May 8, 2014

**ARTICLES OF INTEREST**

**MAY 2, 2014 – MAY 8, 2014**

For specific news stories, see the following page numbers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>News About</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trustee/System Information</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Issues</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UA Campus Issues</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAB Campus Issues</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAH Campus Issues</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other State Universities</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National News</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New council will work with education

This area’s business community, led by the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, has been actively engaged in all things education for several decades. Whether it is being quietly involved in workforce development curriculum planning with administrators or our highly publicized Adopt-A-School program, local business leaders and chamber officials have been focused on local education issues on an almost daily basis.

However, as our skilled workforce shortage continues to increase, so do the demands placed on local school systems, the chamber’s role of “connecting the dots” between the business and education communities is more critical than ever before. Responding to the needs of our business and education communities, the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama board of directors is proud to announce the launch of the Education Policy Council. This council will comprise of leaders from the public, private and non-profit sectors of our community whose mission will be to work directly with area education officials on policies that improve the overall quality of our local school systems.

JORDAN PLASTER  LARRY TAYLOR

This effort will be under the direction of Charles Nash, vice chancellor for academic and student affairs for the University of Alabama System, who will serve as chairman. A nationally recognized leader in education policy, Nash has also been active in the West Alabama business community, having served as chairman of the chamber’s board of directors in 2002. His many years of service to numerous area organizations and community initiatives led to his induction into the Tuscaloosa County Civic Hall of Fame in 2013.

Serving as vice chair is Molly Baldwin Ingram, vice president of development for DCH Heath System. An accomplished strategic planning and resource development professional, Ingram has three children in Tuscaloosa City Schools.

Kimberly McMurray, associate principal with Ward Scott Architecture, will serve as secretary of the council. A product of Tuscaloosa City Schools, McMurray spent several years in professional architecture in communities across the United States before returning to her native Tuscaloosa in 2011 and has quickly become one of the area’s progressive business leaders.

Not only are the members of the council’s leadership team highly educated and recognized leaders in their respective professions, but they are each personally invested in local education. They each understand that a strong education system is absolutely critical for the current and future economic prosperity of the community they call home. They will lead a diverse and talented group of volunteers who simply want to see every person in this community reach his or her God-given potential.

This isn’t about politics. This is about working together as a community to improve performance so that all of our children and adults receive the high-quality education they need and deserve.

Jordan Plaster is senior vice president of Merrill Lynch in Tuscaloosa and chairman of the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama board of directors. Larry Taylor is president of Moundville Telephone Co., Inc. in Hale County and chairman of the Alabama Community College System’s Region 3 Workforce Development Council, which works to support local economic and job development.
ALABAMA RANKINGS

Alabama's economic outlook is bright, according to a new report.

Based on 15 policy variables, the American Legislative Exchange Council ranked Alabama No. 20 in an analysis of all 50 states' economic outlook for the next year. The rankings, compiled annually by the conservative-leaning group, focus on competitiveness of states in attracting businesses and residents, and its authors put a premium on low taxes and minimal regulations.

Alabama received a No. 1 ranking for its minimum wage and its right-to-work status, which forbids unions from compelling employees to pay dues. It got a good rating — No. 12 — for its personal income tax rate, but fell behind Tennessee, Florida and Texas, which have no personal income tax.

Alabama ranked No. 8 for tax rates on corporate income and No. 1 for its property taxes, with higher rankings meaning lower taxes.

Weighing the state down in the overall rankings were the number of public employees and the sales tax burden, for which it ranked No. 40 and No. 29, respectively.

Utah ranked No. 1 for the year.

Jan Saleson
Verizon will add 400 full-time jobs in state

By Phillip Rawls
The Associated Press

MONTGOMERY | Verizon Wireless is adding more than 400 full-time jobs in Alabama, mostly in the Huntsville area.

Verizon officials and public officials from the Huntsville area joined Gov. Robert Bentley in Montgomery on Tuesday to announce that more than 300 customer service positions will be created in Verizon’s state headquarters in Huntsville. The other jobs will be in retail, mostly in north Alabama and in Birmingham and Dothan.

Verizon Wireless currently employs 1,600 people in Alabama, including 1,000 at its state headquarters, and the addition of the jobs throughout 2014 will bring total employment to 2,000, said Michelle Robinson, the company’s vice president for government affairs in the South.

She said the expansion reflects a growing consumer demand for mobile devices and the availability of a qualified labor pool in Alabama. She said the state did not provide any financial incentives for the expansion.

Madison County Commission Chairman Dale Strong said the Verizon Wireless announcement builds on other recent industrial projects and expansions for the Huntsville area, including 2,000 jobs at Remington, 125 at Toyota Motor Manufacturing and 40 at

JOBS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

General Electric.

Robinson did not disclose the starting salaries, but she said the jobs offer competitive salaries, health care coverage that begins on the first day of employment, and participation in the company’s 401(k) plan with a dollar-for-dollar match of up to 6 percent of an employee’s salary contribution.

For Bentley, who was elected in 2010 on a job creation platform, the announcement provided a major media event a month before the Republican primary June 3, when he faces two opponents in his re-election bid.

“It’s a good day for Alabamians who will have an opportunity to apply for these new jobs,” Bentley said.
Mercedes mulling new lines in Vance

By Patrick Rupinski
Business Editor

Automotive News has reported that Mercedes-Benz is considering new model lines for its sport utility vehicles that would have mainly car-like characteristics but also the off-road capability found with SUVs.

It said the vehicles would be made at Mercedes-Benz U.S. International in Vance.

MBUSI will add the C-Class sedan to its production this year. The Vance plant also makes two SUVs, the M-Class and the GL-Class, and a crossover vehicle, the R-Class, which is made basically for foreign markets.

Mercedes also has announced that it will add a new model that has been described as a sporty SUV to its production next year.

See Mercedes | 11A

Continued from page 1A

A Concept Coupe SUV was shown at a Beijing auto show recently. Automotive News, a leading auto industry trade publication, said that concept model resembles the fifth model that will be made in Vance.

Automotive News quoted Thomas Weber, the brand's research and development chief as saying: "The Concept Coupe SUV previews a four-door, coupe-styled model that will appeal to customers who want a sporty designed vehicle with a high seating position."

The publication said Weber said the concept's production model could be part of a new model line of "on-road" SUVs that could also include a coupe-styled version of the GLA compact SUV.

Mercedes began selling the GLA in Europe in March and it is due in U.S. showrooms in September.

Neither Weber nor Mercedes would comment on the exact launch date of the production version of the Concept Coupe SUV or on its production name, which media reports have said will be the MLC, Automotive News said.
For the first time in 40 years, Huntsville is drawing up a citywide master plan to help shape the future. (Sarah Cole/scole@al.com)

**HUNTSVILLE'S FUTURE: MAYOR WANTS INPUT ON WAYS CITY CAN IMPROVE.**

Steve Doyle
sdoyle@al.com

For the first time in 40 years, Huntsville is drawing up a master plan to help shape the city's future. Mayor Tommy Battle says he wants the input of residents.

The master planning process gets underway at 6 p.m. Tuesday with a public kickoff event in the auditorium of First Baptist Church, 600 Governors Drive.

Throughout the next 18 months, there will be many other opportunities to comment — both in person and online — about what should be included in the plan.

During a news conference, Battle said the citywide master plan will address a little bit of everything: reviving older neighborhoods and struggling retail areas; meeting the needs of young professionals and empty nesters; being properly wired for an increasingly digital world; where to put future parks and greenways; and growing in a sustainable way.

"You can't get to where you need to go without having a plan," said Battle. "This is an overarching plan that ties everything together."

Dennis Madsen, the city's director of urban and long-range planning, is leading the master plan effort. The city will roll out a website and mobile app in the coming days so residents can participate remotely, he said.

"There also will be a series of citizen academies" this summer on specific issues such as how to make better use of Huntsville's riverfront.

Battle promised to revamp the city's master plan when running for reelection in 2012. What's put down on paper will have to be updated regularly as Huntsville evolves, he said.

"One of my mantras is, 'Always be ready for change,'" said Battle. "It's the only constant."
Randall to speak to law grads

163 to receive degrees at UA on Saturday

By Ed Enoch
Staff Writer

University of Alabama Law School Dean Emeritus Ken Randall will be the commencement speaker for the law school's graduation ceremony Saturday at Coleman Coliseum.

The ceremony for the 163 graduates will be at 5 p.m. in the coliseum. The law school graduation follows ceremonies earlier Saturday for the colleges of business, engineering, nursing, communication and information sciences, education and human environmental sciences.

