

FALL2024

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON MAGAZINE



UNIVERSITY EMBRACES
the **EVOLUTION of LEARNING**

FROM THE PRESIDENT



As a two-time alumnus of The University of Akron, my appointment as president of the University has been among the greatest honors of my professional life. The months since I gratefully accepted this opportunity from the UA Board of Trustees have been very busy. I do appreciate those moments when I find time to reflect on my years as an undergraduate business student, my time at the School of Law and my return to UA years later as the dean of the College of Business and now as president.

I think often about the subjects I studied, the courses I chose, and the faculty and staff who supported me along the way. The University has always created an incredibly supportive academic environment for its students, and I always felt I could go to a professor or student services staff member for advice and mentorship.

Today's UA students are tremendously fortunate. Faculty and staff continue to be available for academic support.

Additionally, students have access to a myriad of scholarships, programs and initiatives designed to smooth their transition into higher education, address their academic needs, promote success throughout their time at the University and help them achieve their dreams of a university degree.

In this issue of The University of Akron Magazine, you will read about some of the career and life-defining opportunities available to UA students.

The magazine includes stories about New Student Orientation (NSO) and the Office of Academic Retention and Success (OARS). The NSO program welcomes first-year students to the University setting and introduces UA traditions. OARS is a program geared toward underrepresented students in the science, technology, engineering, math and medical (STEMM) fields.

You will read about credit for prior learning, designed for adult learners, and the PLUS+ Path initiative, popular among undergraduates who wish to earn certificates. The UA Arts Academy, also a new program, expands opportunities for fine and performing artists and is an introduction to UA for many middle and high school students.

The magazine also explores pathways to successful learning experiences for veterans, international students, incarcerated individuals and our Zips student-athletes.

I am also pleased to share with you in this issue a little about my professional journey, which is rooted in my experience as a UA student. I am excited to explore the University's growth potential through increased outreach and engagement.

Earlier I noted that these past months have been incredibly busy. I've spent a significant amount of time familiarizing myself with our student success programs and pathway opportunities. This process has really driven home for me the fact that when students have the support they need, they graduate and go on to contribute positively to their communities. And when our students flourish, we are stronger as a University of Akron community.

R.J. Nemer
President



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UA STUDENT-ATHLETES REACH FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS



BY JESSICA WHITEHILL

University of Akron (UA) students juggle challenging academic schedules, participate in student organizations, volunteer with worthy causes, hold down part-time jobs and maintain social relationships.

For UA's student-athletes, the challenges extend even further. In addition to balancing academic responsibilities, they must dedicate significant time to practice, training and competing, often requiring travel for off-campus games, meets and matches. The Department of Athletics recognizes the unique pressures these athletes face, including the need to maintain their grades to remain eligible, and is committed to providing the extra support they need on their journey.

"We have a really strong student-athlete support team," said Jackie Wallgren, UA's senior associate athletic director and senior woman administrator, whose supervisory responsibilities include academic success. "Our academic coordinators make sure the student-athletes are in the right classes to meet benchmarks."

The NCAA sets those benchmarks, which require student-athletes to reach a certain percentage of degree progress each year and maintain a 2.0 grade point average. If a student-athlete does not reach benchmarks and is unable to maintain a 2.0, they could be ruled ineligible.

UA academic coordinators meet with student-athletes to ensure they are in the right classes to make that progression toward degree attainment and also provide a hybrid of tutoring and advising — a kind of case management for academics. Student-athletes also have mandatory study hours and access to tutoring.

Kellen Fletcher, a member of the women's lacrosse team from Pittsburgh, Pa., accessed this support during her freshman year. She struggled with the transition from high school to college, especially with a calculus class, and met with Jane Uecker, coordinator of academic support services in the Department of Athletics.

"I was a good student in high school, but it wasn't clicking for me and I was having a hard time adjusting to not being at home anymore," she said. "I sat down with Jane, and she sent me to the tutoring center in Bierce Library. She connected me to other student-athletes who were in the same class, and we worked on homework and studied together."

Fletcher's coach had also noticed she wasn't doing well in the calculus course. Wallgren said UA's coaches play a valuable role in ensuring student-athletes are on the right path. They begin to develop relationships with future Zips when they are in high school, which builds trust between the student-athlete and their coach, creating a relationship between the family and the University.

"Coaches are almost like a second family," Wallgren said. "They can flag things for us to get the student-athlete into the office as soon as possible if there is an issue."

Summer academic programs also help student-athletes to stay on top of their degree progression. Teams such as football and men's and women's basketball have on-campus summer training sessions for several weeks, during which time student-athletes take courses to catch up, maintain their progress or even work ahead.

"Summer courses are a great way to lose some of that fear of being ineligible," Wallgren said. "It gives them a little cushion."

Student-athletes can also access support with life skills such as time management and financial management.

The result of UA's dedication to academic success is that UA's student-athletes consistently have higher graduation rates than their peers. The graduation rate for student-athletes who received scholarships is around 20 percentage points higher than UA's general student population.

Zips student-athletes are regularly recognized nationally and in the Mid-American Conference for their academic successes. The 2023-24 academic year marked the 11th straight year that UA student-athletes had a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better. The men's and women's soccer teams had the top cumulative GPAs (3.39 and 3.67 respectively).

Once she was able to receive support with her schoolwork, Fletcher said her confidence grew. She finished her first semester with new energy, and finished the following spring semester with all A's and one B. Now a junior marketing major, she was named Academic All-MAC at the end of the 2024 lacrosse season while appearing in every game for the Zips. Fletcher is also a member of the Women in Business and Sport Analytics and Business Association student organizations.

"Once I got comfortable going to class, talking to my teachers and reaching out to my fellow students, it helped so much. It translated on to the field with my teammates," Fletcher said. "Jane was really easy to talk to and we found a solution. I was able to be myself and do what I know I can do." ■



UA OPENS NEW SURGICAL *operating room*



Dedicated in September 2024, the surgical operating room in Mary Gladwin Hall was built to support programming in the College of Health and Human Sciences undergraduate nursing program, by exposing students to a 100% realistic operating room.

It also supports the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree in Nurse Anesthesia Program. As a nationally renowned program with a 100% retention rate and a 99% first-time pass rate over the last 10 years, the program needed a dedicated and safe space for students to practice psychomotor skills (e.g., nerve blocks, epidural placement and intubations). The space will also allow faculty to incorporate realistic simulations into the curriculum, helping the 114 intensive care nurses enrolled in the program to be better prepared to serve our community's anesthesia and pain management needs.

A special thanks to the Women in Philanthropy Committee and other donors, including many of our own faculty, who contributed \$130,000 toward the project. ■

UA WOMEN'S CLUB CELEBRATES 100 YEARS *of supporting women and students*

One of the longest-running campus social organizations is marking a milestone anniversary with events that reflect its history and celebrate its longtime support of the UA community.

The University of Akron Women's Club turned 100 years old in 2023 and is still providing connection and engagement opportunities for the campus, as was its original purpose when it was founded. The club is in its fourth decade of awarding scholarships to students.

The club hosted a 100th anniversary celebration during its spring general meeting on April 18 and hosted a tree dedication on May 23. The tree is outside Olin Hall, named for the husband of one of the founders, Grace Belle Gorton Olin. ■



Mayor Shammus Malik and Carrie Tomko

\$3 MILLION WALCOTT ESTATE GIFT *benefits* UNIVERSITY OF AKRON *students*

Estate gifts can make an enormous impact when applied to student scholarships. The late Betty Walcott, a devoted friend who lived in service to the University, established the Betty Gill and Donald P. Walcott Endowed Scholarship in 2002. Today, through the generosity of gifts received through her estate, the endowment is now valued at more than \$3 million. The largest single-donor-funded endowed scholarship in UA's College of Business, her generosity provides academic undergraduate financial support to deserving business students. ■

To learn more about how to make your impact for your estate, contact Kim Cole at 330-972-7608 or kimberly@uakron.edu.



WOMEN'S COMMITTEE *celebrates milestone*

In June 2024, the Women's Committee marked its 75th anniversary with a celebratory luncheon. Founded in 1948 by Glenna Snow to support home economics students, the Committee has evolved over the decades into a vital link between the University and the broader community. Initially focused on home economics, it now addresses a wide range of University needs, including support for various academic and cultural initiatives.

Throughout its history, the Women's Committee has made substantial contributions to the University, from funding scholarships and enhancing campus facilities to organizing educational events and fundraisers. Despite shifting priorities and evolving membership dynamics, the Committee has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to students and academic excellence. Its enduring legacy is reflected in the numerous departments and projects it has supported, underscoring its ongoing role in the University's success and community engagement. ■

WILLIAM AND MARY SKEELES FUND UNIVERSITY OF AKRON *baseball scholarships* WITH \$1.3 MILLION GIFT

William "Bill" '77 and Mary (honorary alumna) '22 Skeeles, distinguished UA benefactors, have once again demonstrated their commitment to the University's baseball program with a gift of \$1.3 million to be used for student scholarships. Bill Skeeles, a member of The University of Akron Foundation Board of Directors, and Mary Skeeles have been dedicated to increasing opportunities for students. Their gift marks a significant milestone for the growth of the University's baseball program.

With this latest contribution, the Skeeles' donations to the UA baseball program total \$3 million. While their



previous gifts were focused on building a new baseball stadium and providing first-class infrastructure for the team, this donation is dedicated to investing in the academic futures of the talented student-athletes who represent UA on the baseball field. ■

Welcome TWO NEW TRUSTEES

Richard C. Fedorovich appointed to UA Board of Trustees

The University of Akron proudly announces the appointment of Richard C. Fedorovich, CPA, to its Board of Trustees. Fedorovich was appointed by Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine for a term effective July 11, 2024, and ending July 1, 2033.



