently completed 28 years as a history faculty member at Concordia University, St. Paul, Minn. He now works as chief executive officer for the Music for Healing and Transition Program, which trains and certifies musicians to play live therapeutic music directly at the bedside of patients. This is Saylor’s second career after retiring from 30 years working for the National Park Service.

2000s

Leslie E. Bell, B.S. ’06, M.A. ’10, is working at Rust College in Holly Springs, Miss., as an academic advisor and has been in the role since April 2022. Rust College is the oldest historically Black college and university in Mississippi and the second oldest private secondary institution in Mississippi.

Angela D. Carter, M.S.E. ’90, M.S.E. ’02, was named the superintendent’s chief of staff at Akron Public Schools. Carter’s journey in education reflects a deep passion for learning, teaching and leadership.

Susan M. Newell, M.S.N. ’04, D.N.P., CRNA, received the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiologists’ 37th Annual Akron Magaur Outstanding Clinical Anesthesiology Practitioner Award in August during its 2023 Annual Congress in Seattle. The award was established to recognize the accomplishments of CRNAs involved in direct patient care. Newell is chief CRNA in obstetrics at Capital Anesthesiology Solutions/Sound Anesthesia where she provides obstetrical anesthesia and oversees hiring, policy development and education. She started her travelling from Ohio to Scranton, Pa.

Judy Magaw, M.D. ’09, has been named the new vice president and president — aerospace group, at Parker Hannifin Corp. Magaw has been named to the position of president, Europe at Revilys. Revilys is a leading global provider of manufacturing automation solutions, control systems integration and information management. In this role, Magaw will oversee strategic growth initiatives, oversee existing business unit operations and further Revilys evolution to thrive in the diverse cultural landscape that is unique to Europe.

2010s

Joseph A. Manno, B.S. ’11, J.D. ’14, has been selected for the 2024 Ohio Rising Stars list. Rising Stars are outstanding lawyers who are relatively young, or who have been in practice for 10 years or less. While up to five percent of the lawyers in a given county are selected for the Super Lawyers each year, no more than 2.5 percent of the lawyers in a state are named to Ohio Rising Stars.

Frederick J. Sturm, B.A. ’67, M.A. ’68, 375 E. Exchange Street, Akron, OH 44325-2020 or email alumni@uakron.edu

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We’re all familiar with the scenario: it’s a Saturday morning, you hop into the car to tackle errands, tune in to your beloved station, 88.1WZIP, and are greeted by the lively sounds of polka music pouring from the speakers.

The Saturday Morning Polka Show on WZIP has been an Akron staple since August of 1989. Originally the show was played on Sundays, but over the years it has moved to Saturday mornings from 8 a.m. to noon.

This year the show celebrates its 35-year anniversary. Saturday Morning Polka is run by four individuals, Matt Schafer ’67, Fred Carty, Tracy Stevanov and John Snelick, all with a passion for polka music. Schafer has been with the show since its inception.

“A lot of people enjoy polka music. We play a variety of polka music — Polish, Slovakian, Italian, German. Our listeners have these backgrounds, and we try to serve that need. Some of the lyrics are even in the ethnic tongue and people relate to that,” said Schafer, explaining how the music reminds them of home. “We have the request line as well. People call in for birthdays, anniversaries and for people who passed away.”

The numbers are there, and they show that listeners are alive and well for Saturday Morning Polka.

“Just because the polkas and waltzes that Matt, Tracy, John and Fred play are not current, does not mean that the listeners are trapped in another era. They are also listening online from all over the country. We had to change our streaming service a few years ago because it was jammed on Saturday mornings, and we were paying overage fees,” said Chris Keppler ’91, ‘14, general manager of WZIP. “We are also podcasting the first hour of the show each week. In the last 2.5 years, the podcast has had about 20,000 downloads, has reached all 50 states and more than 50 countries.”

The polka show helps fill a cultural void in the community for people around Northeast Ohio who still cherish the music. That is part of the basis for the FCC granting a license to the University, because the station offers programming that is unlikely to be heard on any commercial radio station.

“There are people who appreciate us showcasing ethnic backgrounds and the various styles of polka music. There was one caller who called to tell us we are her ‘entertainment lifeline’ every time she listens to the radio,” shared Schafer. “There’s a real need for it and we do have quite a following.”

There is no end in sight for this long-standing radio show, and the ratings continue to improve. Thousands of people tune in to the broadcast every week. While most would believe the polka show attracts an audience of 65-plus years, that age group makes up only 20 percent of the audience. In fact, nearly 15 percent of the polka listeners are between 12 and 24 years old.

“We will continue to be on the air as long as the University will have us,” said Schafer.

Pictured above: Matt, Tracy, John and Fred of Saturday Morning Polka.
College students face a demanding academic schedule compounded by extracurricular activities and jobs, often straining their physical and mental well-being. A recent Health Mind Survey revealed that nearly 60% of responding UA students struggle with mental health disorders.

