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Dai-ichi made multiple attempts to buy Birmingham's Protective Life before $5.7 billion deal was accepted

By: Michael Tomberlin

Birmingham, Alabama – Dai-ichi Life Insurance Co. made several attempts to buy Protective Life Corp. before the Birmingham insurance company was presented with the $5.7 billion offer that was too good to refuse.

Johnny Johns, chief executive of Protective, said in an interview that Protective has never been stronger and was itself acquiring other companies when Dai-ichi approached with a buyout offer. "We did not initiate this transaction," Johns said. "They came to us."

Johns said Dai-ichi's representatives contacted Protective's leadership and wanted to meet for dinner in Atlanta last fall. At that meeting, Dai-ichi officials made it known they were looking to acquire a U.S. company and Protective was at the top of their list.

Johns said he told them Protective was not for sale, but in the interest of its shareholders he would entertain any offers.

The first offer came in March but the price Dai-ichi offered was too low and was turned down.

Another offer was made in Las Vegas during an insurance industry trade show and that, too, was deemed to be too low and was rejected.

It was when Dai-ichi came back with its third offer of $70 per share a few weeks ago that was determined to be too good to pass up.

"As good stewards of our shareholders' capital, we felt we had to consider the offer," Johns said. "We think we've maximized shareholder value."

Dai-ichi and Protective announced Tuesday the Tokyo-based company will buy Protective in a $5.7 billion deal in which Dai-ichi will pay $70 per share for all outstanding shares of Protective, creating one of the world's largest insurance companies with total assets of $424 billion. The companies said they don't expect any significant changes to Protective's current strategy, day-to-day operations, distribution channels, employees, leadership and management team, or its U.S. 280 headquarters.

Beyond the shareholders, Johns said he felt an obligation to Protective's 2,400 employees and the insurance giant's position in the Birmingham community, which is home to half those employees. He said he believes the deal with Dai-ichi not only preserves but will enhance both.

Because Dai-ichi has no major U.S. presence, Protective will be its de facto (if not its formal) U.S. headquarters. As what will be the 13th largest insurance company in the world grows, that growth will be reflected in Birmingham, Johns said.

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"We're the growth platform for Dai-ichi in America," Johns said. "The mandate we will have from them is to grow the business. We grow the business, we grow our workforce and we grow our community involvement. Growth is the elixir of the economy."

Brian Hilson, chief executive of the Birmingham Business Alliance, said while Birmingham may be losing a corporate headquarters, it will retain the jobs and adds another global investment to the metro area.

"The way I look at a situation like this is I see it as a potential growth opportunity," Hilson said in an interview. "Protective Life has done very well based in Birmingham and Dai-ichi has obviously recognized that."

Rather than throw up our collective hands and say, "There goes another corporate headquarters!" Hilson said the Birmingham community needs to continue to show the new owners this is the place to grow.

"Japanese companies are very careful and calculating in all that they do with business and it's really important that we continue to make our case," Hilson said. "Relationships are important with any company, but they are especially important with Japanese companies."

Birmingham is home to 10 companies whose parent corporation is based in Japan, Hilson said. Those companies currently employ 1,300 workers. Protective will become the 11th and nearly double the number of those jobs when the deal closes.

With the assistance of the Birmingham-based Japan America Society of Alabama, Hilson said Birmingham and other parts of the state have created a welcoming atmosphere for Japanese executives who have located here.

"I don't know if Dai-ichi will transfer any employees or management here, but that would be a great thing," Hilson said. "It's important that we as a community understand their business objectives and assist them in growing in Birmingham in any way we can."

Johns said he expects to see some Dai-ichi executives from Japan relocate to Birmingham.

"I think they will definitely have some Dai-ichi folks move to Birmingham to help us better operate and communicate with the corporate offices in Japan," Johns said.

He said Dai-ichi has done its homework and is very well versed in what Birmingham has to offer. He said the Dai-ichi officials like what they see in the community and he believes they will be supportive of Protective's efforts here.

The deal could take until early 2015 to close, so there is time to address any organizational moves or any adjustments to the Birmingham office's operations, Johns said.

For now, Hilson said he looks on the deal as favorable for the Birmingham region.
"Ideally, we won't lose anything," he said. "We will just be in a position to potentially gain more."
JAPAN’S DAI-ICHI BUYING PROTECTIVE LIFE FOR $5.7B

Michael Tomberlin  mtomberlin@al.com

Japan’s Dai-Ichi Life Insurance Co. is buying Birmingham’s Protective Life Corp. for $5.7 billion.
Tokyo-based Dai-Ichi is paying $70 per share in cash for all outstanding shares of Protective Life.

“This transaction will enable Protective to deliver substantial, immediate cash value to our shareholders while maintaining our mission and continuing our growth trajectory,” Johnny Johns, Protective’s chief executive, said in a statement. “Dai-Ichi Life and Protective are both committed to ensuring the financial success of customers, shareholders, distribution partners and employees. This transaction is a testament to the talent, dedication and excellent execution by the Protective employees and management team, and we are thrilled to be combining with such a prestigious, financially strong company as Dai-Ichi Life.”

Founded in 1902, Dai-Ichi is a Top 20 global life insurer with operations throughout Japan, Australia, Vietnam, Indonesia, India and Thailand. Protective was founded in 1907 and is focused on the U.S.

The combined company will create the world’s 15th-largest insurance company, with total assets of $424 billion. Protective will become Dai-Ichi Life’s platform for growth in the U.S., where Dai-Ichi Life does not have a material operational presence. No significant changes to Protective’s current strategy, day-to-day operations, distribution channels or employee base are anticipated as a result of the transaction.

Protective’s leadership and management team will remain and operate from its U.S. headquarters.

“We are pleased to be entering the U.S. life insurance market by bringing such an outstanding company as Protective into our portfolio,” Koichiro Watanabe, president of Dai-Ichi Life, said in a statement. “With a strong leadership team, vibrant and growing retail franchise and long track record of profitable growth organically and through the acquisition and integration of attractive businesses, Protective is the ideal platform for expansion.”

Both companies’ boards of directors have approved the deal, and it is expected to close by early 2015, subject to Protective’s stockholders’ approval, regulatory approvals in Japan and the U.S., and other closing conditions. A pre-closing “market check” is part of the deal, allowing Protective to make a bid to compete and the company can seek competing proposals. A $160 million “break-up fee” is in the deal.
Alabama trustees to vote on Saban's new deal

Alabama's board of trustees are set to vote on Nick Saban's new contract.

The trustees' compensation committee has set a conference call for Tuesday afternoon and is expected to approve new deals for Saban and most of his staff. Trustees are also expected to approve and release terms of the contract for new offensive coordinator Lane Kiffin.

Alabama announced a "long-term agreement" with Saban on Dec. 14, 2013 but hasn't released details. The new deal is expected to provide a substantial raise from the eight-year contract Saban received in March 2012 worth about $5.6 million annually.

Saban, who turns 63 in October, said at the time Alabama is "where I plan to end my coaching career." He has led the Crimson Tide to three national championships in seven seasons.
Board OKs Nick Saban's $6.9M contract

By Aaron Suttles
Sports Writer

Nick Saban is college football's $6.9 million man.

The eighth-year University of Alabama head coach remained college football's highest paid coach and the most compensated head coach of a public university in the country when the UA board of trustees compensation committee unanimously agreed to a two-year extension with the 62-year-old Saban.

The revised contract, which now runs through Jan. 31, 2022, guarantees $6.5 million in base salary along with a $400,000 annual completion bonus for each year of the contract he completes.

His previous contract paid approximately $5.5 million per season.

Saban agreed in principle to a contract with Alabama in mid-December 2013 as rumors swirled that the University of Texas was interested in luring Saban from Tuscaloosa to Austin, Texas.

The newly revised eight-year contract, which runs until Saban is 70 years old and still contains no buy-out clause, is expected to keep him at Alabama for the rest of his coaching career.

"We are honored by the commitment the University of Alabama has made to us with this new contract," Saban said in a university release. "It is certainly a mutual agreement in terms of our commitment to the University of Alabama. We will continue to work hard to keep our football program among the nation's elite. My passion has always been to develop young men to their full potential as student-athletes. We've had great success in that area at Alabama and..."

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I'm appreciative of all the support and the resources we receive from the administration in order to make that happen. The past eight years have been productive in so many ways and we are grateful to call Alabama our home.

The contract extension also increased Saban's life insurance coverage from $5 million to $6 million and calls for the university to make a $100,000 contribution to Saban's "First Generation Scholarship Fund," which pledged $1 million in scholarships awarded to eight students each year who are the first in their family to attend college.

The Sabans' charitable endeavors in the greater Tuscaloosa area have seen the building of 15 homes in a partnership between the family charity, "Nick's Kids" and Habitat for Humanity. Since arriving in Tuscaloosa in 2007, the Sabans have donated more than $4 million to organizations throughout the state.

"We are pleased to announce that Coach Saban's contract extension has been approved and that he'll be our head football coach for many years to come," director of athletics Bill Battle said in a released statement.

"He is the best coach in the country and he's brought Alabama back to the pinnacle of college football. His success on the field is obviously second to none, but Coach Saban's influence on academics and all the other areas of our athletic programs are equally impressive to me."

The compensation committee also approved 10 contracts and extensions, including all nine assistant football coaches. All told, Alabama's 10-man coaching staff (one head coach and nine assistants) will total more than $12 million in total compensation in 2014.

Other approved contracts include:

- Defensive coordinator Kirby Smart: One-year extension to existing contract through Feb. 28, 2017.
- Offensive coordinator Lane Kiffin: Three-year contract through Feb. 28, 2017, with salary of $880,000 the first two years and $714,000 the third year.
- Offensive line coach Mario Cristobal: One-year extension through Feb. 29, 2016, with a raise from $475,000 to $500,000 per year.
- Outside linebackers coach Lance Thompson: One-year extension through Feb. 29, 2016, with a raise from $400,000 to $428,000 per year.
- Tight ends/special teams coach Bobby Williams: One-year extension through Feb. 29, 2016, with a raise from $400,000 to $428,000 per year.
- Inside linebackers coach Kevin Steele: Two-year contract through Feb. 29, 2016, with a $700,000 salary per year.
- Defensive line coach Bo Davis: Two-year contract through Feb. 29, 2016 with a $450,000 salary per year.
- Running backs coach Burton Burns: One-year extension through Feb. 29, 2016, with a raise from $315,000 to $335,000 per year.
- Wide receivers coach Billy Napier: One-year extension through Feb. 29, 2016.
- Strength and conditioning coach Scott Cochran: One-year extension through Feb. 29, 2016, with a raise from $355,000 to $395,000.