Commencement activities begin today with the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of

See UA | 3B

UA
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

Social Work at 6 p.m. at the coliseum. More than 4,411 students are scheduled to graduate during the spring ceremonies.

Randall, who retired last June to work in the private sector, led the school for 20 years. He joined the law school's faculty in 1985 and was named dean in 1993. He is credited with helping UA become one of the nation's top-ranked law schools.

Randall is president of InfiLaw Ventures LLC, a consortium that includes an independent network of ABA-approved law schools and companies providing management solutions, new educational programs and pioneering technology-driven course delivery to law schools and higher education institutions nationally and internationally.

According to the program for Saturday's graduation ceremony, degree candidates will be hooded by Kimberly Boone, director of the legal writing program and legal writing lecturer; Bryan Fair, the Thomas E. Skinner professor of law; and Pamela Pierson, Bainbridge-Mims professor of law.
SURVIVAL AND REVIVAL

Some are striving to make things better than before the destruction

UA student giving post-tornado Alberta online makeover

By Lisa Rogers Savage
Halifax Media Services

Gadsden

Huntsville native Leah Bradford was a freshman at the University of Alabama when a tornado struck near the campus on April 27, 2011. Now, as a senior, she is involved in an award-winning project that rebrands one of the communities destroyed that day.

"This is a nice bookend for me," Bradford, the student producer for the project, said.

Bradford, a telecommunications and film-broadcast news major, is involved in a project working with residents of Alberta to rebrand the community.

"We are working to give the community of Alberta an outlet to use for updates and information about the area using videos on the website. Using Instagram and Vine, we are able to promote upcoming events such as business openings and groundbreakings."

Leah Bradford, University of Alabama student

Bradford said the community was destroyed but has a lot on its horizon.

The Tuscaloosa Park and Recreation Authority is building a new tennis complex that will have numerous courts and have the ability to host tournaments from around the country.

A new school, Alberta School of Performing Arts, is expected to open by the
REVIVE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

end of the year and will specialize in fine arts education.

Bradford said Councilman Kip Tyner is working with the team to construct new websites and a social media presence to bring Alberta to the forefront of the Tuscaloosa area.

"We are working to give the community of Alberta an outlet to use for updates and information about the area using videos on the website. Using Instagram and Vine, we are able to promote upcoming events such as business openings and groundbreakings," Bradford said.

She said she and those on her team are working as Alberta's unofficial marketing team.

"We're using our experience and knowledge about social media and community interests," she said. "We communicate weekly to assess our progress and see what is needed for the community project."

Bradford said she recently learned that her team won second place in the University Research and Creative Activity Research Conference in the Communications and Information Sciences division.

Other members on the team are Drew Bryant of Guntersville, Taylor Crosby of Tennessee and Sarah Hollingsworth of Georgia.

Bradford said the project is personal for her.

She was in her dorm that day, in an area close to 15th Street — an area hit hard by the tornadoes.

"We went to the first level and the power went out," she said.

They could hear all the noises from the storm and then there was silence.

"We were crying and praying, just holding on to each other," Bradford said.

When it was over, their dorm had escaped without damage, but the devastation wasn't far.

The area at 15th Street was unrecognizable, she said.

Bradford said she called her dad to let him know she was OK, and she and her friends were trying to make sure all their friends in other areas were OK.

"It was very traumatic," she said.

Classes were canceled for the rest of the semester, but what Bradford saw when she returned to campus broke her heart.

"All you could see was flatness," she said. "Where you used to see trees and houses, there was nothing."

Bradford said she sees so many positive things happening in the community, and she hopes she has helped in some way.

"We hope this sends a message that you can come back, no matter what," she said.

Chandra Clark of the telecommunication and film department at the University of Alabama said Bradford's project is one of nine her class is working on with nonprofit groups in the Tuscaloosa community.

"I felt really strong about the Alberta one because of the rebuilding that is starting to take place there," Clark said.

"I had another team focus on capturing the history of Alberta a year and a half ago, so it was time to do it again and work with city and community leaders to do an updated version of what's changed there three years after the tornado."

Clark said she has a keen interest building back the Alberta community along with other parts of Tuscaloosa after she produced several mini-documentaries in partnership with a colleague at the University of Oklahoma and the National Association of Broadcasters following the disasters in Tuscaloosa, Joplin and Moore, Okla., and Hurricane Sandy.

Those videos can be found via the NAB Newsroom on YouTube.

"Several of these projects have grown out of that partnership and the work I've been able to include many of our students in doing on the role of broadcasters during disasters," she said.

The videos and much of the work Bradford's team has done is on the city's new website, cityofalberta.com.

*Lisa Rogers Savage writes for The Gadsden Times.*
New app from UA grad fixes imperfect photos

Photox artists can remove, enhance and even transform

By Angel Coker
Staff Writer

When Louisa Imperiale's daughter was born 14 months ago, her husband took that once-in-a-lifetime photo of her holding her baby girl for the first time. As she browsed through the photos, trying to find the best one to share with family and friends on Facebook, she realized her bra strap was showing.

"As much as I wanted to share that priceless photo, I didn't really want all of Facebook seeing my wardrobe malfunction," Imperiale said. "Later that night in the hospital, I begged my husband to do a quick Photoshop job on the picture and voila! The bra strap was gone!"

Imperiale said it was in that instant the idea for the Photox app was born.

Imperiale, who was born in Tuscaloosa and graduated from Holt High School and the University of Alabama, has now become an entrepreneur in Washington, D.C., because of this app. After her daughter was born, she said she decided to take some time off from political fundraising and pursue the creation of the app to help people cherish memories instead of scrutinizing their pictures.

"I think especially women but also men do a lot of nitpicking with their own photos," Imperiale said. "Nobody likes the way they look in pictures. This will be a good way for people to get over their own nitpicking and be free from worrying about how they look in pictures."

Louisa Imperiale has created Photox, a new photo-editing app that uses highly skilled photo artists instead of the computer-generated Photoshop to fine-tune pictures. The free app is available in the Apple App Store and allows users to submit photos to a 24-hour team of designers who will alter and return them within 15 minutes.

Photox is a free iPhone app found in the Apple App Store that allows users to upload photos from their camera roll into the app, choose from a menu of 32 Photoshop services and submit those photos to a 24-hour team of professional artists who will alter and return them within 15 minutes.
team of designers, located around the world for 24-hour service. The user should be notified by text message within 15 minutes of submission that the photo has returned with alterations.

"It’s like Botox for your photos," Imperiale said.

The app, released 10 days ago, has received a five-star rating in the app store and exceeded its download goal in the first 48 hours, Imperiale said. She said more than 1.1 billion photos are uploaded to social media every day and that approximately 50 percent of people who upload those photos admitted to altering them in some way.

Imperiale said Photox receives a picture from the same woman every day who is trying to lose 100 pounds. She said the woman said the full-body weight loss service is a great tool to keep her motivated because she can see what the end result will look like.

The app offers simple enhancement services such as red-eye removal and color correction and extreme services such as buttocks enlargement, nose and breast jobs and adding six-pack abs. The most commonly used services include full-body weight loss, acne removal, tanning or lightening skin and creating skinny arms.

Imperiale said creating skinny arms is one of the most popular services because it reduces bulge from around the arms when they lay against the body.

"Everybody can stop doing the teapot pose, put your arm down and get Photoxed," she said.

Erin Veltman said she has used almost all of the services provided, including object removal and full-body weight loss.

"I never like the way I look in photos, so I'm constantly retaking them. Very rarely do I love the way they come out," Veltman said. "Photox allows me to edit the little imperfections."
Moundville park's museum marking 75th anniversary

Staff report

The University of Alabama's Jones Museum at Moundville Archaeological Park is celebrating its 75th anniversary with a series of events and programs beginning Saturday.

Events Saturday are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and include art, craft and technology demonstrations, dance performances and storytelling.

In celebration of the anniversary, admission for Saturday will be 25 cents for children and 50 cents for adults, the rate charged when the museum opened in 1939. Regular admission is $6 for children and $8 for adults.

Participants Saturday, according to a release from UA, include:
- Shell carver Dan Townsend.
- Ancient weapons expert Bill Skinner.
- Potter Chip Wente.
- Textile artist Cat Sloan.
- Living historian Robert Thrower.
- Cultural demonstrator Margaret Baggett.
- Hoop dancer Lyndon Alec.
- Storyteller Amy Bluemel.
- Rebecca Alec, who will make frybread for visitors to sample.

The museum's Office of Archaeological Research will also have a table promoting the Alabama Archaeological Society, where visitors may bring artifacts for identification by archaeologists.