Richard C. Fedorovich

A distinguished UA alumnus, Fedorovich earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting in 1974. He currently serves as executive chairman of Bober Markey Fedorovich (BMF), a prominent regional accounting and advisory firm based in Akron. He joined the firm in 1980, was elected partner in 1982 and served as managing partner from 1996 until he assumed his current role in January 2021.

Maxwell Pastoria appointed as Student Trustee

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine appointed Maxwell Pastoria as a Student Trustee to the University of Akron Board of Trustees. His term will run through July 1, 2026.



Maxwell Pastoria

Pastoria, a native of Akron, is a junior pursuing a Bachelor of Business Administration in Financial Management, Financial Planning and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics. A member of the Drs. Gary B. and Pamela S. Williams Honors College and the Beta Gamma Sigma Honorary, he has consistently demonstrated academic excellence, earning the prestigious Outstanding Student Award. ■

R.J. NEMER takes the reins with ENTHUSIASM and PRIDE

BY CRISTINE BOYD



The University of Akron (UA) has embarked on an exciting new chapter with the appointment of its 19th president, Robert J. (R.J.) Nemer. As a proud UA graduate with both a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a Juris Doctor degree, he stands as only the second alumnus to take on the esteemed role of president.



Nemer officially began his new role on May 15, 2024, bringing enthusiasm and a visionary perspective to the University. In his words, "There is nothing more important than being part of a university with a mission to enrich the lives of others — students, community, employees. I can't think of a better career capstone than to finish where I started." This sentiment reflects his dedication to creating opportunities and fostering a vibrant University culture.

Drawing from his experience as the dean of the College of Business, where he successfully grew enrollment and enhanced experiential learning opportunities over the previous two years, Nemer emphasizes active outreach as a key to organizational growth. "This University has incredible opportunities for students, and we need to continually invite prospective students in through active outreach," he advises, highlighting the importance of enthusiasm and community engagement. He encourages each member of the UA family to become an ambassador for the University, showcasing the many advantages and experiences available on campus.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Nemer values the importance of personal connections and simple joys. "I love being with family and friends, and I enjoy cooking," he shares. The kitchen serves as a gathering point where he can combine his two passions, emphasizing the significance of togetherness and community.

Nemer has ambitious goals for his presidency. "The word that comes to mind is growth — growing our enrollment, retaining the students we currently have, developing positive culture, expanding the careers of our colleagues, building research capabilities, increasing presence in the community, and advancing the

Follow President Nemer on Instagram @rj_nemer



institution nationally and internationally — growth in all ways," he states.

A hometown kid who grew up in Akron, Nemer graduated from Walsh Jesuit High School before enrolling at UA. His background includes working as a lawyer, founding a professional golf agency (which was recognized as the world's largest independently held sports agency of its kind) and later working as a marketing executive. His transition from the world of sports to academia has equipped him with a diverse skill set, and a willingness to listen. "Because I spent so much time around athletes, entertainers and businesspeople, I realized that success and achievement are relative and I quickly learned to embrace gratitude, authenticity and self-awareness as a mindset and a mantra as how I approach life every day."

And although Nemer is in a serious job, he has an infectious personality and an optimistic outlook, and looks forward to learning and laughing along the way. "People think mistakes are bad and humor is frivolous, but both are underrated — mistakes and humor teach us about ourselves, have tremendous value and both can lead to growth."

As Nemer leads The University of Akron, he brings a forward-thinking approach rooted in collaboration and continuous learning. With his sights set on fostering a positive and energetic culture, he is ready to champion the University's mission and guide those around him in achieving their fullest potential. ■



LETTER TO THE EDITOR



ALUMNA RECALLS HER TIME ON CAMPUS

MAY 31, 2024

Dear Editor,

I recently finished reading the Spring 2024 issue of the Magazine, which prompted me to reflect on my time at The University of Akron (UA) more than 50 years ago. I leafed through the yearbooks I still have from those years.

The Magazine featured K9 Dunkan, the UA Police Department's canine, patrolling the campus. I was also interested to read about Robertson Dining Hall's diverse food selections, including tacos, fried rice bowls and vegan/vegetarian options. The history of the Edward G. Elias Bowling Alley caught my attention as well. Additionally, the growth of the women's athletic programs has progressed beyond expectations.

My years at UA, from 1970 to 1973, reflect a different era, marked by both memorable experiences and periods of stress. As a freshman in 1969, I witnessed Black students taking over Buchtel Hall in a sit-in and campus rallies protesting President Nixon and the Vietnam War's escalation into Cambodia. The tragic May 4, 1970, shootings at nearby Kent State led to the cancellation of classes at UA, the closure of the campus and an immediate evacuation of residence halls.

I lived in Orr Hall, where bomb threats were common, and police frequently searched our dorm rooms. Residence halls were not coed, and male guests had to be announced with a shout of "man on the floor" to ensure everyone was appropriately dressed. Room telephones were scarce, so calls were typically made from the hall's communal telephone. A small television in a hallmate's room was a plus, and borrowing a typewriter was

essential for writing term papers. With no microwaves yet invented, I relied on a "hot pot" to heat canned ravioli, soup or coffee. Robertson Dining Hall was closed on Sunday nights, but I remember too many weeknight offerings of London broil.

I recall attending concerts and football games at the Rubber Bowl, which has since been demolished, as has Memorial Hall, which hosted indoor athletics. I remember frustrating memories of standing in long registration lines at Spicer Hall, only to discover the needed class was already filled. We were on the quarter system then, not the semester system used now. I also recall walking across Lee Jackson Field to the Star Market on Exchange Street and shopping downtown at Polsky's Department Store. Schroeder's Bar was a popular weekend spot.

At the time, the E.J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall was not completed, so most events were held at the John S. Knight Center. The campus hosted many well-known performers and speakers, including Stevie Wonder, Dionne Warwick, The Ides of March, Chicago and Edwin Starr, who sang the protest song "War (What is it good for)." Speakers included comedian Pat Paulsen, feminist Betty Friedan and anti-war activist/actress Jane Fonda.

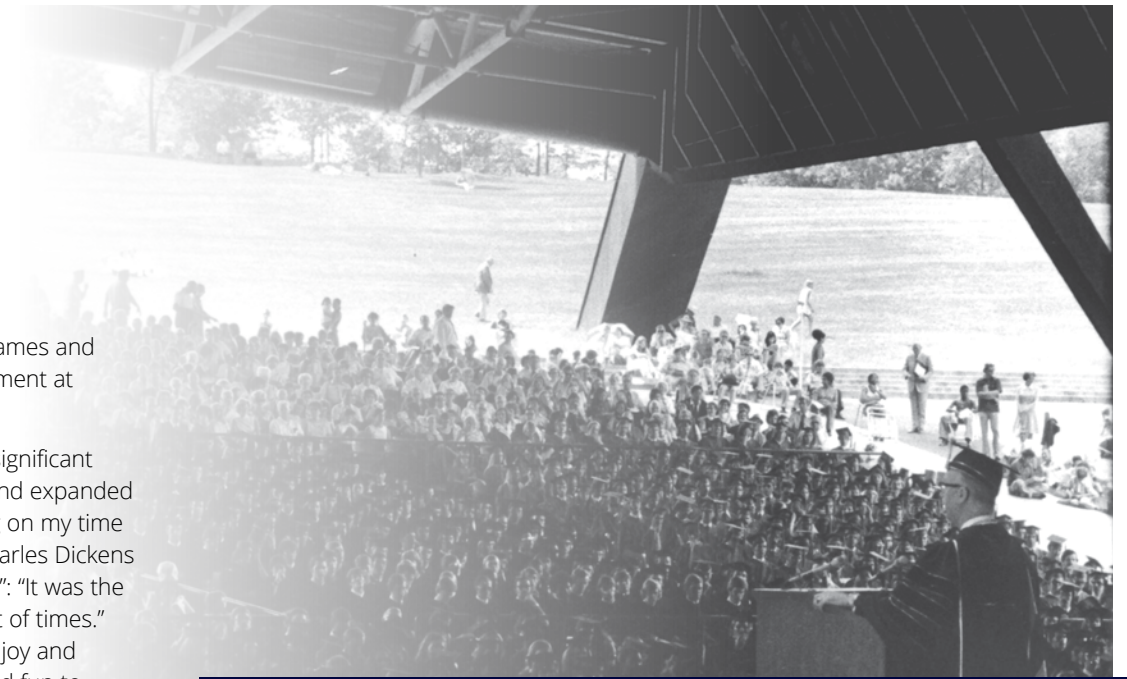
Women's athletics were nonexistent before Title IX and the NCAA's involvement. The Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women managed women's programs and athletic scholarships were not yet a consideration. We did establish a women's basketball team, initially called the Zipettes and later renamed the

Lady Zips. We carpoled to games and even participated in a tournament at Cedarville College.

The campus has undergone significant changes with new buildings and expanded academic offerings. Reflecting on my time there, I'm reminded of the Charles Dickens line from "A Tale of Two Cities": "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." My experience included both joy and adversity, from friendships and fun to protests and unrest.

My graduation ceremony in 1973 at Blossom Music Center remains a cherished memory. Despite the passage of five decades, I continue to support UA and look forward to reading more articles about campus life and the community. ■

Sincerely,
Carolyn Bower '73



Do you have cherished memories from your time at The University of Akron that you would like to see featured in the next edition of The University of Akron Magazine? We would love to *hear from you!* Email your memories to the editor at magazine@uakron.edu. Whether it is a story about a special event, a memorable class or a meaningful campus experience, we want to celebrate it with our community. Include your degree, graduation year and where you live currently. Pictures are also welcome!



OHIO INCARCERATED POPULATION GIVEN *chance* to pursue UA DEGREE

BY BREE SABIN

In a groundbreaking initiative, The University of Akron (UA) has partnered with Ohio's prison system to offer incarcerated individuals a rare opportunity: the chance to earn an associate degree while serving their time.