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SPACE PROGRAM

NASA BUDGET KEEPS SLS ON SCHEDULE

Lee Roop | lroop@al.com

The full House of Representatives has passed a NASA budget for 2015 that gives the space agency $17.9 billion. The measure passed on a vote of 321-87.

The budget gives NASA $250 million more than 2014 and gives the Space Launch System being developed in Huntsville and Orion capsule being developed in Houston "adequate resources to remain on schedule for upcoming flight demonstration milestones," U.S. Rep. Mo Brooks, R-Huntsville, said.

The bill now goes to the Senate where U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Tuscaloosa, a NASA supporter, is the vice chairman of the Appropriations Committee. Brooks is vice chair of the Space Subcommittee on the House Science, Space and Technology Committee.

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE NASA BUDGET. 3
BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Lee Roop | lroop@al.com

NASA's budget for fiscal year 2015 cleared the House of Representatives early Friday morning and is headed for the Senate. Here are five takeaways from that House vote:

1. The $17.9 billion OK’d for NASA was $250 million more than it got this year and $435 million more than the White House requested. The budget, which included other federal agencies, as well as NASA, passed the House on a 321-67 vote, showing the space agency still enjoys strong support in Congress.

2. The House has voted funds for the Space Launch System, NASA’s new deep-space rocket being developed in Huntsville, for five straight fiscal years. If the Senate follows suit, SLS looks increasingly likely to survive its critics and become reality, at least in its first version.

3. The vote sets the stage for a good year for NASA and stable employment for its employees and contractors. Construction will begin on two new SLS component test stands at Huntsville’s Marshall Space Flight Center, and Boeing will begin building core segments for SLS at NASA’s Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans. The Orion capsule will have its first space flight late this year.

4. For all that, there is still tension between the White House and Congress over space policy. And when it comes to the nation’s space program, nothing’s certain until the final vote. The House wants NASA to “down select” its commercial crew partners from three to one — something NASA and the White House don’t want to do — and the House wants the White House to request more funding for NASA in general than the president wants. Meanwhile, the House moved $7 million from NASA’s Space Operations budget to its Space Technology budget late Thursday night on a simple voice vote.

5. For all their partisan national political activity, Alabama’s congressional representatives seek positions in Congress where they can support NASA, and then they do it. To mention three, U.S. Rep. Mo Brooks, R-Huntsville, is vice chair of the subcommittee that authorizes NASA spending, U.S. Rep. Robert Aderholt, R-Haleyville, is on the House Appropriations Committee and its science subcommittee, and Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Tuscaloosa, is vice chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Brooks helped draft language in the House bill just passed that protects SLS development, Aderholt is a NASA authority on the appropriations committee, and Shelby will have a key role on NASA’s budget in the Senate.
HOW WE LIFT PEOPLE

Dawn Kent Azok
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A Chinese copper tubing manufacturer has opened its $100 million plant in Alabama's poverty-stricken Black Belt, the first major industry development in 45 years for one of the nation's poorest counties.

GD Copper USA, part of Golden Dragon Precise Copper Tubing Group Inc. of China, has built a 520,000-square-foot building in Wilcox County's sunnily South community, near Pine Hill.

At full production, the facility is expected to annually turn out more than 100 million pounds of copper tubing that will mainly be used in air-conditioning systems and refrigeration equipment.

The company says it will employ more than 200 people at that point. The current workforce is about 150.

However, local and state business recruiters say they expect employment to eventually climb to as many as 500 jobs, and company officials — without pinpointing numbers — said those would be future growth.

"What we see today is our projected phase No. 1," said chairman of GD Copper Group, said during this week's grand opening activities. "With the No. 2 and a phase No. 3." By some measures, Wilcox is the poorest county in the nation, with chronically high, double-digit unemployment rates. In 2013, its median family income was $29,000, the only county in the state that was below $30,000.

"But it's not always going to be the poorest area. It's going to change," Bentley said.

Before the ceremony, the governor met with plant workers, who hailed from small towns all over the state, he said. Afterward, he toured a pre-kindergarten classroom at an elementary school in Pine Hill, part of a new voluntary, state-funded program available for every child in Wilcox County.

Economic development and education are key to fighting poverty, Bentley said. "That's how we lift people.

Regional cooperation

The new plant marks the first U.S. expansion for Golden Dragon. Company officials said the move will eliminate the need to ship copper tubing thousands of miles to customers in the region.

The operations feature state-of-the-art "cast and roll" technology and more than 100 patent-protected processes, the company said.

The weighted annual average salary for jobs at the plant is expected to range from the high $30,000s to the low $40,000s, according to the Alabama Department of Commerce. The company is in line for state and local incentives package valued at about $200 million.

Gov. Kay Ivey, a Wilcox County native, and U.S. Rep. Terri Sewell, D-Selma, credited local elected leaders and business recruiters for bringing GD Copper to Alabama in the first place and not letting it go away when plans changed.

The company originally planned to set up shop in neighboring Clarke County but then decided on a larger project that required a larger site.

Thomasville Mayor Sheldon Day kept the company on the hook, and he and George Alfred, director of the Wilcox County Industrial Development Authority, worked together to direct GD Copper to its 100-acre home in Wilcox County. Several area groups played important parts in making the project happen.

Greg Canfield, secretary of the Alabama Department of Commerce, said that regional cooperation is a model for rural areas, which often face challenges in recruiting new business. "We see this as an opportunity to create a template for how we might attract other economic development projects for rural Alabama," Canfield said.

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GOLDEN DRAGON BY THE NUMBERS

- $100 million factory
- 500,000 square feet under one roof, big enough to house nine football fields
- 83.2 million pounds of concrete, enough to pave 82 miles of city sidewalks
- 440 construction jobs created
- 150 jobs now; 300 in 18 months; as many as 500 eventually
- $15/hour starting pay
- 100 million pounds of copper tubing to be produced each year
- 13th Golden Dragon factory worldwide, first in the U.S.

INCENTIVES BREAKDOWN

Here's what Alabama offered to land the Golden Dragon plant:

- Up to $160 million in capital income credits over 20 years
- $20 million in state economic development discretionary Incentives
- $8.5 million in property tax abatements
- $5.1 million in sales and use tax abatements
- $5.7 million for an industrial road and bridge to support the plant
- $1.8 million in worker training services
- About $1 million in site purchase, prep and water and sewer improvements

EAST MEETS WEST

The construction of Golden Dragon's new copper tubing plant brought supervisors and workers from Homewood's Hoar Construction together with about 45 Chinese engineers and technical advisers who lived in a trailer compound on the Wilcox County work site.

The cultural exchange was a memorable experience, according to Gabe Moore, project director for Hoar.

He said his crew built the Chinese workers a garden, which they divided into small plots for each worker to grow food, and a retention pond, which the Chinese workers stocked with fish so they could go fishing.

Together, the Chinese and American workers shot fireworks during a Chinese New Year celebration, and a gourmet chef from China cooked meals at the trailer compound.

"I took them snapper fishing on the Gulf, and they brought them back, they cooked them and had us over for dinner," Moore said. "It was really, really good."

But Moore said there were challenges in communications between his crew and the Chinese workers, although translators were on hand. Because it was Golden Dragon's first project in the U.S., the company's workers were unfamiliar with certain building codes and regulations.

"We did not realize how different culturally we were, but it worked out well," Moore said.

Dawn Kent Azok
Southwest Alabama tapped as a ‘manufacturing community’ by U.S. Commerce Department

Michael Finch II  mfinch@al.com

The U.S. Department of Commerce Wednesday announced the first 12 communities that will be specially designated as so-called manufacturing communities, naming the southwest Alabama region among them.

The government-backed initiative, known as the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership, attracted some 70 applicants from cities, universities and local development agencies across the U.S.

Only 12 were selected, placing the University of South Alabama-led application in the company of cities like Milwaukee, Cincinnati and Rochester, NY, who were also chosen.

Several federal agencies took part in a similar program that awarded $7 million in grants to support long-term economic development last September. In an attempt to replicate the effort, the Obama administration in December 2013 launched a national program to put a focus on sustaining the country’s manufacturing sector.

Mobile County Commissioner Merceria Ludgood learned about it in January, when a lobbying firm employed by the county sent her a note.

"For all of the work that we have done of the past few years it seemed like it was just a perfect fit," Ludgood said.

But they had to move fast to make the mid-April deadline. A number of agencies got involved, including USA and the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce.

They had to show how many manufacturers were already in the area and draw a blueprint for areas where more investments could be made.

"The good news is that we have quite a few of them that are burgeoning here as well," said Bill Sisson, the chamber’s president and chief executive officer, adding that commerce department’s decision to name the area surrounding Mobile "speaks to the public-private partnerships that have worked."

The southwest Alabama region, a sprawling area that includes Mobile, Baldwin, Washington, Clarke, Escambia, Choctaw, Conecuh and Monroe counties, stands to gain plenty.

The plan would place a number of grant opportunities at arm’s length for the region to support the economic development strategy put forth in the application.

The immediate pay-off is the marketing that comes with the recognition. They will also receive a dedicated federal liaison to help them contend for about $1.3 billion worth of funds.

Mobile faced strong competition, said Lynne Chronister, the university’s vice president for research and development. "Our proposal has been successful enough that we are competing with those cities now," she said, adding that it’s going to be the responsibility of everyone involved to make sure it stays that way.
STARTUP COMPETITION

PAYOUT INCREASED

Fueled by success, organizers of the 2014 Alabama Launchpad Start-Up Competition have boosted the payout in the latest round nearly three-fold to $300,000.

Aspiring entrepreneurs in need of early-stage funding have only until midnight Sunday, however, to submit an application and a $150 nonrefundable application fee in this round.

Alabama Launchpad, the brainchild of the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama Foundation, allows “pre-seed” companies to compete in an entrepreneurial-infused environment for their share of a collective funding pool.

Competitors must prove their commercial relevance to a five-judge panel of entrepreneurs, investors and corporate stakeholders.

Launchpad Programs Director Greg Steek has said the competition has grown from a modest pilot project to a key component supporting Alabama’s entrepreneurship ecosystem. To date, it has awarded more than $1.3 million to winners, with an emphasis on the creation of high-wage, high-growth jobs.

Kelli Dugan
State's graduates find jobs scarce

Students not taking college courses that lead to employment

By Brad Harper
Montgomery Advertiser

MONTGOMERY | At 13, Brianna Moore wanted to be a veterinarian when she grew up. Seven years later, she's on track to graduate with a degree in computer information systems.