There will also be an exhibition on the Moundville Archaeological Park's development, including historic photos, posters and logos featuring the Civilian Conservation Corps work on the site and the local community's interactions with the Moundville site.

"Starting with the tireless efforts of community members over 75 years ago, countless individuals have worked to preserve this nationally significant site and tell the story of the ancient Moundville people through exhibits in the Jones Museum," said William Bonar, interim executive director of University Museums and director of Moundville Archaeological Park, in a released statement.

Construction of the museum began in February 1937 by the Civilian Conservation Corps and was completed within a year. UA completed a $5 million renovation of the museum in 2010.

The exhibit will be on display through 2014.

A public lecture series about the site, its history and other scholarly research is scheduled for the fall.

For more information, call 205-371-2234, or visit www.moundville.ua.edu.
New Texas A&M Law School Dean Named, University Commits $25 Million To School In AUF Funds

A nationally prominent legal scholar known for his work in a variety of regulatory issues, as well as for his teaching background, Andrew Morriss, Ph.D., J.D., is the new dean of the Texas A&M University School of Law, effective July 1.

Prof. Morriss’ selection to lead the Fort Worth-based law school that Texas A&M acquired last year was approved Thursday (May 1) by The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents upon the unanimous recommendation of Chancellor John Sharp, interim President Mark Hussey and Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Karan Watson.

Prof. Morriss, who holds a Ph.D. degree in economics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in addition to his J.D. earned at The University of Texas at Austin, is currently the D. Paul Jones, Jr. & Charlene A. Jones Chairholder of Law at the University of Alabama School of Law. He is an acknowledged leader regarding regulatory issues involving environmental, energy and offshore financial centers.

He was the successful candidate in a national search that produced more than 60 nominations.

“Carol and I are thrilled to get to be part of the team at Texas A&M,” Morriss said. “This is a unique opportunity in American legal education, combining the excellent faculty, staff and students at the law school with one of America’s premier research universities.” His wife, Dr. Carol Akers, is a graduate of Texas A&M University’s College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

Chancellor Sharp underscored his commitment to move the new school into the top ranks.

“I have said since the beginning, we are committed to seeing the Texas A&M School of Law quickly become acknowledged as a leader in legal education,” he said. “Our unique commitment to teaching and service to the state of Texas will be our hallmark in this endeavor just as it has been over the 137-year history of Texas A&M University. These strategic investments and the appointment of Dr. Morriss as the inaugural Anthony G. Buzbee Dean only accelerate our efforts in this regard.”

In separate action taken by the regents, Chancellor Sharp received authority to provide $5 million from the Available University Fund (AUF) for the law school now and up to $20 million over the next five years on a dollar-for-dollar basis regarding funds raised in the private sector. The AUF represents proceeds from the Permanent University Fund to enhance excellence in teaching, research and related initiatives. Fundraising and donor engagement activities are already under way.

Additionally, the chancellor cited the recent million-dollar donation by Regent Tony Buzbee and his wife, Zoe, to establish an endowment for the sitting dean of the law school. The Anthony G. Buzbee Dean’s Endowed Chair is the first-ever endowment gift of its kind dedicated to law school faculty, specifically the dean.

“We are poised to make tremendous strides in a very short period of time for not only the long-awaited law school at Texas A&M, but on the profession of law in our state,” noted Regent
Buzbee, himself an attorney. “My family and I are proud to play a small part in helping this school of law advance these efforts.” He is the founding partner of the firm that bears his name and has offices in Houston, Galveston and Edinburg.

In joining in the recommendation to the board, interim President Hussey noted: “Prof. Morriss has not only distinguished himself in his field of scholarship, but comes to us with unique perspective as a faculty member who was integrally involved in enhancing two previous schools of law. Serving at the University of Illinois as it advanced from the Top 100 to No. 23 and at the University of Alabama, which advanced from Top 80 to No. 23.”

Provost Watson, to whom Morriss will report, emphasized the broad-based support for his selection. “The search committee, faculty and university leadership who interacted with Prof. Morriss during this process were complimentary of his accomplishments, experience and demeanor towards the unique opportunity our law school presents,” she noted. “His scholarship and exceptional record of teaching focuses on key regulatory issues facing our state and nation, and his vision for legal education will serve us well in enhancing our newly acquired law school.”

In addition to his law and Ph.D. degrees, Prof. Morriss holds a bachelor of arts degree from Princeton University and a master of public affairs degree from UT-Austin.

Following law school, he clerked for U. S. District Judge Barefoot Sanders in the Northern District of Texas and worked two years at Texas Rural Legal Aid in Hereford and Plainview.

He is considered by colleagues and students —present and past— an exceptionally accomplished teacher, and they point to numerous courses that include international experiences for students, a high-impact learning focus of Texas A&M. He has taught and lectured in the Cayman Islands, China, Greece, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Nepal and other locations around the world.

His scholarship includes being author and coauthor of more than 60 articles, chapters and books. He is a Research Fellow at the New York University (NYU) Center for Labor and Employment Law, Chair of the editorial board for the *Cayman Financial Review* and enjoys affiliation with numerous think tanks on public policy, including the Property & Environment Research Center in Bozeman, Montana, the Regulatory Studies Center at George Washington University, the Institute for Energy Research in Washington, D. C., and the Mercatus Center at George Mason University.

Prior to joining the University of Alabama, Morriss was the H. Ross & Helen Workman Professor of Law and Professor of Business at the University of Illinois College of Law and the Galen J. Roush Professor of Business Law & Regulation at Case Western Reserve University.

The law school is currently headed by Aric Short, who was serving in an interim capacity when Texas A&M acquired it from Texas Wesleyan University.

“We want to acknowledge the outstanding service of Aric Short during this interim and unprecedented transition period,” Hussey and Watson said in a joint statement. “His leadership throughout the transition and this first year has established a great foundation from which we all can build.”
UA should explain Bailey’s short tenure

Some people on the University of Alabama campus are, no doubt, breathing a little more easily now. No, their relief isn’t due to the fact that tornadoes again missed the campus in the midst of final exams, although everyone is happy about that. No, they’re glad to see Guy Bailey finally get a job and get off the UA payroll.

Bailey was selected president of the University of Alabama during the summer of 2012 after Robert Witt ended a distinguished tenure to become chancellor of the UA System. With degrees from UA and experience at Texas Tech, a growing university, Bailey seemed like a good fit for Alabama.

But just 57 days later, Bailey resigned. He said that his wife had a terminal illness and was not able to fulfill duties expected of the UA president’s wife. She was, indeed, sick and died on Sept. 1, 2013. And it is certainly not inconceivable that this might have been the real issue that led Bailey to resign.

However, some things don’t add up. While his wife was still living and still ill, Bailey applied for several open university presidencies. He was a candidate for openings at New Mexico State University and Memphis University.

In the meantime, Bailey held a tenured faculty position as a professor of linguistics, although his salary remained at the presidential level of more than $500,000, far more than most professors make at UA. In addition, UA paid partial salaries of aides who followed Bailey here.

We understand the desire to be compassionate when someone is facing a tragic illness. It is noble to want to help someone who is facing one of the most difficult times that life can dish out. But we also don’t believe that it would be right to use a tragedy to mask other motives.

There is little reason to believe that Bailey didn’t have adequate information about the position he would fill. A presidential search is a long and thorough process.

We certainly would not quibble with the decision to retain Bailey as a tenured professor after he stepped down from serving as university president. It would seem that if there was a misunderstanding, that would be a reasonable compromise between Bailey and his employer.

But we can find little way to justify continuing to pay Bailey his presidential salary under the circumstances UA has outlined. College costs have risen mercilessly, forcing students and their parents to go deep in debt to pay for their education. Public universities must be able to justify how they spend their money.

The University of Texas regents have selected Bailey to head that system’s University of Texas Rio Grande Valley campus. If all details work out, he will be coming off of UA’s payroll. Some people will say he’s well enough alone.

But we still believe the chancellor and board of trustees haven’t been completely forthcoming, and UA owes tuition-paying students and their parents the truth.

CORRECTION

Former University of Alabama President Guy Bailey resigned as president on Oct. 31, 2012, and was paid at a rate of $535,000 annually until Aug. 16, 2013. After that, he was paid at a rate of $171,819 annually as a professor of English. The editorial on Page 5D Sunday contained incorrect information about his salary.
ARTISTS AND ENGINEERS FROM UAB AND THE BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY HAVE BIG DREAMS THIS YEAR — EVEN BIGGER THAN LAST YEAR. FROM MAY 8-10, THE WEST EXTERIOR WALL OF THE ABYS STEPHENS CENTER WILL BE WRAPPED IN FABRIC AND TURNED INTO A GIANT PROJECTION SCREEN, THE CENTERPIECE OF “LIGHT DREAM II,” AN EXTRAVAGANZA OF ARCHITECTURALLY MAPPED DIGITAL ART AND ANIMATION. MORE ARTISTS AND PERFORMERS ARE GETTING INVOLVED, AND AN EXTRA NIGHT — AND EXTRA DIMENSION — ARE ADDED.