This innovative program is the result of a collaborative effort between UA, Ohio Penal Industries (OPI) at Madison Correctional Facility, Summit Glove of Minerva and American Nitrile of Grove City.

OPI and Summit Glove have partnered with the College of Engineering and Polymer Science at UA to provide online training for inmates. The courses are taught like traditional online courses, providing a back and forth between the professors and students, despite incarceration. Participating students can earn an Associate of Technical Studies from the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Sadhan Jana, associate vice president for research and business engagement and BF Goodrich endowed professor in the School of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering, expressed his eagerness to share this opportunity. "UA is happy to embrace this opportunity to contribute to the intellectual growth of incarcerated adults while they are serving their time. We are glad that they can get a degree and go take up a job in the polymer industries where there is a shortage of such skills."

Ann King, chief of industries at OPI, elaborated that these are not easy courses, and the students are working hard to earn this degree. "At OPI, we want to provide this opportunity to anyone interested in obtaining a degree."

OPI employs roughly 1,200 incarcerated adults in 31 different operations in 12 Ohio prisons. OPI is a program through the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, that seeks to reduce recidivism by enabling incarcerated adults to acquire real life skills and experience that make them better prepared to maintain employment after they are released.

"Training and education are a big part of what we do every day for our incarcerated workers," explained King. "Studies show that education, training and certifications are what help reduce recidivism. So that's what we are trying to do and what Ohio Penal Industries is all about."

The program has already shown considerable promise, with faculty feedback praising the students' progress and dedication. Despite the challenges of limited internet access at OPI, the students have remained motivated, driven by the hope of a brighter future.

Two of the program's participants, Lloyd Black and Jeremiah Bitner, shared their experiences with the polymer science courses. Both men, who had no prior experience in the field, speak highly of the transformative power of the program. Black highlighted the value of gaining a new perspective and the sense of community fostered through the courses. Bitner, who is set to be released in about a year, expressed his excitement for the hands-on lab experiences and the potential job opportunities that await him.

For the incarcerated individuals involved, this program represents more than just an opportunity to earn a degree. It's a lifeline, offering them hope, skill and the promise of a better future. As they work toward their associate degrees and prepare for life after release, they are not just changing their own lives but also contributing to society in a meaningful way. This program is a testament to the power of education to transform lives, proving that no matter the circumstances, there is always a path to redemption and success. ■

Welcoming FUTURE ZIPS TO CAMPUS AT NEW ROO ORIENTATION

BY CRISTINE BOYD

As the summer sun casts a warm glow over The University of Akron (UA), a new crop of students walks through campus. New Roo Orientation marks the beginning of a transformative journey for thousands of incoming students, setting the stage for academic success, personal growth and lifelong friendships.

Skylar Wershey from Diamond, Ohio, is one of the many new faces eager to start this journey. Planning to major in education, she hadn't spent much time on campus before.

"The Orientation leaders were so welcoming — we walked and got familiar with campus and did fun games to learn more about the University. It was extremely helpful and reassured me — we learned so much and Orientation leaders showed me where my classes would be. I am really excited to come to UA," she shares enthusiastically.

Several New Roo Orientation days are held from June through August, accommodating more than 100 students each and supported by a staff of about 30 dedicated undergraduate Orientation leaders. Each session caters to both students and families and kicks off with an energizing welcome session in the Paul and Dorothy Martin Ballroom in the Jean Hower Taber Student Union. Following the welcome session, students break into smaller groups to walk through the University's picturesque grounds and gain an introduction to the places where they will learn, live and grow over the next few years. Additional sessions cover topics such as campus safety, UA history and pride, downtown Akron, student health and wellness, and student employment. Students can also get help with class scheduling, discuss financial aid

and tour housing. The day also includes an involvement fair, showcasing the variety of clubs, organizations and extracurricular opportunities available to students.

Carly DeBord, director of New Student Orientation, emphasizes the importance of building a supportive community through the Orientation process. "Making connections and feeling like you have someone on campus that you can go to within those first couple weeks makes the whole experience just feel a lot less daunting for students. Of course, before everyone leaves, we ask what the best part of their day was, and sometimes families will say they've made a new family best friend group, or students literally make a friend connection that day and they go over to housing to set up a roommate agreement."

From the moment they step onto campus, new students like Wershey are greeted by Orientation leaders, a diverse group of enthusiastic upperclassmen. Brimming with pride, these leaders play a crucial role in guiding new students through the maze of Orientation activities.

Ka'Travion Pointer, a senior from Mansfield, Ohio, serves as an Orientation leader. As a first-generation student, he understands the challenges new students face. Reflecting on his experience, he says, "Orientation helps point students in the right direction.

Ka'Travion Pointer guides students through Orientation.



Skylar Wershey gets to know Zippy.

Without my connection to others through Orientation (when I was a new student), I am not sure I could have stuck it out. I joined a learning community and made real connections with the Office of Multicultural Development. Now I enjoy helping others get started at Akron."

New Roo Orientation is more than just an event. As new students embark on their academic adventures, they do so with the confidence that they are part of a supportive and dynamic University family. The Orientation not only prepares them for the challenges ahead, but also inspires them to make the most of their UA experience. ■



UA STUDENTS HIGHLIGHT AKRON'S HOWARD STREET AND TIES TO JAZZ HISTORY

Theron Brown,
assistant
professor of
practice, playing
piano.



BY JESSICA WHITEHILL

At first glance, the area around the Akron intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and North Howard Street is a nondescript roadway busy with cars heading for the Innerbelt and downtown.

Decades ago, however, this area was bustling in a different way. Howard Street was one of the centers of Akron's Black community and was a vibrant district for shopping and entertainment. For the community, that entertainment meant jazz clubs where local and legendary musicians performed nightly.

In the 1960s, the area was razed to make way for highways and much of that history has since been lost. A group of University of Akron (UA) students sought to bring the Howard Street jazz heritage to light during a spring 2024 course that explored the roots of jazz in the city.

The "Round Howard Street: Telling the Story of Akron Jazz" class was part of UA's academic offerings known as an [Un]class.

A program of the University's EX[L] Center for Community Engaged Learning, [Un]classes offer UA students the opportunity to focus on real-world issues and create community-engaged,

action-oriented solutions. Most of the classes include hands-on activities. For this course, students spent many hours in the UA Archives, created a website, blog and social media to document their work, pursued oral histories of those who remember Howard Street's heyday and presented their findings in one of Akron's current jazz clubs.

The [Un]class was taught by faculty members Dr. Hillary Nunn, a professor in the Department of English, and Theron Brown, an assistant professor of practice in the School of Music. Nunn has taught several [Un]classes about Akron history, and Brown is an accomplished jazz and classical pianist who performs around the country. Brown and Nunn guided the students as they uncovered stories about the musicians who appeared in and around Akron, the venues at which they performed, and the community and audiences that made the jazz scene what it was.

To get started, the students divided into four groups that each focused on a different topic. One group researched the former Cosmopolitan Club, which was located at 33 ½ North Howard Street and hosted many local and national stars of the day. Another group researched the concept of Howard Street as a place where people from marginalized groups, such as the LGBTQ+ community, found a place alongside the Black community. Other students focused on how jazz

legend Duke Ellington's work with the government to promote war bond sales during World War II brought him to Howard Street. A media group explored how the neighborhood and the jazz community were covered in the press of the time, and also developed a website, blog and social media to document the students' findings.

Emily Price '24, who earned a Bachelor of Arts in English, was part of the media group. She worked on the group's Instagram page, developed a brochure and contributed to the blog, among various other projects.

"The [Un]class was a really good opportunity to do more research and learn how to present research to the community," she said.

With support from Vic Fleischer, University archivist and head of Archives and Special Collections, all four groups explored UA's vast collections to uncover Howard Street's history. Working in the archives was a new experience for many of the students.

"So many of these technologies were totally new to them," Nunn said. "Some of them had never used a film camera or knew what negatives were. And they were working with collections that had not yet been processed, so the finding aids were minimal."

In May, the class presented its research during an event at BLU Jazz+, an Akron music venue that is dedicated to preserving live jazz. Around 75 people attended, and Brown performed.

The research was personally and professionally meaningful for Rose Vance-Grom '19, who earned a Bachelor of Arts in History before starting graduate work in applied history with a certificate in public humanities. Vance-Grom is a fourth-generation Akronite whose father is a jazz musician. She was a music major as a UA undergraduate before switching to history.

"People talk about this history but mostly focus on the celebrities like Duke Ellington," she said. "There was such a lively scene here without the big names, so I'm glad we had a lot of good attention on this project. To be able to tie the current jazz scene in Akron with the history and legacy is so important and exciting." ■

Photos courtesy of
the University of
Akron Photographs
Collection at the
University of Akron
Archives and Special
Collections.



Navigating a **DEGREE** in the DIGITAL Age

BY BREE SABIN

In a global pandemic that transformed education, Lauren Higgins from Celina, Ohio, embarked on a unique academic journey. Unlike many of her peers who experienced sporadic online classes, Higgins' entire university experience unfolded entirely through a screen — a journey characterized by adaptability and unexpected opportunities.

Higgins' higher education journey took an unexpected turn during her senior year of high school. Eager to immerse herself in campus life and forge connections with fellow students at her new university, she had initially planned for an in-person experience. However, the shift to online learning drastically altered her path. Her first year, at a different institution, became a whirlwind of virtual lectures and unforeseen challenges. Amid this chaos, Higgins realized that her first choice of major, marketing, no longer fit her interests.

"I found that I enjoyed the writing side of things more than marketing, which led me to explore public relations," she explains. When she discovered her current institution couldn't fully accommodate her new major online, Higgins decided to transfer to The University of Akron (UA), which offered a comprehensive, online public relations program.