She still loves animals, but the realities of the economy and the job market helped send her in a different direction.

"Anything related to medicine is going to take awhile," said Moore, a rising senior at Alabama State University. "My second love is for computers, and I wanted to do something that could get me employed quickly."

Studies show she made the right choice.

The National Association of Colleges and Employers found that 69 percent of computer science majors in spring of 2013 had at least one job offer before they graduated. That was the most of any major in the survey.

A separate study by financial advisory site WalletHub this month looked at the best entry-level jobs based on factors ranging from starting salary to future growth.

Six of the top 10 jobs in the study were tech-related.

Andrea Presley landed one of those top 10 jobs when she was hired as a programmer by Medi-Sys in Montgomery before she even finished her computer and information science degree at Faulkner University this spring.

"My dad is a programmer, so I just grew up learning," Presley said. "And with this major, there's jobs everywhere."

Most of Alabama's college graduates won't find it so easy.

Figures from the Alabama Commission on Higher Education show that the state's most popular majors are ones that rarely lead to

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JOBS

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good entry-level jobs, including nursing, psychology, education and biology.
State colleges issued more than 3,500 bachelor's and associates nursing degrees in 2012-
2013, twice as many as any other major, according to state figures. Only 241 people got
computer and information sciences degrees in that time.
Robin Ricks of Workforce Walker Personnel said central Alabama also continues to search for more engineers, across a range of specialties, and that jobs are waiting for people right out of school.
"Those are some of the most necessary disciplines on the Montgomery level," she said.

Still, you can't shoehorn a student into a certain career path just because it's an area with a need, said Marie Ottinger, who counsels students at Faulkner. She said the school offers an assessment test that gives students a better idea of the areas where they might succeed based on their skills and interests, then shows them potential jobs in that field and what kind of education they need to qualify.
"Some start out thinking they want to teach, and it's different from what they thought," she said. "Some people say they didn't realize they'd have to take that much math or that much science for a certain degree."

Ottinger said the best test is to get out into the work place and see what it's like, whether it's through volunteering or internships.
Tire company has Alabama on list of sites

By Patrick Rupinski
Business Editor

Alabama is in the running for a new tire manufacturing plant.

"We are one of four or five states where they are looking," Gov. Robert Bentley said Monday.

Bentley did not name the tire company, but he said the proposed plant has the potential of creating up to 2,000 new jobs.

The governor told a gathering of people who run small businesses in Tuscaloosa that he spoke last week with officials with the tire company. He said the company is interested in two sites in Alabama. He did not identify where those sites are.

Bentley’s comments came during a question-and-answer session with the businesspeople at the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama office.

The meeting was part of Bentley’s "Road to Economic Recovery Tour," in which he has toured the state, usually for two days each week during the last few months, to discuss economic development and the state’s economic recovery.

Much of his discussion Monday centered on small-business development, but he was asked if any major manufacturing plants might come to Alabama, resulting in his comments about the tire plant.

Bentley, who is seeking the Republican nomination for a second term in today’s primary, said the two biggest manufacturers to announce plans to build plants in the state during his current term were Airbus, which is building a plant near Mobile to make planes, and Remington, which announced plans this year to build a firearms factory that could employ 2,100 people in Huntsville.

He said, however, that he was most proud of getting two smaller manufacturers.

He cited Wrangler’s decision to rebuild its distribution center in Hanceville after the center was destroyed by an April 27, 2011, tornado. He said that community’s survival depended on the plant’s return.

And he said he was equally proud of last week’s grand opening of the Golden Dragon Precise Copper Tube Group Inc. plant in Wilcox County.

The plant initially will employ about 150 people, but it is expected to eventually have about 300 workers.

Wilcox County is one of the state’s poorest counties and has the one of the highest unemployment rates in Alabama. Bentley said he worked on recruiting the Chinese company for the county shortly after taking office. He said it was the first new manufacturer to locate in the county since 1969, the year that men first landed on the moon.
Big news for Huntsville: Shelby announces $1.7 billion for space launch system

By: Cliff Sims

Washington, D.C. — U.S. Senator Richard Shelby (R-Ala.), today announced that a Senate Appropriations subcommittee allocated nearly $18 billion to NASA for the 2015 Fiscal Year, including $1.7 billion allocated to rocket development for the Space Launch System (SLS) currently underway at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

Sen. Shelby is Vice Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and its Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice Science and Related Agencies (CJS), which passed the bill.

“The bill maintains focus on efforts to develop a heavy lift launch vehicle, or SLS, and preserve the mission schedule for a 2017 launch by requiring NASA to follow its own internal guidance regarding joint confidence levels in future funding requests,” said Shelby. “In order to maintain the schedule for a 2017 launch date, the bill includes $1.7 billion for SLS rocket development. The recommendation also includes funding for ongoing activities of the International Space Station and other important science research missions.

Shelby also announced what his office describes as “critical taxpayer protections in the bill pertaining to NASA’s commercial crew and commercial cargo missions,” a public-private partnership launched under President Obama in which the federal government awards money to private companies in an effort to stimulate growth in private sector space exploration.

“I want to commend the Chair for working with me to include language that provides greater accountability and budgetary transparency in the commercial crew program and future commercial cargo missions,” said Shelby. “We must ensure that taxpayers are getting the best value for their dollar and I believe that this language will make that happen.”

The competition for funding has been intense between the Huntsville-based SLS and the Commercial Crew program. Over the last several years, Commercial Crew has seen its budget has continued to rise, while SLS has taken hits. This has happened in spite of Commercial Crew coming out on the losing end of NASA’s independent cost assessments, which are external checks to see if NASA’s schedule and cost projections are reasonable.

Shelby has been a vocal proponent of the SLS program, and today’s news will undoubtedly be met with applause in north Alabama.
County balks at asphalt plant plan

Commissioners agree to continue using outside contractors to pave roadways

By Lydia Seabolt Avant
Staff Writer

The Tuscaloosa County Commission appeared to back away Wednesday from exploring whether the county should set up its own asphalt manufacturing operation.

Some commissioners complained during a work session Monday about delays in road repairs and wondered whether an in-house asphalt-making facility might alleviate the problem.

One option would be to purchase the former West Alabama Asphalt plant in Northport, commissioners said.

But Commission Chairman Hardy McCollum, who was absent during the work session discussion, was dismissive of the idea during the commission's meeting Wednesday.

"It would require a lot of capital expense, and I don't know that we would even begin to use enough material in a 12-month period to break even operating a facility," McCollum said. "If I thought we could save money, we'd be doing it already."

Commissioner Bobby Miller, who also was absent during the discussion Monday, said the commission deserves some blame for any delays in road repairs.

Last fall, the commissioners gave the county engineers an onslaught of paving projects late in the road paving season, which made it difficult for both the county's road and bridge department and the contractor, ST Bunn Construction Co., Miller said.

"Everyone asked for certain road to be repaved, and that throws a lot of work on road and bridge and on the supplier, and they did get behind," Miller said.

Commissioner Jerry Tingle has complained during the work session that the delays were the result of paving projects late in the road paving season, which made it difficult for both the county's road and bridge department and the contractor, ST Bunn Construction Co.

"I'm totally satisfied in my district, and all this is competitively bid, so I don't see a problem," he said.

County Engineer Bobby Hagler said that, as of Monday, the county had no pending paving work and that all paving or road repair work submitted to ST Bunn has been completed.

Miller said the commissioners need to get their list of paving projects submitted earlier in the year. Commissioner Reginald Murray agreed.

"We should submit a list of projects on the front end, so we ensure we can get those requests," Murray said.

Tingle said he would like the commission to meet with the county engineers and representatives of ST' Bunn to clear up any communication issues and make sure that there are no problems.

Sonny Bunn, owner of ST Bunn Construction Co., said he appreciates the opportunity to do work for the county and is willing to meet. He said

ASPHALT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

of ST Bunn being "a monopoly," but Assistant County Engineer Alan Springer said that all paving jobs are competitively bid and that the county issues bids to about 15 to 20 asphalt companies, including Tuscaloosa-based ST Bunn and APAC.

Usually, however, the two local companies are the only bidders, Springer said.

State law requires that asphalt work be put to bid, McCollum said. "We go through the proper legal process before we award (bids)."

Miller said he is satisfied with the work that ST Bunn has done for the county.

"I'm a firm believer that anytime you can award a bid in Tuscaloosa County, do it," Miller said, adding that ST Bunn provides additional services, including grinding down old pavement before paving.

Commissioner Stan Acker also said he has been happy with ST Bunn and that the discussion of the county operating an asphalt plant was "over-reported."

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Former Birmingham-area resident, AmSouth exec named interim head of VA

Darlene Superville
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The man charged with at least temporarily taking over the reins of the troubled Department of Veterans Affairs spent several years in the Birmingham area as chief financial officer at the former AmSouth Bancorp.

Sloan Gibson, 61, became acting secretary of the VA Friday on the resignation of Secretary Eric Shinseki. Gibson, who joined the VA less than four months ago, was former head of the United Service Organizations, commonly known as the USO. Before that, Gibson worked in the banking industry for more than 20 years, including 12 years at what was then known as AmSouth, now part of Regions Bank.

"Sloan, I think, would be the first to acknowledge that he's going to have a learning curve that he's got to deal with," President Barack Obama said after announcing that Gibson would replace Shinseki temporarily.

During Gibson's five years at the USO, net fundraising grew by 90 percent, funding an expansion of programs, according to Gibson's bio on the VA website.

"I'm grateful that he is willing to take on this task," Obama said, noting Gibson's two decades of experience in the private and nonprofit sectors. "He, too, has devoted his life to serving our country and our veterans."

Obama met with Gibson after accepting Shinseki's resignation. The president said he had made it clear to Gibson "that reforms should not wait. They need to proceed immediately."

Gibson's more than 20 years in banking included time working in Charlotte, N.C., Atlanta and Nashville, as well Birmingham. He retired from AmSouth in 2004.

Gibson is the son of an Army air corpsman who served as a B-17 tail-gunner during World War II. His grandfather was an Army infantryman who was wounded in World War I while serving in the 3rd Infantry Division at the Second Battle of the Marne.

Gibson is a 1975 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., where he earned airborne and ranger qualifications and served as an Army infantry officer.

He earned a master's degree in economics from the University of Missouri in 1982 and a master's degree in public administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Gibson and his wife, Margaret, have been married for nearly 32 years. They have two grown daughters, Celia and Laura.