Mostly what’s different about this year’s show is that many of those dreams will be in 3-D. The 60- by 120-foot wall adjacent to Engel Plaza will again be displaying Jean-Jacques Godin’s “Artista Senilis,” a sequence of five dreams, but along with other works, it will be given 3-D treatment and viewable with 3-D glasses, thanks in large part to UAB’s Enabling Technology Laboratory, part of the Mechanical Engineering Department in the School of Engineering.

“We will have a 3-D interactive game that we will be running, called “Vulcan’s Furry,” said Corey Shum, the laboratory’s technical director. “Everyone in the audience can go to a Web page on their phones and they’ll get an avatar. They can tell that character to move left or right. Everyone can be up on the wall at the same time.”

Three kiosks will have head-mounted, virtually reality helmets.

“They work like ski goggles, right on your head, but when you look out, your world has been replaced by a digital 3-D world,” Shum said. “If you move your head, your world stays still. You are immersed in your environment.”
In addition, Andrea Brook, a former member of MASS Ensemble, will present "Sonic Butterfly," performing on a 26-stringed harp with butterfly resonating chambers and projection wings. Before each show, Birmingham drum circle organizer John Scalici will lead a "Let Your Light Shine" parade, where prizes will be awarded for the best lighted art.

Having picked up a few pointers from last year's initial run lead projection artist Gaudel is expanding his reach this time around.

"Last year, we had a panel sitting up on the hill above the street and it didn't get all that much attention," said the Birmingham artist. "Now it's in the parking lot. I'm also doing a piece with Mary Foshee, who did the dance last year."

That work was inspired by a workshop conducted by Bridgeman Packer Dance, the New York-based, tech-focused dance couple that performed in Birmingham in January.

"We decided to go further with it, letting the public play with it," he said.

Returning will be a Pac-Man game, but it will be in 3-D and in a different location.

"This year Pac-Man has a building all his own, and it will play all the time," Gaudel said.

Although 3-D and virtual reality technology is nothing new, Shum said it has come a long way in recent years. The UAB lab has helped make it possible for the community to be more involved.

"We're going to integrate with some of the graphics created at ArtPlay, from a workshop going on there," he said. "We have three full-time programmers and this is an opportunity for them to be a little less structured. We'll be there to provide technical support, projectors and to give advice."

As with most new technology, there is always the possibility of a glitch or two.

"The more interactive you get, there are always new levels of chaos," Shum said. "We'll be a little nervous, but we want to make sure everything is working right."

The free event starts at 8 each night.
UAB recently got a chance to show off its good side.

Thanks to a visit from Google Maps, the campus will be more thoroughly documented by the Internet giant, creating a valuable marketing tool that could aid for the school.

Beginning at Young Field, Google Maps contractor Alberto Elias planned to collect thousands of photos using both a Google Maps vehicle and the Street View Trekker backpack, according to Eric Martin of the UAB Office of Public Relations and Marketing.

The Trekker backpack, which weighs more than 40 pounds, contains about 15 cameras that take a series of pictures roughly every three seconds.

Google will use those images to create an extensive photographic record of the school as part of its Street View series, as the company has done for such campuses as Cornell, Dartmouth, Stanford, Boston University, and the University of Washington.

**The Trekker**

Photos of most UAB landmarks are already available on Google, but the Trekker can go places a vehicle cannot and get richer, more panoramic views.

"It's an extension of something that's already been there, so they will probably update some street views from the vehicle, plus get other data using the backpack," Martin said. "With the vehicle, you are restricted to the street, but with the Trekker, you are able to get up close to buildings that historically you would not have had access to."

The backpack allowed Elias to get shots in some unusual places.

"With Street View... you could not have had him walk the bases at Young Field or go to the helipad on top of UAB Hospital," Martin said.

**Marketing tool**

The availability of a rich view of the campus on the Web is a great marketing tool for the university, Martin said.

"Obviously we are in the business of recruiting people — including faculty, staff," he said. "From a recruitment standpoint, it's a chance for prospective students to look at campus."

"We get a lot of recognition nationally for medicine and nursing, as well as engineering and business, but sometimes it's hard to make a 2,000-mile journey. If they are more comfortable with what the campus looks like, they might make a final visit."

UAB graduates in far-flung places should enjoy the campus view, as well, according to Martin, since it allows them to keep up with the changes.

"We also have a large alumni base... that is curious about how the campus looks. And being downtown, you see how quickly the campus changes."

There is also "the pride factor," according to Martin. "Alumni will be able to hop on Google and point out to friends and family — in some cases, maybe even sons and daughters — and say, 'This is where I went to school. This was my dorm.'"

**The call from Google**

Efforts to get the Google Maps contractor on campus began late in 2013, according to Martin.

"They had some extra time in their schedule, and they called us in early November to see about coming out the end of the month," he said. "The way the campus looked at the time, we asked if they would push it back to late spring. They said no problem, and we went from there."

"Google Maps contractors prefer not to have too many curious people following along as they use the backpack to collect images, since those people will be visible in the shots, according to Martin.

But this was not a problem at UAB.

"Everyone has been very respectful," he said. "There has been no crowding. It's been a typical hospitable Birmingham welcome."
Two Alabama universities named among nation's 50 most affordable

By: Evan Belanger

When it comes to college costs, Alabama ranks seventh in the nation for tuition increases since the recession, but that doesn't mean obtaining a high quality in the state isn't comparatively affordable.

The national Web publication AffordableSchools.net announced today that two public universities in Alabama are among the nation's 50 most affordable colleges and universities.

Both Auburn University and the University of Alabama in Huntsville made the list. According to the website, simply keeping costs down is not enough to make the cut.

The schools in the ranking also must have excellent track records for providing students the skills they need to earn good incomes after they graduate, according to AffordableSchools.net.

"Because of the soaring cost of a college education, substantial student debt, and a tough job market, parents and students increasingly focus on potential income," said John Ferrer, general editor of AffordableSchools.net. "That's why we created this ranking of the most affordable colleges with the best return."

UAH ranked 44th in the nation with a tuition of $9,192, an average starting salary of $49,600, an average mid-career salary $85,100 and a 15-year return on investment of $1.01 million.

Auburn ranked 49th with a tuition of $9,852, an average starting salary of $45,500, an average mid-career salary of $87,900 and a 15-year return on investment of $1 million.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, average tuition at four-year colleges and universities has climbed 55.2 percent since the recession, an increase of $3,250.

That ranks Alabama seventh in the nation for percentage increases and sixth in the nation for dollar amount increases.

Alabama ranks fifth in the nation when it comes to state funding cuts since the recession, a decline of 37.5 percent when adjusted for inflation or $4,413 per student, according to the CBPP.

The full list of the nation's 50 most affordable colleges in alphabetical order is as follows:

Auburn University,
Baruch College,
Binghamton University,
California Polytechnic State University,
California State Polytechnic University,
Clemson University,
College of William and Mary,
Colorado School of Mines,
George Mason University,
Georgia Institute of Technology,
James Madison University,
Massachusetts Maritime Academy,
Miami University,
Michigan Technological University,
Missouri University of Science and Technology,
Montana Tech,
New Jersey Institute of Technology,
New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology,
North Carolina State University,
Oregon Institute of Technology,
Purdue University,
Rutgers University,
San Jose State University,
South Dakota School of Mines & Technology,
Southern Polytechnic State University,
Stony Brook University,
SUNY Maritime College,
Texas A&M University,
United States Air Force Academy,
United States Military Academy,
United States Naval Academy,
University of Alabama in Huntsville,
University of Arizona,
University of California - Berkeley,
University of California - Davis,
University of California - Irvine,
University of California - Los Angeles,
University of California - San Diego,
University of California - Santa Barbara,
University of Delaware,
University of Houston,
University of Illinois at Chicago,
University of Maryland - College Park,
University of Michigan,
University of Minnesota,
University of Texas - Austin,
University of Virginia,
University of Washington,
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and
West Virginia University Institute of Technology.
Researchers studying how twisters develop

UAH team was on the scene during last week's tornadoes

By Tom Smith
(Florence) TimesDaily

FLORENCE | As the clouds darkened and storms started developing across northwest Alabama last week, a team from the University of Alabama in Huntsville set up there as part of its efforts to harness information from the approaching fronts.