The move to UA was driven by both practicality and a desire for a more tailored educational experience. "I moved back home, saved money and found a program that aligned with my new interests," Higgins says. Her new home environment, complete with a new puppy named Maple, provided a degree of stability amid the pandemic's ongoing uncertainty.

The transition wasn't solely academic; it also involved adjusting to life with a puppy. Maple's playful antics occasionally disrupted Higgins' studies, adding a layer of chaos to her already busy schedule. "Sometimes I had to put her in her crate while I recorded speeches and it was just chaotic," said Higgins reflecting on the mix of frustration and amusement that marked her early online experience.

As Higgins navigated her online coursework, she met the common struggles of remote learning, such as balancing group projects and keeping motivation.

"Group work online is a love-hate relationship. It's challenging when people can ghost you or when schedules don't align," she admits. Despite this, she managed to stay connected with classmates through phone calls and online group chats.

Higgins is set to graduate from UA in December 2024, but she didn't set foot on campus until the summer of 2024. After spending the summer working on a class project for a public relations course, she finally had the opportunity to experience the campus in person.

"It was amazing. Julie Cajigas, one of my professors, took me around and made me feel welcome. The campus is beautiful, and seeing the historic buildings was a real treat," she shares.

Higgins also took a semester off to work as a flight attendant, a role that brought both thrilling experiences and logistical challenges. Balancing flight schedules with schoolwork proved too demanding, leading her to refocus on finishing her degree.

As she approaches graduation, Higgins reflects on her unconventional academic journey with a mix of pride and relief. "It's been a rollercoaster. My whole college experience has been a bit traumatic, but I've made the best of it," she says. Her perseverance has paid off, culminating in a Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations with a minor in Organizational Communication and a certificate in Applied Political Communications.

Higgins is actively seeking job opportunities to secure her post-graduation position. She aims to use her degree to become a travel coordinator, drawing on her understanding of the airline industry and her minor in Organizational Communication.

Higgins' story is a testament to the adaptability and resilience needed to navigate the digital age of education. Her journey through online learning, marked by both successes and challenges, displays the evolving landscape of higher education and the unique paths students like her are forging. ■

For more information on online learning at UA, visit uakron.edu/online.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS *find* SUCCESS *at UA*

BY JESSICA WHITEHILL

The University of Akron (UA) is home to many students from around the U.S. who are proud to choose UA and stay close to family and friends as they pursue a degree.

A very different population of students comes from a much greater distance for their academic journey. An essential element of the University community, the international students choose UA because they want the unique and impactful experience of living abroad while attending a university.

Once admitted to UA, the International Center guides these students from Orientation to Commencement. The Center helps students maintain their immigration status, transition to the U.S. and ensure they are integrated into the campus community.

"With international students, we see that a relatively seamless transition to a new country and new educational experience sets them up for success," said Nicola Kille, UA's executive director of international education administration.

During the 2023-24 academic year, there were 523 international students from 70 countries, which is about 3.4 percent of UA's student population. Students from India made up 17.4 percent of this group, followed by China, Nigeria, Ghana and Bangladesh. Kille said these students are drawn to UA because of its academic reputation, proximity to major U.S. cities and hands-on learning opportunities.

Jose Garcia '24



Before they start classes, international students receive support with navigating the U.S. health care system, setting up their student accounts, opening a bank account and accessing a cell phone. After they've arrived on campus, they attend a mandatory orientation to learn about the services available to them through the University. They also participate in icebreaker activities with their fellow international students.

"We want to make sure our international students are focused on starting their academic careers and building a life for themselves at UA and in the U.S.," Kille said. "Making sure they have support along the way alleviates some of the stress of this huge transition."

The International Center also connects students with the English Language Institute (ELI), which offers programs to help individuals learn English and gives international students a chance to improve their conversational skills.

While academic and immigration support are critical for international students, there are also student life and social opportunities available to them on campus and in the community.

UA's International Student Organization encourages friendship and cultural awareness in the community by organizing and participating in social activities. One of the founders of that group, Jose García '24, was recently awarded the Outstanding International Student Award by the Ohio International Consortium (OIC).

"When looking for colleges, I knew I wanted to go somewhere I could be part of a community of different people. I came across The University of Akron and since day one, I knew I made the right choice," said García, who is from Honduras and earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. "As an international student, I always felt like I had a voice on campus." ■

NAVIGATING *the* FAST TRACK: Q&A with Adam Gabriel on leveraging credit for prior learning

BY ALEX KNISELY

At The University of Akron (UA), learning isn't confined to the walls of a classroom. The credit for prior learning program (CPL) offers a unique opportunity for students to fast-track their degrees by earning academic credit for their professional and personal experiences.

Whether through work history, professional certifications or military service, credit for prior learning empowers students — particularly adult learners — to transform their real-world knowledge into college credit, reducing both the time and cost of earning a degree.

Adam Gabriel, a 29-year-old from Canal Fulton, Ohio, is doing just that.

Gabriel is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Supervision. He's leveraging his nearly nine years of work experience at Mickey Thompson Tires & Wheels, and his Google Project Management and Data Analytics certificates that he earned through the PATH+ Plus Program to accelerate his academic journey.

With his eyes set on graduating in 2025, Gabriel is taking advantage of credit for prior learning to turn his professional experience into a more powerful asset.

In this Q&A, Gabriel, shares his journey, inspirations and advice for other adult learners.

What motivated you to pursue higher education as an adult learner? "I have worked for the same company for nearly nine years and have received four promotions within that time. I have climbed the career ladder as high as I can go with an associate degree."

What factors influenced your choice to attend UA? "I grew up about 30 minutes south of UA and it's where I attended my first year of college starting in the fall of 2013. Also, the company I work for is owned by Goodyear, so getting a degree from the college in their backyard will hopefully give me an advantage when applying for promotions."

How do you see your career growing after earning your degree? How might it contribute to your career or personal goals? "I can see myself moving into a management role within the organization within the next five years. In eight years, I plan to move into Goodyear as a higher-level manager. In the next 10-15 years I plan to move back into my current organization in a senior leadership role."

How do you feel about your work experience and knowledge becoming academic credit toward earning your degree? "I feel that this is a great program for people like me. There are so many lessons you learn by working that books can't teach. With each promotion I gained more knowledge on how organizations operate, how people respond to different management styles and increased my own

emotional intelligence. My different roles have taught me how to become an effective leader and coach to my peers. I have also had the opportunity to lead different projects for the departments I have worked in. Being able to apply my experience in the workforce toward my degree has helped tremendously and made it an even easier decision to go back to college."

How do you balance the time commitment to earn your degree with personal and professional responsibilities? "If I get any downtime at work, which is not often, I try to get some reading or schoolwork done. The key is to make sure my work productivity isn't suffering as that is my main priority. When I am at home, I work on my readings and assignments when my child is taking a nap, or we put him down for bed. I try to work ahead as much as I can for the semester so I can have a buffer just in case something comes up at work or in my personal life that takes away my time to work on school."

What advice would you give to someone considering going to college as an adult learner? "There is a learning curve when going back to college as an adult. There is a lot you can learn from your classmates and teach them through your experience. Make sure you have an organizational system that works as you need to juggle multiple classes on top of your career." ■

To learn more, visit uakron.edu/cpl.



UA athletes impress on NATIONAL and GLOBAL stages



BY JESSICA WHITEHILL

Several current University of Akron student-athletes and Zips alumni made their mark last summer competing at some of the highest levels their sports have to offer.

Grace Nuhfer, a member of the Zips women's swimming and diving team, made UA history at the Paralympic Games, with the first-ever medal for a Zips athlete at the Paralympics. Nuhfer won a silver medal in the 100-meter butterfly for Team USA in Paris. She also finished sixth in the 200 individual medley and advanced to the finals in two other events. Nuhfer was born with Brittle Cornea Syndrome, a type of Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome characterized by corneal thinning and loose ligaments in joints. She is considered legally blind.

Her Zips teammates Abigail Daniel and Aislinn Holder both qualified for the Olympic trials in 100 fly. Daniel was 23rd overall and Holder finished second in her heat.

In track and field, Zips pole vaulter Hunter Garretson advanced to the event finals at the Olympic trials. Garretson excelled both in competition and in the classroom last year. He led the NCAA in the pole vault during the spring outdoor season and was second in the country during the winter indoor season.

A mathematics major with a 4.0 grade point average, Garretson was also named, for the second straight year, an Academic All-America Division I Track and Field/Cross Country honoree as chosen by the College Sports Communicators (CSC). He is UA's first track and field student-athlete and first Zip since 2012 to earn this honor in back-to-back seasons.

Two former Zips and previous Olympians also competed at the trials. 2016 bronze medalist Clayton Murphy (800 meters) and 2020 team member Matt Ludwig (pole vault) both advanced to the finals in their events.

UA basketball player Enrique Freeman, who led the Zips to 2023 and 2024 MAC championships and NCAA tournament bids, continued his career when the Indiana Pacers selected him in the second round (50th overall) of the NBA draft. The story of his evolution from a UA walk-on to NBA draft selected gained attention in the basketball community.

Freeman is the first UA player to be selected in the modern two-round NBA draft and the seventh Zip overall to be drafted. He was the first since Marcel Boyce in 1987. The Pacers signed Freeman to a contract in August.

Sammy Hunter, Freeman's former UA teammate, was named to the 2024 Bahamas national basketball team that made it to the finals of its qualifying tournament before falling to Spain. ■



MAXIMIZING STUDENT POTENTIAL WITH THE PLUS+ Path PROGRAM



BY CRISTINE BOYD

At The University of Akron (UA), students are gaining a distinct advantage in today's competitive job market through the PLUS+ Path Program. This initiative, designed to enhance the skills and employability of UA students, alumni, faculty and staff, has been met with enthusiasm across the campus community.