Gibson will be in charge of the VA until Obama nominates and the Senate confirms a permanent VA secretary.

AL.com reporter Leada Gore contributed to this story.

GIBSON'S ALABAMA YEARS

1992: Sloan Gibson joins Birmingham-based AmSouth Bancorporation from Bank South in Atlanta.

1997: Gibson is promoted to chief financial officer for the bank. During his tenure, AmSouth is added to the Standard & Poor's 500.

2002: He serves as chairman of the United Way campaign of Central Alabama, which raises more than $30 million. Other civic roles include service on the boards of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra and the McWane Center.

2004: Gibson retires to devote his time to volunteer service.
More zoning changes considered

Tuscaloosa City Council OKs 180-day construction moratorium for historic areas

By Jason Morton
Staff Writer

More zoning amendments were among the topics discussed and voted on Tuesday by the Tuscaloosa City Council, including a temporary ban on building within the University Area Neighborhood zone.

The 180-day moratorium is meant to give the University Area Neighborhood Task Force, formed in recent months by the city’s Planning and Zoning Commission, time to complete its formulation of new building standards for areas near the University of Alabama. This area is bordered to the north by Jack Warner Parkway, the west by Queen City Avenue, the south by 15th Street and the east by Hackberry Lane, Meador Drive and Cloverdale Road. Currently, one developer has obtained permits to construct a housing complex under the existing codes.

Councilman Matt Calderone pushed for an amendment to the moratorium that would allow that developer to continue as long as the current plans are not altered. The council unanimously accepted Calderone’s amendment.

Other developers also can proceed with projects as long as they agree to meet the building material standards — such as brick and tile.

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COUNCIL

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masonry, native stone, wood or glass, among others — as described in the ordinance that enacted the moratorium.

Other changes to code enforcement and the jurisdiction of the Historic Planning Commission, which reviews exterior changes to properties and structures within the downtown historic districts, were debated Tuesday but did not gain passage at the committee level.

The City Council’s Administration/Policy Committee tabled a decision on whether to approve changes that city officials said would make enforcing the city’s occupancy restrictions more feasible.

A decision on whether to limit the scope of the Historic Planning Commission also was delayed for a month.

According to John McConnell, director of the city’s Planning and Development Services, the code enforcement changes would remove the Zoning Board of Adjustment’s ability to grant variances to the occupancy restrictions for areas in the University Area Neighborhood.

Doing so would make violations a criminal matter, first adjudicated in municipal court while ensuring the occupancy restrictions are immediately met prior to an appeal’s outcome.

Now, violators typically seek a variance from the Zoning Board of Adjustment in order to get around the occupancy requirement. Once denied, the violators can then appeal to Tuscaloosa Circuit Court while continuing to ignore the occupancy limitations until the court makes a decision.

It usually takes months for the court to issue a ruling, McConnell said, thereby allowing violators — typically landlords — to exceed the occupancy restrictions until the college school year ends.

As for the potential limits on the Historic Preservation Commission, the City Council is considering whether to limit the commission’s enforcement scope to the structure and front yards.

Now, the commission can review — and reject — proposed changes to a land owner’s entire property, including the building and the front, back and side yards.

Opponents to the council’s changes, including Kelly Fitts of the Original City Association, contend the commission’s purview will prevent unsightly construction, such as parking lots, to be built in backyards that nearby residents can see from their second-story windows.

Councilman Eddie Pugh motioned for the committee to table any decisions on the Historic Preservation Commission or occupancy enforcement, saying he wanted more time to consider them.

"I just want to do what’s best for the city," Pugh said, "but also for the historic district.”

TWO APPOINTED TO SHELTER TASK FORCE

Tuscaloosa councilman Eddie Pugh and Kip Tyner were appointed Tuesday to a joint task force being formed to make recommendations on the future operations of the Tuscaloosa Metro Animal Shelter.

The task force was suggested last month by Mayor Walt Maddox after discussions with county officials on whether to put the Tuscaloosa County Sheriff’s Office in charge of the shelter’s operations.

The County Commission is expected to make its appointments to the task force today. The Northport City Council will likely make its appointments during its next meeting on June 16, City Administrator Scott Collins said.

Although County Commissioner Jerry Tingle suggested that Northport would receive one appointment to the task force, Collins said he expects Northport to have two representatives, as recommended by Maddox.

According to the mayor, the task force would have a recommendation on how to proceed with the shelter’s operations by September.

— Jason Morton
DISUNITY STRIKES MERCEDES CAMPAIGN

ALABAMA AUTO PLANT: PRO-UNION EMPLOYEES ASK: UNITED AUTO WORKERS TO LEAVE.

But the AFL-CIO, an umbrella federation of U.S. unions, has granted the UAW exclusive jurisdiction over the Mercedes plant, which means another union can’t intervene. Garner said he asked the UAW to have that exclusive jurisdiction lifted, and he hasn’t gotten a response.

"They’re in denial right now, and they’re trying to keep it going," he said.

Committee shrinks

Both Garner and Spitzley cite other frustrations with the UAW, including its use of rookie organizers in Alabama instead of seasoned ones. Other mistakes in the campaign were a lack of advertising and the union’s handling of home visits, they said.

Earlier in the campaign, representatives of the influential German labor union IG Metall were in Alabama to help the UAW in its efforts. But they had to return to Germany, and there hasn’t been much support in the past 10 months.

The men say they remain committed to pursuing a union for the Mercedes plant. "We’re dedicated to the cause of furthering workers’ rights," Garner said. "We just don’t want to do it with the UAW.”

At the beginning of the campaign, about 180 employees were on a leadership committee that directed organizing activities, but that has dwindled as frustration with the UAW grew. A core group of more than 50 people remain committed to unionization, but not with the UAW, said Garner and Spitzley.

UAW: staying put

In a statement, Gary Casteel, the UAW’s Region 8 director, said the union intends to remain in Alabama, working to organize at Mercedes.

He accused the automaker, officially known in Alabama as Mercedes-Benz U.S. International, of not being neutral in the campaign. "The UAW will not file for an election until MBUSA management living up to Daimler’s integrity code and agrees to let workers decide the question of union representation on their own," Casteel’s statement said.

Mercedes has said it is neutral in the campaign, and the decision on a union belongs to employees.

"As such, the UAW has established our commitment to helping workers win union representation," he said. "The UAW has never tried to intervene in the past, the AFL-CIO, tasked with settling intra-union jurisdictional disputes, has awarded jurisdiction to the UAW, but our long history with Mercedes workers, the UAW's large base in the auto industry, and the UAW's commitment to providing the resources necessary to organizing workers at Mercedes.

But Garner and Spitzley say it's that long history — without success — that has turned off their coworkers.

"They said some employees want a union at the plant, but refuse to support the UAW in particular because their past support of that union has gotten them nowhere," Garner said.

"There’s a lot of people that will not sign a card with the UAW. They’re tired of it," Spitzley said. "They’ve done it before, and nothing has come of it.”

The UAW has had three campaigns at Mercedes and has never filed for an election.

The UAW's big-picture goal to organize a foreign-owned plant in the South hurt the Mercedes campaign, Garner and Spitzley said. "We don’t want to be part of a master plan. We just want a straight-up election," Garner said.
Mobile Realtor Bernie Heggeman, known for his grasp of the waterfront and the outdoors, dies at 56

By: Michael Finch II

Mobile, Alabama -- Bernard J. Heggeman III, the owner of a local real estate company and brain trust on the region's waterfront property, died during a fishing trip Friday on the beach in Dauphin Island.

Known to many as simply Bernie, Heggeman was an outdoorsman who loved to hunt turkey, duck and deer. But he preferred fishing for speckled trout most of all.

Heggeman, 56, and two friends were wave fishing on the west end of the island early Friday when their 24-foot Blazer Bay center-console boat began to float farther out into the Gulf.

So Heggeman swam after it. Quickly, the waves carried the boat farther.

"He kept going farther and farther out and they saw that he was struggling a bit," said Kym Clark, police chief for the town of Dauphin Island.
A friend raced down the beach to alert another boat in the area. Moments later, Heggeman went under.

"It was about 15 minutes between the time they lost sight of him and when they found him," Clark said.

In business circles, Heggeman was equally regarded for his expertise in commercial and industrial waterfront land, if not for his generous demeanor, friends and colleagues said. He had managed Heggeman Realty Company since 1997, when his father, Bernard Joseph "Buzz" Heggeman Jr., died.

"I cannot tell you how many children he took to hunt their first deer," said Marietta Urquhart, a colleague who joined the real estate firm in 2003. His love for hunting on Alabama land made him "a conservationist in some ways," she said. "And if he gave me some fish I was to eat it fresh, not freeze it."

And he endeared the same principled virtues when dealing with clients and offering advice.

"He was just one of these people that you could just rely on for his expertise," said Jimmy Lyons, director and chief executive for the Alabama State Port Authority.

"He seemed to be in the midst of a lot of the deals on the waterfront. (And) in that little niche he seemed to get a little more than most of the others."

Some of those deals were done down in the southern part of Mobile County. He had a hand in developing the north side of the Theodore Industrial Canal, said Richard Weavil, a friend and commercial Realtor.

See next page
They both met in the early 1980s, when Heggeman's dad was still running the company. Weavil saw him last about a week ago during a continuing education course on risk management with the local Realtors association.

The class was three hours long. Weavil said: "We sat next to each other and talked for the whole time."

Heggeman leaves behind his wife, Sharon; two daughters, Annie and Sally; and a stepson, Ian Leatherbury.

He is also survived by his mother, Anne Minto Heggeman, and seven siblings: Gale Heggeman Roberts, Michael Danz Heggeman, Alyce Heggeman Head, Helyn Heggeman Graham, Mary Lynn Heggeman Weaver, Scott Christopher Heggeman and Laura Heggeman Brooks.

Visitation will be held Sunday, June 1, 2014, from 5 to 8 p.m at Pine Crest Funeral Home. The Mass of Christian Burial will be held Monday, June 2, 2014 at 10 a.m. at St. Ignatius Catholic Church.

The family asks that donations be made to Recovery Resources for scholarships, 8851-B, Rand Ave., Daphne, AL 36526.
Governor Bentley supports cyber-crime lab at The University of Alabama

By: Sheri Falk

Gov. Robert Bentley has awarded a $60,000 grant to help the University of Alabama create a new cyber-crime investigations lab. The grant will help the university's Criminal Justice Department create the Cyber Research and Digital Forensics laboratory.