"We're looking at the environment that surrounds storms, what triggers it to become tornadic or not," said Dustin Phillips, a staff member with UAH's atmospheric science program.

For the last few years, UAH scientists, students and graduate students have been involved in weather research.

"We're trying to gain some better understanding of what is going on inside a storm and what we can do to predict when a tornado will develop," said Phil Gentry, communications director for the Earth System Science Center at UAH.

Monday and Tuesday, a team used the Mobile Alabama X-band radar, also known as MAX, in

See next page
RESEARCH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

Colbert, Franklin and Marion counties to collect information on the storms that swept through the region.

"They were looking for data that might give a better understanding of the factors that make one storm spin up to a tornado while other storm cells around it do not," Gentry said. "The goal is to pinpoint features in a storm that might help forecasters do a better job of predicting severe weather events."

Phillips, who has been at UAH since 2001 as a student and now a staff member, said Monday afternoon that the group was outside Russellville on Alabama 24 and was able to catch the "genesis" of a system crossing Franklin County.

"There is general knowledge from anything that is out there," Phillips said. "Our overall goal is to know more about storms to be able to predict (tornadoes) and save lives and property."

Colbert County Emergency Management Agency Director Mike Melton said learning more about the storms, their patterns and what makes a storm cell become a tornado is valuable data.

"A lot of times a tornado will go over the county and it doesn't sit down," Melton said. "If they can predict the direction of travel a tornado will take and which cells of a storm will become a tornado, the better off we'll all be.

"We all need all the help we can get in predicting these weather patterns so that we can help save someone's life."

Phillips said trying to develop information that can be helpful to meteorologists is a process. "We take the information we gather from the storms we go to and then compare with other storms, to see the patterns," he said.

Gentry said the group is also looking into trails that storms tend to take. "They're trying to see what are the factors that cause the storms and tornadoes to follow certain areas and paths. Part of that is the nature of the storms. They tend to move southwest to northeast."

"We're looking at terrain. Does that have an impact on the path the tornado takes?" Phillips said.

Lauderdale County Emergency Management Agency Director George Grabryan said the National Weather Service Center in Huntsville uses information the UAH group provides.

Gentry said that over the years some members of the group have worked on the "debris signature" theory.

He said that when the tornado hit Limestone County last week, "weather service officials were saying there was a debris cloud and a tornado was following a pattern that it needed to take cover. Through research they have determined that nothing else (but a tornado) is going to project debris 30,000 feet in the air. So, when they see a debris cloud, a tornado is very close behind."

Grabryan said anything that can help weather officials with more precise predictions is helpful. "If they can give the weather service a little more advantage of better predicting severe weather and tornadoes, it just helps us all," Grabryan said.
UWA trustees to hear report

Board to get results from investigators on president's case

By Ed Enoch
Staff Writer

The trustees for the University of West Alabama are scheduled to reconvene an ongoing meeting on May 15 to hear results of an investigation into any wrongdoing during an annual presidential evaluation last year.

The board will meet at 10 a.m. in the Bell Conference Center on the UWA campus in Livingston to hear from investigators Drayton Pruitt and Tommy Smith, who were retained in March to investigate the circumstances around the evaluation of President Richard Holland last fall.

Smith said the written report to be provided the board will be approximately 50 pages. The investigators were originally expected to make their report last month but asked for more time to complete their work.

During an April 22 meeting, Pruitt and Smith updated the board on the progress and estimated the two had compiled 3,500 pages of testimony during their interviews with 34 people, which began the week after the board put Holland on leave in March. Approximately 1.2 million documents were also reviewed during a forensic computer analysis of emails and other communications during the investigation.

Holland claimed the annual presidential evaluation, presented to the board last December, was skewed by trustees and administrators who interfered with the process by including hand-selected biased respondents to provide negative feedback.

Holland made the allegations leading up to a vote by the board on whether to extend his contract by two years. The trustees voted in March not to extend Holland’s contract beyond the end of September and named a nine-person search committee in April to find his permanent replacement.

Reach Ed Enoch at 205-722-0209 or ed.enoch@tuscaloosanews.com.
Shelton State names 5 candidates

Community college hopes to name a new president by mid-June

By Ed Enoch Staff Writer

The Alabama Community College System has announced five candidates in the search for the next president of Shelton State Community College.

The candidates, whose resumes and video introductions are available on the Shelton State website, are Paul F. Gasparro, vice president for student success initiatives for the Cuyahoga Community College District in Ohio; Walter D. Givhan of Dayton, Ohio, who most recently served as the vice commander of the Air Force's Air University in Montgomery; Andrea Scott Mayfield, vice president for the Scooba campus of the East Mississippi Community College; Valerie A. Townsend Richardson, vice president of Gadsden State Community College supervising students services and institutional advancement; and Steve Rook, vice president for academic and student affairs at Rich Mountain Community College in Mena, Ark.

The campus hopes to name a new president by mid-June, according to David O'Brien with the Alabama Community College System.

The Shelton State position requires at least five years of experience as a full-time senior administrator and at least a master's degree, though a

SHELTON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

doctorate is preferred. The salary range for the position is $159,062 to $155,634, according to the job description that was posted in late February.

The candidate list came out of a Wednesday meeting of the committee advising system Chancellor Mark Heinrich on the search. The committee includes two board of education members, two community or business representatives, one two-year college president selected by the chancellor, a full-time support staff member of the college, a full-time faculty member of the college, a full-time professional staff member and a student.

The campus in Tuscaloosa has been led by interim president Joan Davis, who was appointed in May 2013. As an interim president, Davis was ineligible to apply for the permanent role. She is currently a finalist in a presidential search at Delgado Community College in New Orleans.

Reach Ed Enoch at ed.enoch@tuscaloosanews.com or 205-722-0209.
University of Montevallo eliminating some staff, raising tuition amid ongoing budget worries

By: Martin J. Reed

MONTEVALLO, Alabama -- University of Montevallo President John Stewart III in an email to faculty today disclosed the elimination of an unspecified amount of positions related to ongoing budget concerns.

"It has become clear the University must strategically realign our resources campus-wide to meet our budgetary needs. As a result, the University has made the difficult decision to implement a small reduction in force with staff positions in Administrative Affairs and Business Affairs," Stewart said in the email obtained by AL.com.

"These decisions are based solely on financial reasons to address our overall budget objectives to protect the future of the University," the president said in the email.

A phone message left with Stewart was not immediately returned today. Attempts to reach other university personnel for comment were not successful today.

The announcement by Stewart notes a tuition increase for the university, but the amount was not mentioned in the email.

Stewart indicated the elimination of several vacant staff positions as part of the reduction. However, he stressed that the institution plans to not only "fill vacant faculty lines, but to proceed with the new faculty lines and instructor positions planned for fiscal year 2015."

As part of the budget-cutting measures, the university is pursuing "implementation of other non-personnel cost containment strategies. The combined savings of these actions are expected to secure approximately $1 million of the $1.5 million currently budgeted from reserves annually," according to the email.

Those cost-containment strategies were not specified in the email.

The email references the university's Board of Trustees audit and finance committee meeting that happened April 25, when the administration recommended a tuition increase "to better manage our university budget."

"While a tuition increase was ultimately approved by the board, concern was expressed over the rising cost of a college education, the continued impact of our 26% decrease in state funding from five years ago, and our continued reliance upon University reserves," he stated.

"The University reserves are intended for rainy days. During the last few years, the reserves have played an important role in managing the budget. The reliance on reserves is not a sustainable model for university financial operations," according to the email.
Stewart noted the actions "are challenging for our entire University family."

"It is my desire to strategically address today the challenges in higher education that impact our campus and ensure a strong and prosperous future for the University of Montevallo," he stated.
ALABAMA SOFTBALL

LEAGUE LEADERS

Traina named SEC Pitcher of the Year, Murphy tabbed as Coach of the Year
Jaclyn Traina was honored as Southeastern Conference Pitcher of the Year and Patrick Murphy was named SEC Coach of the Year in league honors announced Tuesday.

The Crimson Tide placed Traina and outfielder Haylie McCleney on the first team All-SEC list, with infielder Kaila Hunt and catcher Molly Fichtner named to the second team. McCleney was also named to the SEC All-Defensive team.

"I just think it was a lot of hard work by a lot of hard people," Murphy said. "From day one, way back in August when we first met the day before school started we said that we weren't really happy with (last year's SEC) eighth-place finish and we were hoping that the girls felt that same way. I thought everybody put in the work.

"Obviously with only two first-teamers it was a total team effort, so it is very rewarding for everybody."