Student Success in Action

One such success story is that of student Creed Patterson '26, a chemical engineering major from Canton, Ohio. Patterson discovered the PLUS+ Path Program while scrolling through Brightspace, UA's learning management system. Intrigued by the variety of courses available, he enrolled in a project management course. A few months later, Patterson had not only completed the course, but also gained a deep understanding of the intricacies of project management — a skill set that has proven invaluable in his job at PCC Airfoils.

"I've learned so much about all the nuances of the job, all while working and having time for the other things I do each day," Patterson said. "I've enjoyed the opportunity a lot and would definitely work on another course when I finish my first."

Patterson's experience is just one example of how the PLUS+ Path Program is helping UA students thrive. By offering more than 50

industry-recognized professional certificates through a partnership with Coursera, the program provides students with the tools they need to excel in their chosen fields.

A Strategic Partnership

The PLUS+ Path Program's collaboration with Coursera, a leading online course provider, is a cornerstone of its success. Through the Coursera Career Academy, UA students, faculty, staff and alumni have access to courses and microcredentials from industry giants like IBM, Google, Meta and Salesforce. These courses are not only convenient and self-paced, but are also aligned with the demands of the current job market.

"It is more critical than ever that today's graduates be well-rounded and credentialed if they want to get ahead in the job market," said Wendy Lampner, director of online, continuing and professional education at UA. "Our collaboration with Coursera is a logical progression in providing enhanced learning opportunities for our students and employees."

UA's commitment to student success is evident in its decision to sponsor complimentary Coursera licenses for all enrolled students, faculty, staff and even high school students enrolled in the College Credit Plus program. This investment in the UA community ensures that every individual has the opportunity to enhance their resume and build skills that will set them apart in the workforce.

Impressive Growth and Impact

The impact of the PLUS+ Path Program is evident in its impressive usage statistics. Since 2023, the program has seen 1,474 enrollments, including 114 alumni. Together, these learners have completed more than 4,254 learning hours across 496 courses, with popular skills including data analysis, databases, business communication and Python programming.

UA's commitment to continually enhancing the program is reflected in the addition of 18 new certificates in the past year, bringing the total to 54. Furthermore, 14 of these certificates have been updated to include essential skills in AI and machine learning, ensuring that UA students remain at the forefront of industry developments.

Join the PLUS+ Path Program Today

For students like Creed Patterson, the PLUS+ Path Program has been a game-changer, providing the skills and credentials needed to excel in the workforce. With the program's continued growth and UA's unwavering commitment to student success, students can continue to get added value from a UA education. ■

To explore the PLUS+ Path Program, visit uakron.edu/plus.

Supporting OUR HEROES



BY BREE SABIN

At The University of Akron (UA), veteran students are more than just another group within the student body; they are a community deeply supported and respected by the University. Mary Rossett, director of the Military Services Center, stands at the heart of this effort, ensuring that the transition from military to academic life is as seamless as possible. As the dedicated advisor for the Student Veterans of America Association, Rossett wears many hats, from managing GI Bill benefits to organizing events that foster a sense of camaraderie and purpose among veteran students.

Rossett ensures that veteran students feel supported academically and personally. She establishes study groups, peer advising partnerships, and connects veterans with essential resources such as tutoring and counseling services. Veterans also have access to dedicated lounges across campus, where they can study, relax and build a sense of community — a crucial element in helping them adjust to civilian and academic life.

UA has developed a specialized program tailored to meet the needs of veteran students, recognizing the unique challenges they face. This program is supported by key offices, such as the Office of Accessibility and Adult Focus, both of which work closely with the Military Services Center to provide comprehensive support.

Scott Roberts, associate director of Adult Focus, plays a pivotal role in assisting veteran students. Roberts' approach is rooted in understanding the unique experiences of veterans as they transition back to civilian and academic life. He uses military lingo and creates an informal, non-judgmental environment where veterans feel comfortable discussing their challenges. The office provides holistic advising, assisting with everything from financial aid to accessing benefits, ensuring that veterans have the support they need for a smooth academic journey.

Rossett's primary focus is ensuring that veterans receive their GI Bill benefits, have their military credits posted and access the necessary support throughout their academic journey. Her commitment doesn't stop at administrative tasks. As the advisor for the Student Veterans of America Association, she organizes meaningful events like a military charity ball and an out-of-the-darkness walk for suicide prevention.

Military Charity Dinner fall '23 pictured left to right: Mary Rossett, Cherie Sedlock, Jennifer Mueller and Scott Roberts.



Similarly, the Office of Accessibility focuses on supporting veterans with disabilities. Director Jessica DeFago ensures that veterans are aware of the services available to them and assists with documentation and accommodation plans. The office's ability to offer built-in accommodations, such as flexibility around attendance for veterans who may need to report for drill or other military duties, is particularly beneficial.

The success of this program lies in the collaboration between various University departments. Partnerships ensure that veterans are connected to the necessary resources quickly and efficiently.

After the introduction of the post-9/11 GI Bill, the evolution of veteran services was seen firsthand at UA. This significant change offered extensive benefits to veterans and their families, leading to an increased need for specialized support on campus.

Recognizing the evolving needs of veterans, UA made a significant addition to its Counseling and Testing Center by hiring Dr. Matthew Altieri, a clinical psychologist with extensive experience working with veterans. Altieri's background made him an invaluable asset to the University, specifically when addressing the mental health needs of returning veterans.

"One of the biggest losses for veterans when they are discharged from the military is that they go from having natural comradery and community, then they can lose a lot of that with general society," explained Altieri. "So, for our veterans to get that community back while also being immersed in the University environment, it's bigger than oneself."

With ongoing efforts and new initiatives, UA is committed to ensuring that veteran students receive the support they need to succeed, both academically and personally. ■

To learn more, visit uakron.edu/veterans.



Veterans
Career Expo



NAVIGATING PATHWAYS:

Supporting UA's Adult Learners



BY ALEX KNISELY

Returning to college as an adult learner can be a daunting task. Life's responsibilities — work, family and financial constraints — often take precedence over educational aspirations. Yet, at The University of Akron (UA), adult learners find solace and support through the Adult Focus office, a beacon of guidance that helps students navigate their academic journeys with personalized attention and a wealth of resources.

Scott Roberts, associate director of Adult Focus, describes the office as a crucial liaison for adult learners throughout their college experience, from initial inquiries to graduation day.

"Essentially, we serve as advisors and guides, helping students navigate their way back into the academic world and ensuring they stay on track to graduate," Roberts said.

One defining feature of Adult Focus, also supported by Assistant Director David Marsteller, is its empathetic and personalized approach. Both Roberts and Marsteller have more than 20 years of advising experience, all at UA. "The first step is to ask how I can help and what they want to do, and then I sit back and listen," Roberts shared, emphasizing the

importance of understanding each student's unique story and goals. These conversations often reveal deeper insights into the student's aspirations, leading to tailored educational pathways.

For instance, a student might come in wanting a degree in computer engineering but, through conversation, they might discover a passion for cybersecurity or data analytics. "It's about understanding what they want to do and what they have done, and then finding the best path forward," Roberts explained.

Student Stacy Waite, a 42-year-old social work major, found her calling after raising her children. "I realized that one day, 'mom' wouldn't be my main responsibility anymore, and I should find something fulfilling for when that day comes," she said. "After a lot of research, I came across the social work program at Wayne campus, which is less than 10 minutes from my house. It was a sign!"

With the support of Adult Focus, Waite is pursuing her degree to provide motherly care and advocacy for the elderly — a passion rooted in her past work at a nursing home. Because many of her credits transfer easily to UA, Waite is on track to complete her bachelor's degree in less than two years.

Similarly, Zoe Clayburg, 25, pursuing a degree in special education, credits Adult Focus for providing the support and accommodations she needed. Despite facing



significant challenges due to her learning disabilities, Clayburg stayed on course with Adult Focus as her compass. "I've had so much support from the advisors at Adult Focus. They have been there for me since I started school, even providing me a job as a student assistant. My family and the staff in the Office of Accessibility have also been incredibly supportive, helping me thrive in school. I have a very good support system."

All that support empowered Clayburg to join UA's marching band, Ohio's Pride. "I was in marching band in high school all four years and wanted to spark my love for music again. I've enjoyed every moment."

The holistic view of Adult Focus extends to every aspect of the advising process. "We combine our efforts with all advising personnel on campus," said Roberts, highlighting the comprehensive nature of their support. This approach ensures that adult learners receive guidance not only on their academic journey, but also on financial aid, career services and personal development.

The office also collaborates with various organizations, such as College Now of Greater Cleveland, which provide scholarships and FAFSA support, Ohio Means Jobs where Marsteller assists in the resource room, and Project Learn of Summit County as they help to celebrate GED recipients and find space for their refresher classes. UA is also part of the Ohio College Comeback Compact which helps students who left college without a degree continue their education.

The support from Adult Focus is a lifeline for many, providing not just academic advice but also emotional and motivational support that retains students. Such support was found by Samantha Jose, a 38-year-old nursing student. Jose is minoring in Psychology and pursuing a certificate in Addiction Services to use her



Above left: Scott Roberts and David Marsteller

Above right: Samantha Jose

own experiences to help others. "I have made some tough choices and lived through hard times. I have since started over and am working hard to become the best me that I can be," Jose said. "I struggled with addiction and alcoholism most of my life and have now been sober for more than 10 years. I am looking forward to a career and being able to provide a future and health insurance for my family."

For those considering returning to college, whether to better themselves and their families or to find a new career, Waite offers encouraging advice: "Keep the faith and have confidence in yourself. If you feel called to do something or it's time for a change, it probably is — go for it!"

