

# University Traditions

The life of every student is enriched by the traditions that have become a part of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff through the years. The list below highlights some of the University's cherished traditions:



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**Band Concert.** Annually, the Music Department presents the University Band in Concert.

**Black History Month.** During February, Black History Month is observed to pay tribute to African Americans who have made significant contributions to the progress of humankind as a whole and to African Americans in particular.

**Chancellor's Scholarship Gala.** This is a formal affair presented with elegance. This event's proceeds support scholarships that provide financial support for students attending the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

**Chancellor's Convocation/Tower Talk.** An all-school assembly, originally established by President L. A. Davis, Sr., as the "family chat hour," is held at the beginning of each semester.

**Founders' Week Celebration.** Each year, the University pauses on a Sunday close to April 25th (the date of the founding of the institution) to pay tribute to those whose services and sacrifices have made the University's achievements possible. In addition to other activities, standing events include the Memorial Sunrise and Alumni Breakfast (a family breakfast), the Founders and Honors Awards Convocation, the Mary E. Benjamin Conference on Educational Access, and UAPB Jazz Concert, NPHC activities, and the Chancellor's Scholarship Gala.

**Founders and Honors Awards Convocation.** Traditionally held on the Thursday morning during Founders Week, the Convocation is held to pay tribute to those whose services and sacrifices have made the University's achievements possible. In addition, students are recognized for academic achievement and their contributions to the University through scholarships and awards. Classes are dismissed so the campus community can attend this occasion.

**Handel's Messiah.** Every year, the University choir performs Handel's Messiah during the Christmas season. The Vesper Choir is assisted by the University Concert Band and by a string ensemble from the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra. The Messiah is considered to be the best oratorio in music history. Traditionally, the presentation of the Messiah marks the official opening of the Christmas season on the campus. The event is sponsored by the Department of Music.

**Homecoming.** Annually, the University sets aside one weekend during the fall semester for the celebration of its Homecoming activities. Plans are made under the direction of the Homecoming Committee, which consists of faculty/staff and students, to extend the traditional UAPB hospitality to alumni, guests, and friends. The campus is beautifully decorated, and various student organizations and academic departments prepare floats for the annual Homecoming parade on Main Street in the city of Pine Bluff. Other events during Homecoming are NHC Step-Show, Miss UAPB Coronation, Senior Stunt Night, Bon Fire, Black & Gold Pride Assembly, HC Alumni Scholarship Golf Tournament, UAPB/AMN HC Assembly, AM&N/UAPB Letter-A Club Breakfast, and various class and student organization round-ups.

**Lion Fever Day.** During the spring semester, high school students throughout the state of Arkansas and adjoining states are invited to the campus for a day of information and activities.

**Spring Unity Fest.** An activity designed to bring together the University and the community through entertainment, food, games, vendors, information booths, novelty attractions and contests.

**Vesper Choir Concert.** The Friday before Commencement, the University Choir performs its annual concert, which was traditionally held on the steps of the J.B. Watson Library.