In the lab, trained examiners will analyze devices like cell phones, computer hard drives and even video game systems for digital evidence of cyber crimes. The lab will work for local and national law enforcement agencies to provide evidence for use in cyber-crime prosecutions.

"Cyber crime poses an increasing danger as more of our daily transactions are digital and online," Bentley said. "This new lab will have the expertise to uncover digital evidence and give criminals one less place to hide."

Students will have an opportunity to gain hands-on research and work experience at the lab through a unique internship program that is unavailable elsewhere in the state, according to university officials.

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs is managing the grant from funds made available to the state by the U.S. Department of Justice.

ADECA administers a wide array of programs that support law enforcement and traffic safety, workforce development, energy conservation, water resource management, economic development and recreation.
UA, Shelton State win robotics competition

NASA contest draws teams from across the U.S.

Staff report

A team of students from the University of Alabama and Shelton State Community College won the top prize at an annual NASA robotics contest in late May.

The Alabama Astrobotics team earned the most points in the fifth annual NASA's Robotic Mining Competition, in which teams of college students compete with robots built to navigate courses and excavate simulated Martian soil. The team was awarded $7,750 to be used toward next year's competition.

Robots had two attempts of 10 minutes to move across a small contest arena through obstacles and to excavate as much Martian soil as possible. The Alabama team's robot was designed to be autonomous, to make real-time decisions on what path to take and where to dig on the course.

The teams were also judged on an oral presentation, an engineering paper, educational outreach and team spirit.

The teams of UA and Shelton State engineering and computer science students also won in 2012 and placed third last year.
Construction Continues

Campus continues to undergo renovations, new buildings to open at beginning of fall semester

By Samuel Yang / News Editor

Su Gupta, associate professor of metallurgical and materials engineering, directs a campus-wide user facility called the UA Microfabrication Facility. If you look for it today, you can find it in the Bevill Building.

"Part of H. M. Comer Hall, that originally housed the MFF, had to be demolished to make room for NERC, so the facility had to be temporarily relocated to the MINT clean room in Bevill for three years," she said. "I am grateful that the Vice-President of Research provided funds for the temporary set-up of the facility in Bevill, which allowed us to remain functional for the past three years."

Ultimately, the MFF will be housed in the North Engineering Research Center, forcing a second move to a "beautiful, large clean room facility." Shelby Quad was completed last August after nearly 10 years of construction and four new buildings.

"The progress and growth of campus is very impressive, especially with the completion of the Shelby Science and Engineering quad last summer," Gupta said. "I am very glad the engineering [facilities are] mostly complete. I am very happy with the new clean room facility and cannot wait to become fully functional in there, by August we hope."
Ferguson Center to reopen in August after expanding food court, SUPe Store

She said bringing facilities and equipment on line has been a little slow, but she expects the process to be complete by the end of the summer. Students can expect work around the adjacent Ferguson Center area to continue throughout the summer.

Tim Leopard, assistant vice president of UA Facilities, said there is an intentional effort to increase construction activity during the summer when fewer students will be impacted.

"The level of construction definitely impacts the access and usability," he said. "(One) of our core goals for our projects is to minimize any potential impact to the teaching and learning environment."

According to Dialog, the faculty/staff newsletter, the expanded building will include office space for the Career Center, Community Service Center, Crossroads Community Center, Greek Affairs, Student Government Association, Student Involvement and Leadership and University Programs. There will also be a renovated food court, with the Fresh Foods Company that was previously located in the Ferguson Center moving across the street to its own building.

Cathy Andreen, director of media relations, said the Ferguson Center will reopen in August.

"All areas of Ferguson are closed this summer except for the SupeStore, Mall Center and Starbucks," she said.

Leopard said students can expect any disruption or inconvenience in the Ferguson Center and Shelby Quad area — as well as around Presidential Village, where a new residential hall will open next semester — to be gone by the fall, but construction on other parts of campus will be ongoing.

"The Magnolia area and Barnwell area will continue to be challenged," he said. "We're starting a new parking deck there [and] we're starting construction on more sorority houses there, so that area will continue to be busy, as will the Coleman Coliseum baseball area once we start baseball construction."

The $35 million expansion of the Sewell-Thomas Stadium is one of several projects detailed in Dialog, including a 2,000-seat academic building behind Shelby Hall — slated to begin construction in early 2015 — and a performing arts center on Bryce property.

Leopard points to the renovation of Houser Hall, scheduled to be completed by August 2015, as an example of the type of construction happening on campus. The new building will house the expanded services of the Veteran's and Military Affairs Center, just as the Ferguson Center addition will house expanded services in the Career Center.
City BOE OKs 12 appointees

By Jamon Smith
Staff Writer

The names of the 12 people who will serve on the steering committee for the Tuscaloosa City Schools' upcoming demographic study and facilities analysis were approved Tuesday by the board of education.

The board also received detailed descriptions on what the steering and advisory committees' responsibilities will be.

Last week, the board asked Superintendent Paul McKendrick to provide more information about what the duties of the committees will be. They also asked him to provide the names of the steering committee members since part of the committee's responsibility will be to help choose the consulting firm that conducts the demographic study and facilities analysis.

Of the 12 steering committee members, four were chosen by the board and eight were selected by McKendrick.

The four board picks are:
- Bryan Fair, a professor at the University of Alabama's School of Law.
- Dan Meisner, an instructor in UA's journalism department since 1972 and the former chairman of the Tuscaloosa City Board of Education.
- Kelly Horwitz, an attorney and the former District 4 BOE representative.

McKendrick's eight committee choices are:
- McKendrick.
- Ed LaVigne, chief school financial officer of the city schools.
- Mike Daria, assistant superintendent of the general administration for the city schools.
- Jeff Johnson, executive director of facilities for the city schools.
- Leah Ozment, a mother of a city schools student and a member of the superintendent's parent advisory committee.
- Gary Nichols, president and chief operating officer of McAbee Construction Inc.
- Joyce Stallworth, the associate provost of special projects at UA and a professor of English education.
- John McConnell, director of planning and development for the city of Tuscaloosa.

The steering committee's job will be to assist the superintendent in making strategic decisions during the demographic study and facilities analysis process.

The duties of the much larger 98-member advisory committee, which has 32 members chosen by the school board and 66 selected by McKendrick, include providing guidance during the study and analysis process and representing a diversity of people from throughout the city.

Reach Jamon Smith at jamon.smith@tuscaloosanews.com or 205-722-0204.
UA appoints two new deans

By Maria Beddingfield, Chief Copy Editor

Over the years, the University of Alabama has undergone many changes, including the continual phoenix-like demolition and reconstruction of buildings across campus, a consistently growing student population that has doubled since 2008 and an evolving set of faculty and staff who incite and foster change year-round throughout the University.

Part of this ever-changing tide involves the handing of the baton to new leaders and staff members. The School of Law and the School of Social Work will welcome Mark Brandon and Vikki Vandiver as the newly appointed deans of each school, respectively.

Vandiver has been a faculty member of the Portland State University School of Social Work since 1992, and she has served as the associate dean for academic affairs since 2012. She will be succeeding Lucinda Roff, who served as the dean of social work from 1987 to 2000 and has been serving as the interim dean since 2010.

In her time as interim dean, Roff oversaw changes to the School of Social Work that included establishing and improving the online curriculum for both the Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees.

“Recently, [the challenge] has been responding to the rapid growth at the University and providing high quality education for everyone,” she said. “We have also implemented a new online MSW program, which students can access while working full-time and not even living in Tuscaloosa. Part of the challenge with that is developing an online education program that meets high quality standards of education.”

Roff said they have tackled most of the kinks regarding online degrees, so the challenges Vandiver will face include reaching out to and being in tune with the Tuscaloosa community, the state of Alabama and the rest of the country on a larger scale.

“I think the challenges ahead focus on social work becoming more global by building ties around the country, nationwide ties will always be a challenge, and understanding what’s going on in Alabama and the needs Alabamians face,” Roff said. “The school has a responsibility of continuously being mindful of the needs within the state and from our profession to improve quality of life of people within the state through what we do as social workers.”

To form these ties, she said, there are certain qualities a successful dean of social work must have, such as the ability to listen carefully, treat others with respect and understand how funding affects programs.

Roff said Vandiver measured up to these expectations.

“Tink [Vandiver] has those strong qualities of leadership and integrity that are part of the job,” she said.

The School of Law will also welcome a new dean, Mark Brandon, who specializes in constitutional law and has taught at Vanderbilt University since 2001. Kevin Stack, associate dean for research at Vanderbilt, worked with Brandon and said his gentle manner will help him build connections with UA, its students and alumni.

“He is a great listener, and he has a genuine desire to truly understand other people’s perspectives and points of view. That quality comes across in his scholarship, and also in his daily interactions with students and colleagues at Vanderbilt,” Stack said. “Separately, Mark brings a very wide lens to the study of law. He is part historian, evaluating the way in which law and society interact; part constitutional theorist, examining the fundamental legal norms in our society; and part wise lawyer, attentive to how laws play out in practice.”

Thomas Causby, who is in his second year at the UA School of Law, said he expects Brandon to continue on with the work of the most recent interim dean.

“Dean Randall improved the ranking of our law school, which is really just a byproduct of attracting and expecting the best,” Causby said. “Interim Dean Brubaker did a great job holding everything together and setting the stage for our new dean to help us continue to constantly improve.”

Brandon begins his appointment on July 1 and Vandiver begins hers on July 15. Both schools have had recent track records of successful hires and satisfaction among students and faculty.

“Like with any other organization, good leadership is vital to the future,” Causby said. “Our school has to have a vision and goals for the future, and we look to the dean to see where we are going, and how we are going to get there.”
Teenagers convene at UA to hone leadership skills

Boys State brings lessons in politics, community service

By Lydia Seabol Avant
Staff Writer

About 550 boys from across the state filled Morgan Auditorium on the University of Alabama campus Sunday for the first day of the annual American Legion Alabama Boys State Convention.

As part of the convention, the upcoming high school seniors will learn about politics and community service this week. The students will participate in mock party conventions and elections while learning about local, state and federal government with some community service projects mixed in.

"You are in for something that will change the rest of your life, and I want you to take advantage of it," Wayne Stacey, senior vice commissioner of Alabama for the American Legion told the young men at the opening address Sunday. "You are the future leadership of the state of Alabama and the United States of America."

Alabama Boys State is a leadership and government training program that is among the highest honors granted to high school senior boys. Students from around the state are chosen based on their demonstration of leadership, hard work, morals and motivation in school and community activities. Delegates have the opportunity to join groups that focus on their individual areas of interest, including law and law enforcement, aerospace, local government and the environment.