When they "go for it," one of the first people they'll likely interact with is Roberts. He's no stranger to the challenges faced by adult learners. Growing up, he faced his own academic challenges. "I never went to my last day of school from seventh grade on," he shared. "I wanted to come to UA and play soccer, but injuries sidelined that dream. I worked in bars, dealt with life's ups and downs, and eventually returned to education. I graduated with my bachelor's degree at 32 and then earned a master's degree in higher education. And I'm currently pursuing a Master of Studies in Law."

His personal journey provides him with a deep understanding of the challenges and triumphs that adult learners experience: "I have experience, I understand the struggles," he said. "But I also understand the glory you can have when you earn a degree." ■

To learn more, visit uakron.edu/uaaf.

Pictured above: Zoe Clayburg

Below: Stacy Waite and family



NEW UA ARTS ACADEMY

BY JESSICA WHITEHILL



The University of Akron (UA) has expanded its commitment to high-quality, accessible arts education with the new UA Arts Academy. The Academy offers a diverse array of year-round classes, workshops, exhibits and performance opportunities for the community. Programs in dance, visual art, theatre and music, including a youth summer camp, are designed to spark creativity and provide a platform for artistic expression and growth.

“The University of Akron Arts Academy strives to create vibrant and creative safe spaces for young artists to hone their talents while developing skills in critical thinking, problem solving and empathy,” said Sarah Bailey, manager of the Arts Preparatory Division of UA’s School of Dance, Theatre and Arts Administration. “By nurturing creativity in our community, we are creating a generation of innovators and creative thinkers.”

Under the Arts Academy, classes and other opportunities will be offered to the public through the Music Institute, the Dance Institute, the Visual Arts Institute and the Theatre Institute at Rubber City Theatre. Rubber City is an Akron professional equity theater company in residence at UA. The Academy is led by a team of experienced UA faculty members and nationally acclaimed guest artists to ensure access to the best instructors.

UA’s nationally recognized Dance Institute, founded in 1967, offers similar opportunities for dancers. The Arts Academy is an effort to bring the other arts offerings in line with dance.

A variety of classes are available. Musicians can take individual lessons with faculty members and participate in ensembles. Dancers have access to lessons and new intensives in ballet, modern dance, contemporary, jazz, tap and other styles, from pre-ballet to advanced classes. Yoga and pilates classes are also popular with the Academy’s adult participants.

Rubber City was a partner in the Akron Arts Academy camp for children ages 6-12 offered for the first time during summer 2024. The program offered youth an opportunity to expand their creativity through dance, music, fine art and theatre.



Participation in the Academy is beneficial for high-school-aged participants who intend to pursue the arts after graduation. Classes and lessons at UA help these students prepare for auditions and put together portfolios for college programs. The Academy also gives high school students an inside look at UA’s academic arts programs, which Bailey said may encourage them to enroll as students.

Ultimately, the Academy’s goal is to expose children and adults to the benefits of an arts education, which will translate into the continued growth of a strong community.

“Giving your child an arts education is so much more than music or dance lessons,” Bailey said. “You’re creating good humans and future arts supporters. They may not be the ones on stage or creating the artwork, but they might be the person who is buying tickets or going to the art museum. We are also fostering tomorrow’s performers and artists by creating a path for them to become future Zips at UA.” ■

To learn more, visit uakron.edu/arts-academy.

Images from the University of Akron Arts Academy.



HELPING STEMM STUDENTS ON THEIR JOURNEY



BY JESSICA WHITEHILL

The higher education journey can be an intimidating process. For some University of Akron (UA) students, the Office of Academic Retention and Support (OARS), provides the needed tools and support to succeed at, and graduate from, the University. And the Choose Ohio First (COF) STEMM Scholarship, Summer Bridge and Collegiate Success programs can make a big difference.

UA students from the Choose Ohio First Program.

Choose Ohio First

Choose Ohio First, which is in its 15th year at UA and is the highest-funded COF grant in the state, provides scholarship and resources for student success. The program is funded by the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) with the goal of strengthening Ohio's competitiveness within STEMM — science, technology, engineering, math and medical-disciplines by developing scholars in these areas and connecting them with Ohio employers to grow the workforce.

“UA definitely has one of the more successful COF programs in the state and it has a lot to do with how closely we work with our University of Akron partners, including Admissions, Financial Aid, the College of Engineering and Polymer Science, College of Health

and Human Sciences, and the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences,” said Jasmina Waters, director of Choose Ohio First/Collegiate Success. “It’s a big deal for us to have this program.”

“We aim to create a student-centered office and a space where our scholars can come and feel welcomed, appreciated and heard,” Waters continued. “The OARS staff has historically been a resource for students. We engage in academic and personal coaching, and we walk alongside students to help them meet goals.”

STEMM majors at UA include, but are not limited to, biology, chemistry, geology, exercise science, physics, computer science, computer information systems, engineering, engineering technology, mathematics, statistics, counseling, nursing, speech-language pathology/audiology and education (teaching mathematics or sciences). Students who receive Choose Ohio First funding have access to academic support in the OARS office, which has a computer lab, study areas and tutors that specialize in STEMM fields.

Last year, there were 264 COF undergraduate students at UA. The program has now grown beyond undergraduates as ODHE awarded UA nearly \$1.2 million in late 2023 to include students pursuing graduate degrees.

The Choose Ohio First program is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive academic environment and draws students from a wide range of backgrounds such as students who may be the first in their family to go to college, those who are eligible for federal Pell grants for financial need, students who come from rural, Appalachian or urban communities, women, and Black, Indigenous and other students of color, who are traditionally underrepresented in STEMM.

Summer Bridge Program

The Summer Bridge program is a component of Choose Ohio First that gives students a jump-start on the transition from high school to UA. It is open to incoming freshmen who have applied for the Choose Ohio First scholarship.

Summer Bridge participants live on campus for several weeks, take a math course and an elective for credit, and receive tutoring and mentorship opportunities. Activities include daily study groups and workshops. Students take tours of important campus spots, such as Bierce Library, and meet representatives from the UA Counseling and Testing Center, ZipAssist and the offices of Accessibility and Student Financial Aid. They get a sense of how to work through tests and social anxiety, and how to handle communal living in residence halls. The goal is to ensure students feel connected and know where to go if they need extra support.

All COF students also have access to the COF Living-Learning Communities as well as comprehensive academic support through the OARS office.

This includes a computer lab, dedicated study areas, and specialized tutors in both STEMM and non-STEMM fields. This experience helps facilitate even greater success for students while at UA.

Collegiate Success Program

The Collegiate Success program serves a host of students who desire additional wraparound support through academic and personal coaching. In addition to scholars on campus, the Collegiate Success program serves the Innovation Generation scholars from Akron Public Schools. They are supported by peer tutors, mentors and community-building events.

Choose Ohio First scholar Maney Vene, a senior majoring in computer systems information-networking, credits an OARS tutor for helping her through Calculus 1 during the Summer Bridge program. Vene herself has been a peer tutor for both the Summer Bridge and Collegiate Success programs. She also serves as president of UA's badminton club, vice president of Asian Students in Akron and volunteers with the community group Asian Services in Action.

“Choose Ohio First has been a really good program for me,” said Vene, who was born in Laos and grew up in Akron. “The OARS office staff is always open to us. I go to them for everything, from the biggest problems to the smallest. They’re just my support system.” ■

Learn more at uakron.edu/oars.



EMPOWERING DREAMS WITH THE JIMMY MALONE SCHOLARSHIP



Jimmy Malone and Kayla Suansing '26

BY CRISTINE BOYD

At The University of Akron (UA), the impact of one man's generosity is profoundly changing the lives of students, one scholarship at a time. Jimmy Malone, a Cleveland radio personality and dedicated philanthropist, has made it his mission to help aspiring college students in need through the Jimmy Malone Scholarship, established in partnership with College Now of Cleveland.

Malone's passion for supporting students is evident not only in the financial aid he provides but also in the mentorship and community-building opportunities that come with it. Malone started the scholarship program in 1993 with his wife, April, and daughter, Angela, and, over the years, more than 300 students have benefited from his scholarships, which can be used for tuition or housing at Northeast Ohio universities.

Through the Jimmy Malone Scholarship, there are currently 25 UA students who not only receive the financial support they need, but also gain a mentor and a friend in Malone. The program includes an interview process and a unique personal connection, as Malone frequently meets with his scholarship recipients to offer guidance and encouragement.

Once enrolled at UA, many Malone Scholars participate in the College of Business Summer Leadership Academy. Overseen by Jeff Klemm, director of professional development and leadership initiatives, this residential program is designed to prepare first-generation college students for success in higher education the summer before their first year in college. The Academy helps students develop and hone leadership skills,

better understand collegiate academics and immerse themselves in the vibrant campus experience at UA.

"Jimmy wants students to ensure that they're making the right decisions," Klemm notes. "He's grown very fond of Akron as he sees the success of students and learns more about UA's programs. The impact on students is life changing."

The Malone Scholarship is about more than just financial support. It's about creating a community where students can thrive, find their passions and build a network of support that lasts beyond their time at a university. Each year, the Malone Scholarship Golf Outing, now in its 28th year, raises funds to continue this legacy. The most recent outing, held this past July at Westfield Country Club, brought together sponsors, participants and scholarship recipients in a celebration of giving back.

One such recipient, Kayla Suansing '26, a marketing major at UA and a graduate of Akron Public Schools, shared how the Malone Scholarship transformed her college experience. Initially considering other institutions, Suansing was introduced to UA by Malone, who arranged a campus tour for her. "This is a very personable scholarship program," said Suansing. "Jimmy is a good

listener and is willing to help his students find their way."

Thanks to the Malone Scholarship, Suansing has been able to live on campus, enjoy a meal plan and even participate in a study trip abroad — all while staying debt-free. "I am so happy that I picked UA and met Jimmy," Suansing reflects. "Not only will I graduate debt-free, but I was also able to have the experience of living on campus and connecting with the UA community."