Traina, a senior from Naples, Fla., is just the second player in UA history to win SEC Pitcher of the Year twice, joining Kelsi Dunne. Traina also won the award in 2012 as a sophomore when she led the Crimson Tide to the national championship. Traina went 13-1 in SEC play this season with a 1.50 earned-run average, including four wins against ranked opponents. She is one win short of 100 for her career.

"It's incredible for her," Murphy said. "She'd be the first to tell you that she was probably disappointed with last year too, but there wasn't much she could do about it (with a nagging lower-arm injury). She was probably about 60 percent strength... and everybody felt bad for her because she really gutted it out at the end. This year, so much better, similar to her sophomore year."

Murphy, in his 16th season as Alabama's head coach, won the league's top coaching honor for the fourth time, with previous wins in 2006, 2010 and 2012.

**SEC TOURNAMENT**
- **Where:** Beckham Field in Columbia, S.C.
- **When:** Thursday, 5:30 p.m.
- **Opponent:** Winner of today's game between South Carolina and Auburn
- **Records:** Alabama 44-10, South Carolina 35-19, Auburn 38-16-1
- **TV:** ESPNU
- **Radio:** 95.3 FM

See Leaders | 4C
LEADERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1C

He has coached the Crimson Tide to five SEC championships, and four in the last five years, and was inducted into the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Hall of Fame prior to the start of the season.

McCleney, a sophomore from Morris, batted .386 in SEC play and reached base safely in all but one of UA's 24 conference games. She was also errorless in the field, with several highlight-reel catches. She is a two-time selection to the conference all-defensive team.

Hunt earned All-SEC honors for the third straight year after making the second team last season and the first team as a sophomore. She led UA with five home runs in SEC play and has hit 57 in her career, just three short of Kelly Kretschman's school record of 60.

Fichtner, a senior from Houston who transferred from Texas-San Antonio after the 2012 season, led UA with a .391 average in conference play, driving in 16 runs in SEC games. She threw out seven base-stealers in league play, tops in the league.
Whitsett the SEC's top scholar athlete

Staff report

BIRMINGHAM | University of Alabama men’s golfer Cory Whitsett has been voted the Southeastern Conference H. Boyd McWhorter Scholar-Athlete of the Year, Commissioner Mike Slive announced Tuesday.

Whitsett, who graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Commerce and Business Administration this past Saturday with a perfect 4.0 grade-point average, was 2013 SEC Golfer of the Year and SEC Scholar-Athlete of the Year. He is a two-time NCAA Elite 89 Award winner as the golfer with the highest GPA at the NCAA Championships.

Georgia swimmer Shannon Vreeland earned the award on the women’s side.

“Cory and Shannon demonstrate a commitment to excellence that makes them the ideal choices for the H. Boyd McWhorter Scholar-Athlete Award,” Slive said. “This is the SEC’s most prestigious award and they deserve this honor because of their hard work that allows them to excel at the highest level in their sport and in the classroom. I congratulate them as outstanding representatives of their respective institutions and the SEC.”

This season, Whitsett led Alabama to its third consecutive SEC championship and the No. 1 national ranking going into next week’s regional play. In 2013 he helped lead Alabama to the NCAA championship and spent time as the world’s No. 1 amateur. Whitsett and his teammates begin play in the NCAA Auburn Regional, which will be held May 15-17 in Auburn.

“Winning this award means a lot,” Whitsett said. “Obviously, coming to school you don’t think about winning these kinds of awards. You just want to come in and perform well in school and your sport. One of our biggest goals as a team is trying to win the GPA award every year. I’ve always worked hard to try and make that happen. This is a by-product of the drive and the importance of academics that coach (Jay Seawell has instilled in us as a team.”

Said UA coach Jay Seawell; “I am very happy for Cory,” UA coach Jay Seawell said. “This award really highlights his dedication in the classroom, on the course and in the community. I am proud of him to represent our team and the University of Alabama by being the winner of this prestigious award.”

The ninth Alabama student-athlete to earn the prestigious honor since its inception 1986, Whitsett follows Crimson Tide offensive lineman Barrett Jones, who earned the accolade in 2013.

Gymnast Kim Jacob was a finalist for the 2014 award, earning a $7,500 scholarship in the process.
BATTLE TESTED

After 14 months, Bill Battle has settled into role of Alabama's AD

By Aaron Suttles
Sports Writer

Less than two months into the job, Bill Battle settled in for a relaxing evening with his wife, Mary, for a Saturday night dinner.

It was then, a little after 8, he realized things were different.

Earlier in the day, Battle, the University of Alabama's recently hired director of athletics, made his first hire, agreeing in principle to name Kristy Curry the new Crimson Tide women's basketball coach.

The plan called for Curry to fly back to Lubbock, Texas, and meet with her Texas Tech team to tell them the news face-to-face she was headed to Tuscaloosa.

Before that could happen, the news was released.

Battle received an email informing him of what had transpired, and within three minutes he had a press release to review.

That was the moment Battle fully understood the dynamics of an athletic department were vastly different than they were in the 1970s when he was the head coach at Tennessee.

"That kind of stuff used to take three days to turn around," Battle said, laughing. "Things go at warp speed now."
It's a matter of respect, but I want to see our coaches as they coach during games, but I want to watch them practice, too, see how they coach and see how they do things. That's just part of the job to me.

Curry is his first and only hire in his 14 months at the helm, and through one season it appears a wise decision. Curry's seven Southeastern Conference wins in the 2013-14 season are the most since the 2001-02 for the women's program.

Curry was the recipient of the 2014 Kay Yow Heart of a Coach award and her team was honored with a community service award at the recent student-athletes awards banquet. She has delivered what Battle set out to accomplish, his mission for the athletic department.

"We want to recruit and develop student-athletes who compete at the highest levels in all sports we have, to educate and prepare those student-athletes to compete in the highest levels in life after graduation and to do both with honor and integrity."

Battle also differentiated himself by writing a weekly article, entitled "The Battle Plan." He began the blog in November to recognize and publicize all sports, including those that don't get the same coverage as football or basketball.

He's written 23 blogs during the 2013-14 year, with the latest coming Thursday and focusing on the death of swimmer John Servati and spring graduation.

"Something's going on pretty much every day and a lot of them are amazing, and I don't read much about it in the papers," Battle said. "One of the things I wanted to do with the blog was let people who were interested know about all the good things that were happening, to see what I see, all that's going on with the university."

In March, Battle used the blog to publicly express his support of men's basketball coach Anthony Grant after a disappointing season.

Battle runs the UA athletic department much the same as he did his Collegiate Licensing Company, both multi-million dollar businesses. His business acumen was recently on display when he re-negotiated Alabama's multimedia rights deal with Learfield Sports, roughly doubling the value of the contract for approximately $150 million to $160 million over 10 years.

"There are a lot of things that are similar, but there are a lot of things that are different," Battle said. "The biggest difference is the difference between the world of athletics and the world of business is for the most part, particularly if it's a private business, is nobody cares what you do or how you do it other than your clients. That's not the case in this world. Everyday your fan base is giving you feedback."

Reach Aaron Suttils at aaron@tidesports.com or at 205-722-0229.
Federal report:
Climate change affects U.S. lives

By Seth Borenstein
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON | Global warming is rapidly turning America the beautiful into America the stormy, sneezy and dangerous, according to a new federal scientific report. And those shining seas? Rising and costly, the report says.

Climate change’s assorted harms “are expected to become increasingly disruptive across the nation throughout this century and beyond,” the National Climate Assessment concluded Tuesday. The report emphasizes that warming and all-too-wild weather are changing daily lives, using the phrase “climate disruption” as another way of saying global warming.

Still, it’s not too late to prevent the worst of climate change, says the 840-page report, which the White House is highlighting as it tries to jump-start often-stalled efforts to curb heat-trapping gases. “It’s a good news story about the many opportunities to take cost-effective actions to reduce the damage,” said White House science adviser John Holdren.

He called the report, the third edition of a congressionally mandated study, “the loudest and clearest alarm bell

See CLIMATE | 7A
CLIMATE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

to date signaling the need to take urgent action.” Later this summer, the Obama administration plans to propose new and controversial regulations restricting gases that come from existing coal-fired power plants.

Some fossil energy groups, conservative think tanks and Republican senators immediately assailed the report as “alarmist.” Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said President Barack Obama was likely to “use the platform to renew his call for a national energy tax. I am sure he’ll get loud cheers from liberal elites — from the kind of people who leave a giant carbon footprint and then lecture everybody else about low-flow toilets.”

Republican Sen. David Vitter of Louisiana said the report was supposed to be scientific but “it’s more of a political one used to justify government overreach.”