"It's a great honor to be here; not many people from my school get to be nominated," said Luke Denton of Decatur.

Chris Tran of Madison agreed.

"I feel that there are a lot of top-notch people around," Tran said. "I've done a lot of leadership things before, but this is different. There is a lot of energy and it's highly competitive."

Jake Cowart of Crossville said he hoped the experience would be beneficial for running for political office one day.

"I feel honored to be selected and participate in this," Cowart said. "I'm looking forward to run for the (mock) elections."

As part of the week of events, this year's Boys State participants will also perform a service project at Munny Sokol Park. Boys State will run through Saturday and is being held on the UA campus.

Reach Lydia Seabol Avant at 205-722-0222 or lydia.seabolavant@tuscaloosanews.com.
The reality is it is middle-aged suburban moms who have had some sort of injury and get an OxyContin prescription, and by the time the prescription ends, they’re addicted.

Joyce Vance
U.S. Attorney

self go and ends up in dire straits," Vance said. "The reality is it is middle-aged suburban moms who have had some sort of injury and get an OxyContin prescription, and by the time the prescription ends, they’re addicted.

"At some point they can no longer get the pills legally and they start buying them illegally. Then, at some point, heroin becomes a more affordable, palatable alternative."

Vance and other law enforcement and health officials first started noticing the trend several years ago. The late former Medical Examiner Robert Brissie and Vance had multiple conversations about the heroin resurgence. "It was obvious that as unhackable as it was when we started looking at this in 2011, there was a bad problem with heroin and nobody thought that was the case," Vance said. "Heroin? That’s a ‘60s drug. I heard that a lot.

Community summit

A community summit is set for June 10 at the UAB National Alumni Society House. The day-long conference is a joint effort between Vance’s office, UAB’s School of Public Health and the Jefferson County Department of Public Health. U.S. Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole will deliver the keynote address. The conference is free, and open to anyone who wants to take part, including parents, pastors, teachers and employers. Organizers have planned for 300 participants.

"One important thing is the community needs to understand..."
GREED VS. NEED: TO HELP MAKE THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM WORK, PATIENTS SHOULD STOP ASKING FOR EXCESSIVE TREATMENTS.

Ever-increasing resources to satisfy, then, a society driven by greed is unsustainable. Might this principle apply to some of the challenges we are facing in U.S. health care? Unaffordability to affordable health care leads many Americans to present their symptoms to physicians in emergency rooms or primary care clinics only after they've reached crisis mode. On the flip side, some of us seek medical advice perhaps too frequently, for physical conditions that would likely dissipate without any medical intervention whatsoever.

The consumer's responsibility

At a Cancer Health Disparities Conference in Miami in 2010, Arthur Kellyman, an emergency room physician from Timmy noted that if doctors provided only those medical services that they know work, and nothing extra — no additional scans, prescriptions or procedures — we wouldn't have a health care crisis in this country.

There would be enough, he

Tushar Gandhi echoed his great-grandfather's sentiment that the earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need but not every man's greed. Greed grows, requiring

Expert's view

Cynthia Ryan is associate professor of English at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.
WESTERN INFLUENCE

Michael Huebner
mhuebner@al.com

As an Asian art specialist, Cathleen Cummings has crossed a lot of ground, both literally and figuratively, from ancient to modern.

A member of the UAB art history faculty, she has written extensively on Hindu temple architecture, as well as painting traditions of both Hinduism and Buddhism, and led three study-abroad trips to South Asia. A Fulbright fellow, Mellon Postdoctoral fellow and a fellow of the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute in Delhi, India, she also has received numerous university awards and grants.

Starting June 5, Cummings will wear yet another hat— as curator of two simultaneous exhibitions at UAB’s Acheson-Engel Institute for the Visual Arts.

For “Objects of Authority: Embroideries and Other Contemporary Arts from Western India,” she will open a discussion on the role of women in rural India, through embroideries that she collected in western India.


Through a collaboration with the Birmingham Museum of Art, 35 modern prints will come out of storage for the exhibition.

Passage to India

Cummings’ work in India, for which she collaborated with Cynthia Ryan of the UAB English faculty and a UAB graduate student for two weeks in August 2013, brought her to close contact with women in small villages, and their nongovernment organizations. The NGOs’ role was to help the women sell the embroideries, which generated income for their families.

Consisting of items such as wall hangings, hairpins, scarves, pillow covers, pouches and blouses, the embroideries were made for specific functions.

“They pieces were made for dowry,” Cummings said. “They start embroidery at a young age — 10, 11 or 12. When they go into their married family’s home, it’s expected they will bring quite a lot of items. It used to be that these kinds of pieces were the wealth that women had, and when times were tough, they could sell them. In the 1960s and 1980s, a middle man would take them into the cities and sell them, but the women were getting paid nothing — 10 rupees, maybe.”

After a period of drought, the NGOs came in, ensuring that the women would be paid decently. It changed the value of their embroideries, making them a marker for the tourism industry.

“It brought foreigners and urban Indians into Kutch, a remote area of Gujarat, for a whole package of an ‘authentic’ experience of village India,” Cummings said. “The embroidery has become the signifier that you have had this experience.”

Western Influence in post-war Japanese prints

Shifting 4,000 miles to the east while staying within her areas of expertise, Cummings is filling an important role in Birmingham by showing art works that are rarely seen. “After Sosaku Hanga” looks at Japanese prints from the 1960s and 1970s that blend traditional printmaking and aesthetics with modern and contemporary Western art.

The exhibition contrasts Sosaku Hanga, an early 20th century printmaking movement, with postwar artists who are showing signs of Westernization and experimentation. Cummings came to know the Birmingham Museum of Art’s holdings of these prints while observing them in BMA’s storage rooms with Asian art curator Don Wood.

“There was a print by Watanabe Sadako that was so interesting — not just the print, but how he made the paper,” Cummings said. “He dyed it, then crumpled it to make the texture, then prints on top of it.”

Modern printmaking was highly influenced by tourists and experts who traveled in Japan after World War II.

DETAILS

WHAT: "Objects of Authority: Embroideries and Other Contemporary Arts from Western India."


Admission Free.

When: June 5 through July 17. Regular hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, noon-9 p.m.; closed Sundays and holidays.

Where: Acheson-Engel Institute for the Visual Arts, 1221 Tenth Ave. South.

Opening reception: Friday, 5-7:30 p.m.

35
A Boost for Birmingham
ASC Brings Culture to Community, Gala Chairman Says

While the Alys Stephens Center has hosted the performances of a multitude of Grammy-winning artists over the years, Charlie Perry said the University of Alabama at Birmingham's performing arts center is more than just a place to catch a great show.

Perry and his wife Sherri are the honorary chairmen of the 2014 Viva Health Starlight Gala, which will include a performance by Grammy Award winners Steve Martin and the Steep Canyon Rangers featuring Edie Brickell. The June 6 fundraiser will benefit the Alys Stephens Center.

"People look at the Alys Stephens Center as a place to go to see a concert, but what the Alys Stephens Center really is it's a vehicle to bringing culture to our city and community," Perry said.

The ASC opened in 1996 and houses four performance venues, including the 1,300-seat Jemison Concert Hall, the 350-seat proscenium-style Sinele Theatre, the 170-seat Reynolds-Kirschbaum Recital Hall and the Black-box Odessa Theatre.

The ASC's mission, Perry said, is to be a place where the entire community experiences and engages in the arts. The ASC is home to the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, the UAB theater and music departments and ArtPlay, a new arts education center.

"So many studies show that students learn more and do better in school if they are regularly exposed to the arts," Perry said. "And at the other end of the spectrum, being involved in the arts helps our senior citizens stay sharp."

The ASC also provides free or low-cost arts education programs for children and adults through workshops, classes, master classes and school shows.

Perry, the owner of Highlands Associates Inc., is the president of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra's board of directors. He and his wife are involved with several community organizations, including Central Alabama Boy Scouts and UAB's Health Services Foundation and Comprehensive Care Center.

"I've been on the symphony board since the early 2000s when I made the push to really get involved with the cultural part of our community," Perry said. "I'm also really involved with UAB, and when this opportunity (to be the honorary Starlight Gala chairman) came up, I couldn't think of a reason to say no because it helps UAB and the Alys Stephens Center."

In addition to supporting the arts in Birmingham, the ASC is important to the metro area's economic development, Perry said.

"I think it's critical for Birmingham to offer more than the typical entertainment venues normally associated with the South," he said. "Yes, we have great football traditions here, but for economic development, you have to have venues that are going to attract people from all over the world."

And because UAB does attract students and professionals from all over the world, Perry said supporting cultural venues in Birmingham is more important than ever.

"With UAB, we have scientists looking to come here from every corner of the world, and to attract those brilliant minds, we have to show them that Birmingham is a place with a rich and diverse arts scene," he said. "Those are the kinds of things that make people want to move their families here and do business."

Perry said it benefits all residents in the Birmingham metro area to establish the city as a cultural destination.

"I'm a huge booster of Birmingham. I work in Birmingham, I eat in Birmingham, and I find my entertainment in Birmingham," he said. "People need to realize that ultimately, as Birmingham goes, so goes the suburbs."

Perry said he's excited about hearing the featured performers at this year's Viva Health Starlight Gala.

"To have someone like Steve Martin coming to Birmingham is a big deal, and I think it really speaks to the quality of what the Alys Stephens Center offers," he said.

Martin and the Steep Canyon Rangers featuring Brickell will perform songs from the new album "Love Has Come For You" at 8 p.m. June 8.

The playful performance will showcase original material performed by Martin and Brickell along with the unique blend of bluegrass and comedy that Martin and the Steep Canyon Rangers have been delighting audiences with at their sold-out, critically-acclaimed shows.

The group won a Grammy in 2012 for Best Bluegrass Album with its "Nobody Knows You."

The group kicked off its tour March 14 in California, and aside from a stop in Snowden, Miss., in August, the ASC show in Birmingham is the only show planned for the Deep South.

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UAB set to add faculty, boost R&D spinoffs, add departments in ambitious growth strategy

By: Cindy F. Crawford

Changes are coming to the University of Alabama at Birmingham, with plans to bolster new departments and programs, to recruit new faculty members and invest in more research and development for more spinoffs that could boost Birmingham’s workforce, said Selwyn Vickers, dean of the School of Medicine.

UAB has a goal of being one of the top 20 academic medical centers that receive National Institutes of Health funds in the U.S. and Vickers outlined how they’re going to get there at the Birmingham Kiwanis Club meeting Tuesday.