Malone's commitment to his scholarship students extends beyond the financial realm. He regularly communicates with his scholars, meeting for breakfast, offering advice and ensuring they have the support they need to succeed. His vision is to continue expanding the scholarship program, with a goal of helping even more students become proud Zips.

"When my friend Kevin Smith introduced me to The University of Akron, I had no idea how awesome it was," Malone said. "Once I learned, I was determined to help more students become Zips. My goal was 25, but I won't stop there. I'll continue to try to find more Zips." ■

To learn more, visit jimmymalone.com.

A well-known radio personality and stand-up comedian based in Cleveland, Malone is best known as longtime co-host of the morning show on WMJI radio alongside John Lanigan, with whom he won a 2005 Marconi Award for Large Market Personality. He gained notoriety for "Knuckleheads in the News," reading headlines from the newspaper and commenting about some of the more outlandish stories.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

BY BREE SABIN

THREE DEGREES OF SUCCESS: CRISTINA GONZÁLEZ ALCALÁ '10, '12, '20

The story of Dr. Cristina González Alcalá '10, '12, '20 begins far from the city of Akron, in the vibrant landscape of Durango, Mexico. Born and raised in Durango, González Alcalá's journey to the United States was fueled by her passion for golf and education.

As a young girl, she recognized athletics as a pathway to higher education and earned a golf scholarship to the University of Louisville in Kentucky. There, she excelled both on the green and in the classroom,

culminating in a senior year that saw her team ranked 27th in the nation — a testament to her dedication and love for the game.

However, González Alcalá's story extends far beyond her achievements on the golf course. After completing her undergraduate studies, she was offered a graduate assistant coach position at The University of Akron (UA) in 2008. This marked the beginning of her deep and ongoing connection with the University.

Upon joining UA, González Alcalá not only contributed to UA's inaugural women's golf team, but also discovered her talent for research and statistics. She made the leap from athletics to academia, becoming a research assistant at the Institute for Health and Social Policy. Here, she worked on program evaluations for early childhood and oral health initiatives, furthering her commitment to public service and research.

González Alcalá's academic journey at UA was marked by curiosity and a drive to expand her knowledge. She pursued and completed a Master of Public Administration in 2010, followed by a Master of Arts in Communication in 2012. Not content with just two degrees, she continued her studies and earned a

doctorate in Urban Studies and Public Affairs with a specialization in communications in May 2020.

While earning her degrees, she took on roles that allowed her to influence the direction of the University, such as serving as president of the Public Administration and Urban Studies Students Association and the Graduate Committee for Research on Women. Her advocacy was driven by a desire to see the University excel, with academic excellence and vibrant student life at the forefront.

As a part-time senior lecturer at UA, González Alcalá now plays an active role in shaping the future of education at the University. She teaches courses that emphasize the application of theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios, preparing students for professional success beyond the classroom.

Her story is not just one of personal achievement, but also a reflection of the evolving landscape of education at UA.

"One thing that remains true for me is that UA has been a transformative space," reflected González Alcalá. "The real transformation began when I started as a graduate assistant coach and evolved into a professional. Now, I find myself asking, 'What else can I achieve?' I realize that I'm not limited to just one version of my best self; there are many versions I can become. The question is, which one do I want to pursue? I was able to reach this point thanks to the support of my professors at UA and my determination to earn three degrees from the University. UA provided me with the tools and the space to grow into the best version of myself."

Through her work as a director of community investment at Akron Community Foundation, as well as an educator and as vice president of the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Advisory Council, González Alcalá continues to contribute to the evolution of learning at UA, ensuring that future generations of students are equipped with the skills and knowledge they need to thrive in an ever-changing world. ■



Visit akron.edu/magazine for the entire list of Class Notes, Farewells and other alumni news. You'll also find full-length versions of the stories in this issue, along with videos and additional images.

Class Notes

1960s

Rev. Norman K. Douglas, B.A. '69, co-founder of Heart to Heart Leadership, received the 2024 recipient of Akron Community Foundation's Bert A. Polsky Humanitarian Award. Douglas is the 55th recipient of the award, which the foundation presents each year to an individual or couple who has shown selfless dedication to humanitarian causes in Akron.



Ernest A. Eggers, B.S. '61, retired at age 79 after performing more than 22,500 total hip and knee replacements. Eggers was one of the first orthopedic surgeons in the U.S. to perform custom hips and knees for oversized patients. Eggers was listed in Who's Who for top orthopedic surgeons in America and the Arthritic Joint Surgeons.

1980s

Timothy B. Berkey, M.S.E. '83, Ed.D. '94, has published a historical novel covering the Great Depression and WWII. It is written in the first person with each character telling their experiences in love and war. Much of the storyline is based in Ohio's Wayne and Summit counties with notable landmarks and local events. "South on Summit" launched Oct. 15 on Amazon.



William G. Chris, B.A. '82, managing partner at Roderick Linton Belfance, LLP, will assume the position of Ohio State Bar Association president in July 2025. He has more than 39 years of experience in litigation and business and has tried many cases to verdict before judges, juries and arbitrators. Chris has also successfully defended and prosecuted bad faith actions, as well as a \$27 million securities fraud case and an action initiated by the U.S. Department of Labor. Chris has

been recognized as a Super Lawyer every year from 2012 to 2017, and again from 2020 to 2023.

Michael Giambra, B.S. '82, retired after serving 37 years as a vice president at CIGNA/ACE Group/CHUBB leading the property underwriting of infrastructures: bridges, tunnels, ports, city transit systems, pipelines and other civil works. Giambra also underwrote Builders' Risk coverage for some of the country's largest infrastructure projects over the last 35 years, including the BIG DIG in Boston, New Oakland Bay Bridge, Carquinez Bridge, Benicia-Martinez Bridge and Charleston's Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge.



Allen T. Grimes, B.A. '89, a retired special agent with the FBI and former Akron police officer, has written a horror novel titled, "When the Lantern Swings." Grimes brings more than 26 years of law enforcement expertise to his gripping narratives. Grimes has published works of science fiction and horror in magazines like Nightmares, Potpourri and Lords of the Eternal Darkness. Crafting compelling tales featuring law enforcement protagonists thrust into extraordinary circumstances, Grimes blends his real-world experience with imaginative flair.



Patricia A. McAllise Sjoberg, B.F.A. '80, after working as a graphic designer for 25 years, earned a Master of Arts in Expressive Arts Therapy in 2006 and has worked as an expressive arts therapist for more than 20 years. McAllise Sjoberg recently launched her new book, "Artist is a Verb — A Daily Reader to Support You in Building a Creative Practice and Inspired Life," through her own Art Helps Art Heals Press. The book is a call to everyone to have a creative practice for a daily, balanced life.

Mark D. Mroczynski, B.S.M.E. '88, has been named president of transmission at FirstEnergy. Mroczynski leads the strategic direction and efficient operation of FirstEnergy Transmission, LLC assets — American Transmission Systems, Incorporated, Mid-Atlantic Interstate Transmission, and Trans-Allegheny Interstate Line Company — as well as assets owned by Keystone Appalachian Transmission Company. He will be responsible for profit and loss of the transmission business, directing transmission's regulatory and policy strategy and building consensus and collaboration with transmission business investors.

Anthony "Tony" W. Robinson, B.S. '85, has been named the new chief executive officer at Framatome Inc. Robinson will lead North America's operations supporting the nuclear energy industry in delivering safe, reliable and clean energy solutions.



Lori M. Wemhoff, B.A. '88, M.A. '95, was recently named chief marketing officer for the American Health Information Management Association, the leading voice and authority in health information.

1990s

Austin B. Barnes, III, J.D. '90, M.T. '94, has been appointed general counsel by the National Tax Lien Association (NTLA). With Barnes' extensive legal acumen and a notable background in taxation, he becomes only the second general counsel in the NTLA's 27-year history.



Lloyd E. Hilton, B.A. '94, attended the hooding ceremony at the University of Southern California Rossier School of Education and received a doctorate in Organizational Change and Leadership this past May. Hilton was also inducted into Kappa Delta Pi for academic achievement.

Anup K. Kanodia, B.S. '98, married Rupal R. Shah in June 2023 in Columbus, Ohio. In July, images from their ceremony were published in a photo essay titled "A Wedding Like No Other" in the Columbus Dispatch. The four-day festivities included ceremonies, rituals, games, processions on horseback and dancing.



Jason M. Keith, B.S. '95, was named senior vice president and provost at Iowa State University. Keith will work with the faculty and university leaders in innovating the future of academic programs and advancing teaching, research and extension missions.



David G. Lautenschleger, A.A.S. '92, B.S. '92, B.S. '01, has been named chief of engineering for the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD). Lautenschleger supervises all dams and reservoirs necessary for flood mitigation within the MWCD and its subdistricts. He also oversees ongoing construction projects and utility operations within the MWCD's network of parks and marinas in the Muskingum Watershed.



Michele C. Scott Taylor, B.A. '98, B.A. '98, B.A. '98, has been named chief executive officer of College Now Greater Cleveland, the largest nonprofit of its kind in the country, which aims to increase postsecondary educational attainment.



David Toth, M.S.E. '99, has been named superintendent for Orrville City Schools in Orrville, Ohio. Toth began his career as a special education teacher, then served in several administration roles including assis-

tant principal, principal and finally superintendent for Crestwood Local Schools, where he spent 11 years.

Georgine Welo, B.A. '95, was elected on Nov. 7, 2023, to her sixth term as the mayor of South Euclid, Ohio. Welo has served as president of the Cuyahoga County Mayors and Managers Association, vice chair of NOPEC, Board of Directors for the Greater Regional Transit Authority, currently serves on the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission and continues to serve as a civilian ambassador to the country of Serbia.