The report — which is full of figures, charts and other research-generated graphics — includes 3,096 footnotes to other mostly peer-reviewed research. It was written by more than 250 scientists and government officials, starting in 2012. A draft was released in January 2013, but this version has been reviewed by more scientists, including twice by the National Academy of Science which called it “reasonable,” and has had public comment. It is written in a bit more simple language so people can realize “that there’s a new source of risk in their lives,” said lead author Gary Yohe of Wesleyan University in Connecticut.

Environmental groups praised the report. “If we don’t slam the brakes on the carbon pollution driving climate change, we’re dooming ourselves and our children to more intense heat waves, destructive floods and storms and surging sea levels,” said Frances Beinecke, president of the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Scientists and the White House called it the most detailed and U.S.-focused scientific report on global warming.

“Climate change, once considered an issue for a distant future, has moved firmly into the present,” the report says. “Corn producers in Iowa, oyster growers in Washington state and maple syrup producers in Vermont are all observing climate-related changes that are outside of recent experience.”

The report looks at regional and state-level effects of global warming, compared with recent reports from the United Nations that lumped all of North America together.

“All Americans will find things that matter to them in this report,” said scientist Jerry Melillo of the Marine Biological Laboratory, who chaired the science committee that wrote the report. “For decades we’ve been collecting the dots about climate change, now we’re connecting those dots.”

In a White House conference call with reporters, National Climatic Data Center Director Tom Karl said his two biggest concerns were flooding from sea level rise on the U.S. coastlines — especially for the low-lying cities of Miami, Norfolk, Va., and Portsmouth, N.H. — and drought, heat waves and prolonged fire seasons in the Southwest.

Even though the nation’s average temperature has risen by as much as 1.9 degrees since record keeping began in 1890, it’s in the big, wild weather where the average person feels climate change the most, said co-author Katharine Hayhoe, a Texas Tech University climate scientist. Extreme weather like droughts, storms and heat waves hit us in the pocketbooks and can be seen by our own eyes, she said.

The report says the intensity, frequency and duration of the strongest Atlantic hurricanes have increased since the early 1980s, but it is still uncertain how much of that is from man-made warming. Winter storms have increased in frequency and intensity and have shifted northward since the 1950s, it says. Also, heavy downpours are increasing — by 71 percent in the Northeast. Heat waves, said as those in Texas in 2011 and the Midwest in 2012, are projected to intensify nationwide. Droughts in the Southwest are expected to get stronger. Sea level has risen 8 inches since 1880 and is projected to rise between 1 foot and 4 feet by 2100.

Climate data center chief Karl highlighted the increase in downpours, which are jumping by 30 percent to 60 percent elsewhere in the country besides the Northeast. He said last week’s drenching in Pensacola, Fla., got up to 2 feet of rain in one storm and parts of the East had 3 inches in one day, is what he’s talking about.

“The projections for these kinds of changes are to continue as the globe continues to warm and the atmosphere is able to hold more water vapor,” Karl said.

Since January 2010, 43 of the lower 48 states have set at least one monthly record for heat, such as California having its warmest January on record this year. In the past 51 months, states have set 80 monthly records for heat, 33 records for being too wet, 12 for lack of rain and three for cold, according to an Associated Press analysis of federal weather records.

The report also says “climate change threatens human health and well-being in many ways.” Those include smoke-filled air from wildfires, smoggy air from pollution, and more diseases from tainted food, water, mosquitoes and ticks. And ragweed pollen season has lengthened.

Flooding alone may cost $325 billion by the year 2100 in one of the worst-case scenarios, with $130 billion of that in Florida, the report says. Already the droughts and heat waves of 2011 and 2012 added about $10 billion to farm costs, the report says.

The Tuscaloosa News
Wednesday, May 7, 2014
Tufts U. Disputes Finding That It Failed to Comply With Civil-Rights Law

By: Sara Lipka

The U.S. Department of Education announced on Monday that Tufts University had failed to comply with the federal civil-rights law known as Title IX by not responding appropriately to reports of sexual harassment and violence, allowing a hostile environment to persist.

In an unusual development, Tufts initially accepted but then revoked an agreement to change its policies, calling the finding of noncompliance that came with it unsubstantiated. That leaves the Massachusetts university and the federal agency in a standoff, with the latter pledging to enforce the agreement or begin the process of terminating federal funds to Tufts, the ultimate penalty for violations of Title IX.

The case began in 2010, when a student filed a complaint with the Education Department, alleging that Tufts had mishandled her report of sexual assault. After a lengthy investigation, the department’s Office for Civil Rights, known as OCR, found that Tufts had "failed to provide a prompt and equitable response to complaints of sexual harassment/violence as required by Title IX," including those of the student in question.

Further, the office found, the university hadn’t provided the student with "interim measures," such as helping her change courses or housing, to minimize the risk of continued harassment and harm. And for more than a year and a half, the office said, the university did not have a permanent Title IX coordinator, an obligation under the law.

Typically, such findings do not result in an official declaration of noncompliance, but rather a "resolution agreement" in which federal and campus officials identify policies the college will adopt to improve safety.

The agreement reached in this case specifies, for instance, that Tufts will provide regular training for all students and employees on their rights and responsibilities under Title IX. Among other provisions, it requires Tufts to document all reports and complaints of sexual misconduct, formal and informal, with a 13-point checklist; submit all proposed revisions to policies, procedures, outreach, and training for federal review; conduct annual assessments of the campus climate; and pay monetary compensation to the student who filed the complaint.

Tufts forged that agreement with the regional civil-rights office in Boston and accepted it on April 17, when Mary R. Jeka, senior vice president and general counsel at the university, signed it. The agreement states that it "does not constitute an admission by the university that it is not in compliance with Title IX."

On April 22, however, the regional office informed Ms. Jeka that authorities in Washington planned to say in a letter of findings accompanying the resolution agreement that Tufts had failed to comply with the law. "I felt that I was sort of misled," said Ms. Jeka. "We would not have signed the agreement if that were made explicit to us."
Four days later, Ms. Jeka revoked her signature on the resolution agreement. The university described the move in a statement on its website on Monday. "We could not, in good faith, allow our community to believe that we were not in compliance with such an important law," it says. "We believe the department's recently announced finding has no basis in law, and we have requested to speak with OCR's Washington office to discuss this unexpected and troubling announcement."

Monetary Damages

Following the federal complaint in 2010 and guidance from the Education Department in 2011, Tufts has reviewed and updated its policies on sexual harassment and assault, officials there said.

In a public letter on Monday, the university's president, Anthony P. Monaco, affirmed "the prevention and elimination of sexual misconduct" as one of his top priorities. The letter describes current efforts toward that end, which include training for students in bystander intervention; a new website dedicated to sexual-misconduct prevention, education, and response; a new position of sexual-misconduct-prevention specialist; and a commitment by the university to listen to "victims/survivors ... and support them in raising their voices."

The resolution agreement acknowledges the university's progress but lays out more changes the department expects to see. It says, for example, that further revisions to policies should make explicit that Title IX rights and responsibilities apply to campus visitors; that the university considers off-campus conduct in evaluating if there is a hostile environment; and that investigations into reports of sexual harassment and assault are conducted only by trained investigators.

Recent agreements with other institutions, such as Yale University and the University of Montana, have been similarly prescriptive, but the Tufts agreement includes an unusual provision seen recently in cases involving discrimination against pregnant students: that Tufts pay the complainant monetary damages.

The Office for Civil Rights reminded colleges of potential "monetary relief" in a warning against retaliation last year, but in this case it found that Tufts had not retaliated against the student who filed the complaint. Yet the agreement specifies that the university reimburse her "for educational and other reasonable expenses" over a year and a half "related to this matter."

One student who has advocated for stronger enforcement of Title IX called the civil-rights office's stand on Monday "huge."

"This is the direction we've been wanting OCR to go in as a national activist movement," said John Kelly, a junior at Tufts. His and other institutions "have been out of compliance for a very long time," he said. "I am so, so grateful that finally the federal government is saying something about it."

Tufts officials signaled on Monday that they would continue to introduce new prevention and response programs even while contesting the department's finding of noncompliance with Title
IX. Unclear at this stage is whether the university will have to accept that finding to resolve the case.

"Some sort of negotiated resolution does seem to me more likely than a litigated one," said Erin E. Buzuvis, a professor of law and director of the Center for Gender and Sexuality Studies at Western New England University. "The leverage that OCR has to terminate funding is usually sufficient."

Catherine E. Lhamon, the Education Department's assistant secretary for civil rights, invited Tufts to "return to productive progress" in a written statement. "OCR will take actions necessary," she said, "to ensure that the agreement is fully and effectively implemented."