UAB is hoping to increase the amount it gets from NIH to fund more R&D projects that will lead to more jobs and spinoff companies that will grow and add good-paying, high-tech jobs to Birmingham, he said.

UAB is also in the midst of a $1 billion fundraising campaign that will pay for changes that have been needed for some time, Vickers said.

The university added a Biomedical Engineering department recently and is searching for a director of a proposed Institute for Informatics that will collect, share, analyze and use data to enhance quality and safety of patients.

Through research, UAB hopes to be a leader in genomics and personalized medicine through the proposed HudsonAlpha Center for Genomic Medicine. Through genomic medicine, doctors can use genes to determine conditions that would be most likely to occur in each patient, which will help prevent diseases and make diagnoses and determine better, more personalized treatments.

UAB is also planning to recruit heavily and add to its faculty for the first time in years, Vickers said. In 1999, the School of Medicine had 250 faculty members on staff and it’s about the same number in 2013. And he wants those additions to be leaders in the Birmingham community.

Vickers said it could be challenging to recruit talent to Birmingham because many aren’t thinking of the Magic City as a destination, but they will show candidates that UAB is a place where their career can grow.

Health care makes up 20 percent of the nation’s GDP, so it is important to examine the costs associated, such as premiums, he said.

Alabama’s Medicaid program is about to undergo a massive overhaul of health care oversight to the regional care organizations, or RCOs, that the state should use to find a better, more cost-efficient way to deliver health care.

And the Affordable Care Act may play a role in reducing costs by changing the payment system from procedure based— or getting paid for doing multiple procedures to diagnose a condition—to a system that pays based on how well doctors diagnose a patient.
UAB: Pediatrics

A well-known pediatrician and expert in children's digestive disorders has been named the new chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the UAB School of Medicine.

Mitchell Cohen will assume his new duties Sept. 1. He has also been elected physician-in-chief of Children's of Alabama by that hospital's board of trustees.

Cohen is a professor of pediatrics, vice-chair for clinical affairs and director of the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

He will succeed Sergio Stagno, who has served as chair and physician-in-chief since 1988 and announced in September that he would step down from those positions.

"Mitch Cohen is a proven and very strong leader in pediatric gastroenterology with the skills to be a very effective chair of pediatrics," said Stagno, who will remain on the UAB faculty.

A native of New York City, Cohen has worked at the Children's Hospital in Cincinnati for about 30 years.

In 2013, Cohen received the Shwachman Award for lifelong scientific contributions from the American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition.

Jose Chambers
UAB under fire after outbreak

Mike Oliver  moliver@al.com

UAB Hospital is coming under fire in the wake of a deadly legionella outbreak.

One assistant state health officer says the hospital didn’t notify state health officials soon enough after the outbreak in one of its units — and it should have.

"The reality is that we are working with them where issues occurred and making sure it doesn’t happen again," said Mary McIntyre, assistant state health officer.

However, the delay did not add to the outbreak in any way, said Don Williamson with the Alabama Department of Public Health.

"I want to be very clear," Williamson said. "This is an obvious tragic situation ... But everything we know right now, nobody got legionella, and nobody died because UAB didn’t report this outbreak on May 7.

The state and county health department found out about the legionella on May 19 through the lab UAB used for testing, McIntyre said. UAB already knew about the cluster of cases, and from May 7 to May 9 had already treated the water system that was the culprit in spawning the deadly bacteria in the hematology/oncology unit with cancer patients especially susceptible to the bacteria.

Two people of nine testing positive for the legionella bacteria, which can cause an acute pneumonia sometimes called Legionnaires’ disease, died in early May. UAB, citing patient confidentiality, won’t disclose when they died.

McIntyre said underreporting of "reportable diseases" — diseases required to be reported to state and federal health authorities — is a big problem with a lot of hospitals, not just UAB, and the state is beginning a new program to heighten awareness.

Reportable diseases, such as legionella, in isolation need to be reported within seven days and clusters such as the case here, need to be reported within 24 hours, Williamson said.

"I think once the cluster was recognized — we’d have have liked to have known earlier — but I think they acted appropriately" in fixing the problem, Williamson said.

“I want to be very clear,” Williamson said. “This is an obvious tragic situation ... But everything we know right now, nobody got legionella, and nobody died because UAB didn’t report this outbreak on May 7.”

Don Williamson
Alabama Department of Public Health


QUESTIONS RAISED ON DEADLY OUTBREAK

HEALTH CHIEF: UAB'S DELAY IN REPORTING DIDN'T CONTRIBUTE TO DEATHS.

Although UAB Hospital raced to quickly report a cluster of patients infected with legionella bacteria, the delay didn't add to the outbreak in any way, the state health officer said Thursday.

A cluster of legionella cases is required to be reported to public health authorities within 24 hours, but UAB took 12 days to do so, said Don Williamson with the Alabama Department of Public Health. He said the delay appears to have had no effect, since all related deaths and infections occurred before the disease was discovered.

READ THE STORY: 3.
LEGIONELLA OUTBREAK: UAB HOSPITAL WAITED TOO LONG TO REPORT, BUT NO ONE DIED BECAUSE OF IT, STATE OFFICIAL SAYS.

TIMELINE

MARCH
Leaving hot, the hospital's patient safety expert said there was a legionella case back in March, but they have not yet determined whether that was a hospital or community acquired. It did not raise an alarm bell, because legionella is highly contagious, while infrequent, is certainly not rare.

LATE APRIL/EARLY MAY
Two more positive cases, one in late April and one in early May, led to efforts to find the problem, which proved to be the water system.

MAY 7
UAB realizes they have an outbreak of legionella in their hematology/oncology unit used by cancer patients.

MAY 7-9
UAB flushed, shocked and boiled the water system, apparently eliminating the bacteria. No more cases have been discovered after that eradication process.

MAY 19
The state and county health department found out about the legionella through the lab UAB used for testing.
UAB Hospital still handling bacteria scare

BIRMINGHAM | UAB Hospital is shocking part of its water system with chlorine, the latest response to an outbreak of deadly legionella bacteria.

AL.com reported that the hospital began the process Friday night.

The hospital's senior vice president for inpatient services, Anthony Patterson, said the chlorine treatment is meant to kill any bacteria that may be present. The hospital was to limit water use until Saturday evening on the floors being treated. Patterson said the rest of the building would also be treated.

Two of the nine people with infections died. The Centers for Disease Control and state and county health officials are working with the hospital.

Hospital officials said no new infections have been reported since the water system was treated and flushed with 160-degree water May 7 to 9.
THE HAM HITS THE APPLE

MARKETING METRO BIRMINGHAM: MAYOR, UAB PRESIDENT JOIN BUSINESS LEADERS ON NEW YORK TRIP.

Michael Tomberlin m@montberlin@al.com

For four years, the Birmingham Business Alliance has made an annual trip to New York to get the word out about metro Birmingham to national media and economic development decision-makers. This time the group took along two "heavy hitters," said Brian Hillson, the BBA's chief executive.

Hillson, Birmingham Mayor William Bell and Ray Watts, president of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, on the two-day trip made selling Birmingham easier, Hillson said.

The two enticed the virtues of Birmingham on a business program, but their presence on the trip was about more than just getting in front of the cameras. Some of the most important work takes place behind the scenes.

The group participated in 26 meetings in New York and New Jersey. The annual trip "allows us to tell today's story of the Birmingham region to the media, companies, prospects and consultants," Hillson said.

"Having two of our heavy hitters on the trip was very important," he said. "By all accounts they did a fabulous job in each and every meeting and in all of the meetings in video interviews with street.com, Bell and Watts conveyed some of the activity taking place in Birmingham.

"Birmingham is a well-kept secret," Bell said in the interview.

"Many people may have either no concept of what Birmingham is about or only look at it in terms of its civil rights past. But Birmingham is a totally different city these days." The video emphasizes the work at the UAB-bred Innovation Depot and the research and medical presence of UAB itself, along with the entrepreneurial spirit that has developed in the Magic City. It also includes video footage of downtown festivals, Barber Motorsports Park, the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and other Birmingham attributes.

"You never know what kind of coverage you will get, if any, and if it will be positive," Hillson said. "For Birmingham in particular, it is extremely important that we tell our story and we tell it consistently."

Crashing the party

While the media meetings can serve to change public perceptions of the Birmingham region, Hillson said the meetings with site consultants can lead to tangible projects. "The meetings with consultants are always extremely important," Hillson said. "At least 50 percent of site selections for economic development projects these days are being guided by professional consultants. Most of the most influential of them are in New York."

Hillson said at least one of the consultants the group met with in New York has a project that is considering the Birmingham area.

Along with Bell and Watts, the trip included representatives from five of the seven counties the BBA represents—Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair, Walker and Chilton.

Development Consultants International, a New York-based economic development consulting and marketing firm, helped the BBA arrange the meetings in New York and New Jersey. DCI works with BBA on getting its message in front of decision-makers and the media. DCI also has included Hillson in a separate trip each year to give him one-on-one time with the most influential site consultants.

"It's no surprise we are working some projects in the Birmingham area now with some of those consultants," he said.

DCI also works with BBA to bring national media to Birmingham. In the coming days, BBA will play host to health care and information technology reporters coming to Birmingham to do stories.

The New York trip packed plenty of work into two days, Hillson said.

Despite the well-placed itinerary, sometimes it is still the chance meeting that can make the difference.

Watts and Bell crashed a UAB alumni meeting in New York and walked away with a prospective project.

"One of these represents a company from Asia that has an active economic development project," Hillsen said. "That project is now looking in Birmingham as one of the potential sites."
 Lots of people go on diets in the spring and summer so they'll look better in bikinis or swim trunks. That's OK — to a point. "Motivating factors such as 'bikini season' are good inspiration for behavior change," according to Krista Casazza, an assistant professor in the UAB Department of Nutrition Sciences. But the focus should be on health, not just short-term improvements in one's appearance.

**UAB EXPERT ADVICE: WANT TO LOSE WEIGHT FOR 'BIKINI SEASON'? FINE, BUT FOCUS ON LONG-TERM HEALTH.**

"One should approach adopting a healthier lifestyle in the long term — not simply make changes, which are aimed to be short-lived," Casazza said.

And people should avoid crash diets and other potentially unhealthy "quick fixes" to shed pounds, according to Casazza, who adds that a combination of physical activity and nutrition will aid in losing weight and keeping it off.