Responding to these concerns, UA secured an $826,202 grant from the Ohio Department of Higher Education to enhance mental health support on campus. The grant will be utilized in a four-step comprehensive care model aimed at educating students about available resources, reducing stigmas around seeking help, partnering with mental health organizations, and training faculty and staff in supporting students’ mental health needs. The funds will establish new mental health programs, including counseling services expansion, awareness campaigns, peer support initiatives and data-driven approaches to address specific mental health challenges.

UA HISTORY STUDENTS HELP DOCUMENT BLACK BUSINESSES FOR GREEN BOOK

UA graduate students are helping to make contributions to local history through a collaborative venture called Green Book Cleveland, a project to preserve stories of Black leisure and entertainment in Northeast Ohio.

Originating from the crucial role of “The Negro Motorist Green Book” in facilitating safe travel for Black motorists from 1936 to 1966, this project is documenting Green Book sites and previously unrecorded locations in the region. Professor of History Dr. Gregory Wilson is leading graduate students as they diligently comb through archival materials and historical sources to compile missing data, uncovering stories of thriving businesses and cultural landmarks in the Akron area. Despite challenges such as urban development erasing physical remnants of this history, the project serves as a testament to Northeast Ohio's vibrant past and aims to amplify marginalized voices in historical narratives.

Through partnerships with various organizations and ongoing community engagement, Green Book Cleveland endeavors to promote awareness of African American history beyond conventional narratives.

Visit greenbookcleveland.org

ELIZABETH BUCHTEL AWARDS

The 2024 University of Akron Honorary Alumnus Award recipient, also presented at the University of Akron Foundation Spring Meeting hosted by the Stewardship & Women in Philanthropy Committee, is Sally D. Read, a warm and generous individual with a deep-rooted commitment to the community. Her dedication to helping others, particularly students at UA, alongside her husband Roger ’63, ’66, extends to various committees and philanthropic efforts. She serves UA in a variety of capacities. She has been a member of the University of Akron Foundation’s Stewardship & Women in Philanthropy Committee since 2018 and a member of the Arts Advancement Council since 2022. The Read family’s benevolence extends far beyond campus. They support a variety of organizations throughout Akron, including Julie Billiart Schools, Open M Ministry, Project G.R.A.D., Children’s Concert Society, Goodwill Industries of Akron, Leadership Akron, Akron Kwanza for Kids, Rotary Club, Stewarts Caring Place and the Akron Symphony Orchestra. Read’s legacy has left a significant impact on those she assists throughout the wider Akron community.

Marie Bevilacqua ’71, ’74

Raised in a family that prized education and hard work, Marie Bevilacqua’s journey led her to become a dedicated educator and philanthropist alongside her husband, Frank ’72, ’74. Together, the couple established the Frank P. and Marie L. Bevilacqua Family Foundation, supporting various civic interests in Akron, including education and health care. Their strong ties to The University of Akron (UA) are evident through scholarships and donations, reflecting their commitment to giving back to the community. Bevilacqua’s unwavering belief in the power of education to transform lives drives her philanthropic efforts, ensuring that students with limited resources can pursue their dreams at UA.

Karen S. Steininger ’82

Karen Steininger embodies the essence of intentional good deeds and community support instilled in her from a young age. Hailing from Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, Steininger’s philanthropic endeavors in Houston, Texas, reflect her commitment to uplifting underserved individuals and families. Despite the geographical distance, her roots in Akron remain strong, evident through her generous contributions to UA. Alongside her husband Frank ’81, she champions scholarships and initiatives aimed at reducing financial burdens and fostering academic success for students.

ELIZABETH BUCHTEL AWARD RECIPIENTS

THE ELIZABETH BUCHTEL AWARD IS PRESENTED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON FOUNDATION SPRING MEETING HOSTED BY THE STEWARDSHIP & WOMEN IN PHILANTHROPY COMMITTEE. THE AWARD IS NAMED FOR ELIZABETH DAVIDSON BUCHTEL, WIFE OF UNIVERSITY OF AKRON (UA) FOUNDER, JOHN R. BUCHTEL. DURING HER LIFE, SHE AND HER HUSBAND DONATED THEIR TIME, FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND EFFORTS TO BUILD WHAT IS NOW THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON AND PROVIDE FOOD, LOANS AND SUPPORT TO STUDENTS. THIS AWARD HONORS WOMEN WHO, LIKE ELIZABETH BUCHTEL, HAVE BEEN LEADERS IN PHILANTHROPY TO UA AND HAVE MENTORED OTHER WOMEN.

Visit elizabethbuchtelaward.org
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

FALL KICK-OFF AND AKRON ALUMNI SOCIAL
Thursday, Sept. 12, Downtown Akron

Join fellow UA alumni and friends for the “Fall Kick-Off” in downtown Akron. Enjoy live music, food and more!

For more information visit uakron.edu/alumni/events

UA’S HOMECOMING AND FAMILY WEEKEND
Friday, Oct. 4 - Sunday, Oct. 6

- Homecoming “Forever a Zip” Tailgate
- Football Game: Akron vs. BGSU

For more information visit uakron.edu/homecoming