Ms. Jeka, the Tufts lawyer, said she expects the office to clarify how Tufts was—or potentially still is—out of compliance with Title IX, a point of confusion in the documents released on Monday.

"I really want to negotiate," she said. "This is a distraction from the really more important part of addressing sexual misconduct."
COLLEGE SEXUAL ABUSE

Fifty-five colleges and universities are being investigated over their handling of sexual abuse complaints, the Education Department revealed Thursday.

The department's unprecedented decision to release the list comes as the Obama administration seeks to shed greater light on the issue of sexual assault in higher education and how it is being handled.

The schools range from big public universities including Ohio State University and Oklahoma State University to Ivy League schools including Harvard, Princeton and Dartmouth.

No Alabama schools are on the list, which includes Florida State University, Vanderbilt University and Emory University.

Catherine E. Lhamon, the assistant secretary of education for civil rights, said in a statement that a school's presence on the list does not mean that it has violated the law but that an investigation of complaints is underway.

Associated Press
White House Raises the Bar for Colleges' Handling of Sexual Assault

By: Libby Sander

The Obama administration unveiled stringent new guidelines on Tuesday designed to help colleges combat sexual assault and provide victims with a "road map" to file complaints against institutions that fall short in their responses.

In 20 pages of recommendations, the White House Task Force to Protect Students From Sexual Assault provides practical instructions for colleges to identify, prevent, and respond to sexual assault. And it prescribes several steps to improve and bring more transparency to federal enforcement of applicable civil-rights laws.

President Obama created the group in January, promising a coordinated federal response to deal with rape and sexual assault on campuses. The group's membership includes the U.S. attorney general and the leaders of several other cabinet-level agencies, including the Departments of Defense and Education.

The task force's report comes at a time when students are driving the debate over how colleges should prevent and respond to sexual assault. Over the past year, activists and rape survivors across the country have publicly faulted colleges—which are legally required to respond to reports of sexual assault—for what they see as inadequate responses. In many cases, the students have filed complaints under the federal civil-rights law known as Title IX.

The task force has spent the past three months gathering information from thousands of people—students, victims, alumni, administrators, law-enforcement officials, campus professionals—about how colleges handle sexual assault. Under the new guidance, colleges will answer to heightened expectations from Washington.

Among other recommendations, the task force calls on colleges to:

- Conduct "climate surveys" beginning next year to gauge the prevalence of sexual assault and learn more about students' attitudes toward it.
- Train campus officials on how to respond to victims of sexual assault.
- Amend their existing policies to provide victims with greater options to speak confidentially with certain campus officials.
- Adapt their campus disciplinary processes to abide by new directives from the Department of Education.

The report also makes clear that the federal government will take a harder line on enforcing Title IX—which outlines colleges' legal obligations to prevent, investigate, and resolve reports of sexual assault whether or not law-enforcement authorities get involved—and provide much more information about it.

A new website, NotAlone.gov, will provide not only a greater array of resources to survivors of sexual assault, but also a collection of previously hard-to-find data and documents. Those will include court filings from the Department of Justice related to campus sexual violence, and

See next page
agreements reached between colleges and the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights on similar matters.

"Colleges and universities need to face the facts about sexual assault," Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. said in a written statement. "No more turning a blind eye or pretending it doesn’t exist. We need to give victims the support they need—like a confidential place to go—and we need to bring the perpetrators to justice."

Tools for Change

To accomplish those goals, the task force signaled that it would explore new approaches to campuses’ disciplinary systems.

Policy guidance from the Department of Education, released on Tuesday, includes key changes in how colleges can conduct their disciplinary hearings: Parties involved in a case are "strongly" discouraged from cross-examining each other, the new guidance says. A victim’s sexual history should not be part of the proceedings, it continues, and a past consensual relationship between the two parties doesn’t preclude an eventual finding of sexual violence.

Campus officials often lament the difficulty in knowing whether they’re using the most effective approaches to, say, develop effective prevention programs or determine how best to levy sanctions against a student found responsible for sexual assault.

The report provides a variety of tools to assist campus officials in answering those sorts of questions and others.

For the climate surveys, the White House is providing colleges with a tool kit explaining how to develop and conduct a survey using evidence-based questions. Rutgers University’s Center on Violence Against Women and Children will pilot and evaluate the effectiveness of the survey, which White House officials said could become mandatory on all campuses by 2016.

In the coming months, the Justice Department will also offer online technical assistance for campus officials to help them understand how victims of sexual assault may react during and following an assault. Later this year, federal agencies will go on to develop "trauma-informed" training programs for campus officials who are involved in investigating and adjudicating sexual-assault cases, and similar programs for those who work in campus health centers.

Campus policies on confidentiality also come under scrutiny. As colleges have sought to revamp their policies and be more responsive to sexual assault, some have instructed nearly all of their employees to report such incidents, the report says. The task force deemed that a "well-intentioned" practice that nonetheless may discourage victims from seeking help, and encouraged colleges to discontinue the approach—urging them instead to "strike that often difficult balance" between providing a safe campus environment and being mindful of a victim’s desire for confidentiality.

A ‘Game Changer’?
In calling for greater transparency in federal enforcement of civil-rights laws, the task force has zeroed in on what many student activists see as a systemic problem: a lack of coordination among federal authorities charged with enforcing civil-rights laws, and little transparency in their actions.

Last summer the students brought their demands to Washington, and found an audience. A group of activists met in July with officials from the White House and the Department of Education to ask for tougher and more-transparent enforcement of Title IX among colleges and collaboration among federal agencies in doing so.

The task force appears to have heard them. In addition to a pledge to make enforcement more transparent and provide colleges and students with more resources, the report says that the Departments of Education and Justice have formally agreed to work together more closely to enforce Title IX.

The administration hopes the new website, NotAlone.gov, will help more students understand their rights under Title IX and file federal complaints when necessary.

A "strong and principled stand" from the task force to help colleges deal with campus violence comes at the right time, Lisa Maatz, vice president for government relations at the American Association of University Women, said in an email. She said she had particularly high hopes for the new website, with its concentration of resources and documents that previously had been scattered or unavailable. When it comes to transparency, she said, "it is our hope that this can be a game changer."

Some student activists weren't so sure. In a written statement, the survivor-led Know Your IX campaign said it was encouraged to see many of the group's demands—particularly its call for greater transparency—at the heart of the task force's report. But the new steps, it said, still fall short.

The Department of Education is not revealing publicly the names of institutions under investigation for alleged violations of Title IX, the group said. (That information is available only upon request.) And the task force's recommendations are silent on a central tenet of the group's activism: that the department's Office for Civil Rights have the ability to impose fines on colleges that run afoul of the law.

The department has never penalized a college for violations of Title IX related to sexual violence, the group said in its statement. "Such tolerance allows institutional abuses to go unchecked at students' expense," it said. "These changes will mean little until Title IX enforcement is finally given teeth."
Education’s value is first learned at home

During the next few weeks, high schools across West Alabama will turn their latest crop of graduates loose on the world.

At first glance, the numbers show more students than ever before are walking away with diplomas. Go a little deeper, however, and you get into glass-half-empty-or-half-full territory.

The annual Building a GradNation Report was released last week by the Alliance for Excellent Education, America’s Promise Alliance, Civic Enterprises and the Everyone Graduates Center at Johns Hopkins University. Those groups started the GradNation campaign in 2010. At its core is a Civic Marshall Plan, taking the name of Gen. George C. Marshall’s strategy for rebuilding a devastated Europe after World War II. The plan seeks to foster a partnership between government, business and governmental leaders, and parents, students and community leaders to reduce the U.S. high school dropout rate and, conversely, increase the graduation rate.

The latest report, based on Department of Education statistics from 2012, shows the graduation rate has, for the first time, reached 80 percent. That’s good news.

GradNation predicts its goal of raising the rate to 90 percent by 2020 will be met. That’s very good news.

However, given that there are about 15 million secondary school seniors in the U.S., 3 million will fail to graduate this year, and 1.5 million will leave school without a diploma even if the 90 percent goal is reached.

The prospects for those teenagers in the modern economy and working world, with its emphasis on technology, aren’t just dismal—they’re non-existent.

Much work has gone into reducing the dropout rate. “Dropout factory” schools have been identified and closed. Schools have hired intervention specialists who have an aggressive “we’re not going to let you fail” attitude in dealing with students. Graduation rates for minorities have increased.

Those efforts have been successful and should be continued, but the key is for teenagers to understand what’s at stake here and to understand the importance of education.

And that has to start at home.

A version of this editorial first appeared in The Gadsden Times.