2000s

Lidia V. Carr, J.D. '01, joined the law firm, Wickens Herzer Panza Co., as an attorney in the firm's Estate Planning and Probate Department. Carr focuses her practice on estate planning, business succession and tax planning, estate and trust administration, and probate matters. Carr is also fluent in Russian.



Mark S. Klettlinger, B.A. '04, was named director of lending at Ohio Statewide development Corporation (OSDC). OSDC is a certified development corporation, located in Columbus, which promotes business investment and job creation through SBA and Ohio 166 loan programs for building and equipment.

Brent A. Teague, B.S.B.A. '05, was recently recognized in Crain's Notable Leaders in Finance 2024 cohort. Teague is currently managing partner at Financial Wellness Partners in Beachwood, Ohio.



2010s

Cody A. Austin, B.B.A. '12, MBA '15, recently joined the Wooster City Schools Board of Education. Austin also works as a financial planner with Austin Wealth Solutions.



Jason A. Rohr, B.S.A. '11, has been appointed chief financial officer of the Wooster Community Hospital Health System (WCH). Rohr aims to build on what WCH has established and make a positive impact that will sustain health care in Wayne County, Ohio, and beyond.



2020s

Holly M. Baer, J.D. '23, recently passed the Ohio State bar exam. Baer began her career at Black McCuskey Souers & Arbaugh, LPA as a summer associate in 2022. Baer focuses her practice in the areas of business, estate planning and real estate.



Nina A. (Barnes) Reinbolt, B.A.E. '20, and Grant A. Reinbolt, B.S.E.E. '20, were married on April 13, 2024. The celebration was full of family and friends, including the close friendships made at The University of Akron. Dessert included Zippy cookies!



Farewells

For more Farewells, visit the website.

Judith M. Adamek, B.S.N. '80, Jan. 28, 2022

LeShe A. Bell, A.A. '16, B.A. '17, Sept. 4, 2023

Delores Beyer, March 18, 2024

William H. Beyer, B.A. '52, March 18, 2024

Carol S. Comer, A.A.B. '83, B.S.E. '88, May 10, 2024

Kathleen Considine, B.A. '76, May 6, 2024

Donald G. Corbett, B.S.E.E. '55, M.S.E.E. '63, May 8, 2024

Kenneth W. Cordier, B.S.M.E. '60, June 18, 2024

Edward M. Di Cato, B.S. '76, J.D. '91, June 20, 2024

Georgia L. Eshelman, Ph.D. '99, March 30, 2024

Delores A. Falcone, A.A.S. '71, B.S.T. '75, June 11, 2024

Kay E. Franks, B.A.E. '71, M.A. '78, Aug. 6, 2024

Mary M. Juersivich, M.A.E. '78, Ph.D. '91, May 1, 2024

Joseph P. Kennedy, July 19, 2024

Jacqueline Kozarevic, A.A.S. '72, B.S.E. '80, M.S.T. '86, March 31, 2024

Drew J. Maglio, A.A.S. '19, B.S. '19, May 8, 2024

David R. May, B.A.E. '63, M.A.E. '78, March 12, 2024

William J. McGrath Jr., B.S.B.A. '55, March 27, 2024

Marna L. McGrath, B.A. '48, April 29, 2024

Thomas M. Minute, B.S.B.A. '92, B.S.I.M. '92, Oct. 21, 2023

Joyce A. Moore, M.S.N. '97, Feb. 22, 2024

Emeka O. Ofobike, Feb. 20, 2024

Scott D. Osborne, B.A. '85, B.S. '85, M.S. '87, Aug. 1, 2024

Beverly A. Ricks, B.A. '82, M.A. '85, B.A. '00, June 13, 2024

Stephen J. Sophis, A.A.B. '87, B.S.T. '89, July 4, 2024

Suzanne L. Stephens, B.S. '84, J.D. '87, Feb. 2, 2024

Michael D. Stull, B.S.B.A. '69, M.S.E. '74, May 1, 2024

Donna M. Teaman, M.A. '95, June 8, 2024

H. Reid Wagstaff, May 2, 2024

Diane L. Weaver, B.S.T. '85, April, 2024

Nettie E. Young, A.A.S.T.R. '78, April, 2024

H. Reid Wagstaff, May 2, 2024

Moved? Changed Names? New Job?

Update your information by scanning the QR code, emailing alumni@uakron.edu or calling 330-972-7271.



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Contact us:

The University of Akron Alumni Association
375 E. Exchange Street,
Akron, OH 44325-2602
or email alumni@uakron.edu

Roovember Giving Campaign

Join us for Roovember 2024: Building Tomorrow Together, a month-long giving challenge from Nov. 1 to Dec. 3, 2024 (Giving Tuesday) that brings the entire University of Akron community together in support of our students and campus. Your contribution will directly impact scholarships, enhance the overall campus experience and address critical needs that shape the future of the University. Whether you're an alum, friend, faculty member or staff, this is your chance to make a meaningful difference. Together, we can ensure that future generations of Zips have the resources they need to succeed. Give today and help us build a brighter tomorrow!



James R. and Phyllis C. Berry ZIPPY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP



BY BREE SABIN

When people think of The University of Akron (UA), they often picture its beloved mascot, Zippy. Named the #1 Mascot of the 2024 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament by Sports Illustrated, Zippy's energetic presence is unforgettable.

Portraying Zippy requires a significant time commitment and talent to make a lasting impact on UA. To reward the students who carry on the Zippy tradition, the James R. and Phyllis C. Berry Zippy Endowed Scholarship, established in 2018, is available.

The scholarship, funded by nearly \$200,000 in donations, honors the Berrys, whose extensive contributions to UA and the community have left an undeniable mark.

James Berry '39, a former Acme Stores executive and passionate Zips supporter, was known for his efforts in filling the Rubber Bowl with record crowds for more than two decades during the annual Acme Zips games. Throughout his storied business career, he served as president of the University of Akron National Alumni Board, Downtown Kiwanis and the United Community Council. Additionally, he was a member of the Greater Akron Musical Association and the Summit County Historical Society.

Phyllis C. (Rowland '39) Berry, his wife, made a lasting impact as a dedicated community member, actively participating in various organizations. After graduating from UA, Phyllis taught third and fourth grade in the Mantua, Ohio, school system for two years. She and Jim were married

just two weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Following the war, she devoted herself to raising their two sons. In 1964, Phyllis joined the UA Women's Committee and served many charitable organizations in the Akron area, most notably Akron Children's Hospital. Phyllis lived to be 104 and, like her husband, Jim, she was always an avid fan of America's best college mascot — Zippy.

The scholarship is awarded to students who embody exceptional school spirit and meet rigorous criteria. Recipients must demonstrate outstanding personal characteristics.

Michelle Banis, director of alumni relations and manager of the Zippy program, emphasizes the significance of the scholarship. "It's an honor to work with this program. Zippy brings so much love and joy to the community. The scholarship rewards students for their dedication, recognizing their efforts beyond the traditional job expectations." She notes that the scholarship has enabled nearly every member of the Zippy team to receive financial support, enhancing their ability to participate in the program and contribute to campus life.

The Zippy program, which currently has 15 students on the roster, has evolved significantly since the scholarship's inception just a few years ago. With appearances at more than 350 events annually, from athletic games and community fundraisers to weddings and birthday parties, Zippy's presence is highly sought after and beloved.

Reflecting on its impact, Banis notes, "The scholarship has transformed the program, highlighting the extraordinary work that goes into being Zippy. It's more than just wearing a suit; it's about embodying the spirit of Akron and bringing UA pride to the community. We are incredibly grateful for the Berrys' legacy and how it continues to support our students while enriching the Akron experience."

The scholarship has evolved over time, and recent adjustments to event pricing make Zippy's appearances more accessible to the community. This change not only helps maintain the mascot's visibility, but also supports the ongoing costs associated with the program, including suit maintenance and student stipends.

As the Zippy program continues to thrive and bring cheer to the Akron community, the James R. and Phyllis C. Berry Zippy Endowed Scholarship stands as a testament to the enduring power of community spirit and the legacy of two individuals who dedicated their lives to making Akron a better place. ■

If you would like to bring some "Blue and Gold" to your next special occasion, UA's favorite marsupial is here to help you celebrate! Additional information, including appearance fees, requirements and the official request form, can be found online at uakron.edu/zippy.

IMPORTANT LIFETIME EMAIL ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to a significant increase in costs from Microsoft and an increased risk in cybersecurity,

The University of Akron will no longer support @1870.uakron.edu email accounts for alumni and former students.



This change will take effect on **July 1, 2025**, and aligns with best practices in higher education locally, nationally and globally.

To minimize any inconvenience, we are providing advanced notice to all UA alumni.



WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

Users with an active @1870.uakron.edu email are encouraged to create a new primary account and begin migrating their content or downloading their data before access to these accounts is discontinued on July 1, 2025.

If you have used your @1870.uakron.edu email to register for websites, social media accounts, online shopping services, bank accounts or other platforms, please update those settings with an alternate email address. Many popular and reputable free email services, such as Outlook, Gmail and Yahoo Mail, are available.

If you are not currently using your @1870.uakron.edu email, no action is required. Your account will be closed on July 1, 2025.

For questions, please contact UA Information Technology Services at support@uakron.edu.


Are you already using an alternate email address that UA should use for future communications? Let us know by scanning the QR code!



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At The University of Akron, students become confident leaders, engaged community members and career-ready graduates. We provide the connections and support to make their time in college result in much more than earning a degree. Our students bring their passion, and we provide the possibilities.

Know someone who would benefit from these possibilities? Encourage them to schedule a visit to UA to learn more!

[UAKRON.EDU/VISIT](https://uakron.edu/visit)