"Starvation methods cannot be sustained," Casazza said. "Though cleanses and detoxes are "in," they really aren't associated with a great deal of weight loss, and liquid diets, such as juicing, can result in losing only a few pounds. Dieters should focus on eating a balanced diet and eating in moderation, whether for weight loss or weight maintenance, according to Lynae Hanko, a postdoctoral research fellow in the UAB Department of Medicine.

"If your goal is to lose weight, take a look at your typical eating behavior," Hanko said.

**WEIGHT-LOSS ADVICE**

Cut back on soft drinks or fattening toppings and condiments.

"Add-ins like sugar-sweetened drinks and heavy dressings can sabotage your efforts in losing or maintaining weight," said Lynae Hanko, a postdoctoral research fellow in the UAB Department of Medicine.

This doesn't mean that so-called guilty pleasures have to be eliminated altogether, according to Hanko. In fact, this can lead to feelings of deprivation, which in turn cause people to get off their diet and overindulge.

"Instead of seeing those items as diet 'villains,' eat them in moderation and revel in a meal with balance and planned meals," Hanko said.

Meal should be balanced, with a variety of nutrition components.

Hanko suggests generous portions of such nonstarchy vegetables as carrots, broccoli, tomatoes, green beans and spinach.

**FOUR TO KEEP IN MIND**

There is no one-size diet for everyone, but a healthier body requires four things, according to Hanko and Krista Casazza, an assistant professor in the UAB Department of Nutrition Sciences:

- Sufficient hydration
- Nutritious meals
- Regular exercise
- Adequate sleep

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**The Tuscaloosa News**

Sunday, June 1, 2014
The heated debate over climate change

By: Dennis Byrne

As citizens of a self-governing nation, we should, we must, challenge everything.

Every assertion, claim, proclamation and dictate should not escape close examination. No matter how certain, how dogmatic and how obvious it may be. No matter how complex, seemingly incomprehensible, settled and confusing it may be. A self-governing nation cannot afford to "take someone's word for it."

Which brings us to the subject of climate warming. (Yes, "warming." Climate "change" is not in dispute. The issue is whether we are causing the climate to warm.) Its dire predictions are based on computer models — mathematical representations that attempt to accurately describe every important factor that affects our climate, work out the interactions among them and unravel that Gordian knot of data into a realistic description of the future. The models are the key, deserving more examination than they've received.

Here are just some of the slices of climate reality that are crammed into the machines: surface temperatures, aerosol and chemical releases, cloud formation, solar activity, ocean and atmospheric temperatures, ocean currents, jet contrails, land use changes, surface ice reflectivity, moisture convection, snow cover melting, energy dissipation, radiant heat and so on.

The model must accurately describe the interactions among them, not an easy task. Climate is an analog system, in which everything is happening at once. Computer models aren't; they use discrete bits of digital data, limiting the models' ability to accurately describe the reality of the climate flux.

With each variable interacting with the others in unique ways, you've got to pick out the ones you think are more important, according to your theory and observations. But which variables and what is the power of each to impact the others? The effects may not be linear; a doubling of one variable may not cause the doubling of another variable. In any case, the feedback of one part of the system is constantly changing the other ingredients.

The danger of leaving something out of the equation or mistakenly emphasizing one variable over another can lead to legitimate doubts, if not rejection of the model. One such omission is the failure of some models to accurately measure the troposphere, the dynamic and lowest layer of the atmosphere, which contains about 80 percent of the atmosphere's mass and nearly all of its water vapors and aerosols, Richard McNider, distinguished professor of science at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, explained. In an email, he told me, "Observations of the deep atmosphere by satellites and balloons show that since 1979 the troposphere has not warmed to a large degree despite the fact that this is where models show the CO2 warming signal is largest." (Carbon dioxide generated by human activity is hypothesized to be the major culprit in climate warming.)
To oversimplify: The models for climate warming typically overestimate the temperature increase in the troposphere. That's key because lower temperatures are unable to hold a lot of water vapor, a key ingredient in climate warming. With less water vapor in the troposphere, the predictions of catastrophic warming are overstated.

He noted: "Models also do not capture the asymmetry in day and night warming over the last century. The fact that maximum temperatures which are more connected to the deep atmosphere through higher boundary layer heights are warming at a much smaller rate than minimum temperatures is also consistent with the satellite and balloon data sets.

"Also," he continued, "without increased water vapor in the atmosphere, impacts such as more extreme precipitation events cannot occur. Models also have not captured the high latitude warming in the Arctic.

"All of the impacts that have been asserted such as more droughts, greater extreme precipitation events, more hurricanes, more tornadoes, etc. that are supposedly happening now are suspect because the major signal of deep warming of the global atmosphere has not occurred to any large degree."

McNider's research has been challenged; critics say the models' overstatement of tropospheric warming is merely an insignificant detail. Or they discount the validity of the temperature observations.

The point here isn't whether he's right or wrong. It's that there are legitimate scientific debates yet to be had, with all views equally funded and regarded. That can't happen when the science is politicized, as is climate warming.

Climate warming may turn out to be a fact, as its apostles insist, but it has a long way to go before it can be declared to be fact. Respect for scientific inquiry still demands an open mind on the issue.
Scientists probe solar wind with Cray Blue Waters supercomputer

Talk about a mathematics hot rod -- how does 13 quadrillion calculations per second grab you? A scalable computer code developed at The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) that efficiently uses supercomputing power, plus important areas of UAH scientific inquiry, landed scientists at the Department of Space Science and Center for Space Plasma and Aeronomic Research (CSPAR) in the driver's seat for a highly sought chance to run complex equations on a blisteringly fast supercomputer.

The UAH effort using the Cray Blue Waters supercomputer supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the University of Illinois, where it is located, resulted in advances in understanding solar wind and the heliosphere.

"It's one of the fastest supercomputers in the world," says Dr. Nikolai Pogorelov, who works closely with co-principal investigators Dr. Jacob Heerikhuisen and Dr. Sergey Borovikov, and who recently returned from a Blue Waters Symposium at Illinois. "It is the fastest supercomputer that is hosted by a university in the world."

Power Struggle

In the competitive and code-dense world of supercomputing, think of the UAH scientists as calculations hot rodders, vying with other researchers for computer power to test-drive equations they build to provide them with scientific answers. At the same time, running these complex calculations helps tune up the machine they are using, as ways to make it run more efficiently are discovered.

"We benefit a lot from the supercomputers made by Cray, but in a lot of cases our feedback helps Cray to make a better supercomputer," says Dr. Pogorelov. The key to achieving both results is the code used to run the program.

"If you want to do a very high resolution simulation taking advantage of a supercomputer's parallel capabilities and architecture, you must substantially rewrite your code," says Dr. Pogorelov.

Blue Waters uses hundreds of thousands of computational cores (central processing units) to achieve peak performance of more than 13 quadrillion calculations per second. It has more than 1.5 petabytes of memory, enough to store 300 million digital images; more than 25 petabytes of disk storage, enough to store all of the printed documents in all of the world's libraries; and up to 500 petabytes of tape storage, enough to store 10 percent of all of the words spoken in the existence of humankind.

Getting to drive a supercomputer like that depends on acceptance by the NSF's Petascale Computing Resource Allocations (PRAC) program of both the science being explored and efficiency shown in using the supercomputer's resources. Scientists also use the Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment (XSEDE), a single virtual system supported by the

See next page
NSF they can use to interactively share computing resources, data and expertise. There's limited supercomputing capacity available nationally, so competition is fierce.

Supercomputing Leaders

"The combination of these skills allowed us to be leaders in supercomputing in the country," says Dr. Pogorelov. "In the NSF proposal process, one goal was that only the most advanced codes should be used to achieve breakthrough results."

That is no easy task, and the UAH researchers wrote 150,000 lines of a heliospheric modeling code they call Multi-Scale Fluid-Kinetic Simulation Suite (MS-FLUKSS) in C++ and Fortran for their experiments.


When the UAH scientists added their code to the Chombo framework -- a publicly available software for adaptive solution of partial differential equations developed by the team's long-time collaborators at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory -- the result was 650,000 total lines of code.

"As a result, even doing a simple thing is not straightforward in these codes and requires a specific combination of skills in physics and space and computer science. It so happened that our group was already strong," Dr. Pogorelov says. UAH's code writers had already piloted the Cray Jaguar and Kraken, meanwhile perfecting their parallelization and data handling techniques. "When we submitted the proposal, we were expected to prove our code was scalable."

Using Blue Waters, Dr. Pogorelov says the team demonstrated its ability to scale its code to efficiently utilize 160,000 computing cores.

Two Scientific Questions

The researchers used the supercomputer to probe two scientific questions, both involving the interaction of the solar wind with the local interstellar medium nearby. The first involves why the Voyager 1 spacecraft surprised scientists by penetrating interstellar space years earlier than models had predicted it would ("Voyager 1 Near the Heliopause;" S. N. Borovikov; N. V. Pogorelov; The Astrophysical Journal Letters, Vol. 783, No. 1, 2014).

"In our study, we found out that there is an instability of the heliosphere that results in deep penetration of interstellar plasma into the heliosphere," says Dr. Pogorelov. The heliosphere, a vast "bubble" of plasma blown out from the sun, constantly presses against the greater pressure.
of the interstellar plasma. As the sun advances, it leaves a contrail of solar wind behind it and pushes a boundary of heliosphere ahead.

Dr. Pogorelov and Dr. Borovikov found that there are pockets of interstellar plasma that push into that boundary, called the heliopause, and they conclude that Voyager 1 entered a pocket to shorten its journey into interstellar plasma, a result Dr. Pogorelov is confident in. "This looks like the real thing," he said.

The second scientific question regarded the flow of the long "heliotail" contrail left by the sun, which the researchers examined using plasma kinetic particle analysis. "We modeled it, and we found that the heliotail can be very long," says Dr. Pogorelov ("Three-dimensional, numerical simulation of the heliotail using the kinetic model"; a talk by Sergey Borovikov; 2013 Fall AGU Meeting).

"We found out that the heliotail strongly mixes with the interstellar material to where the heliotail eventually seems to disappear," Dr. Pogorelov says. Their calculations showed the tail extending out to over 5,000 astronomical units. "Our prediction is that the heliotail can extend to 20,000 astronomical units downwind." To get an idea of just how long that is, just one astronomical unit is 149,597,871 kilometers.

"Technically, we are solving the system of magnetohydrodynamic equations coupled with a kinetic Boltzmann equation," Dr. Pogorelov says. The Boltzmann equation is named for Ludwig Eduard Boltzmann, an Austrian physicist and philosopher whose greatest achievement was in the development of statistical mechanics, which explains and predicts how the properties of atoms determine the physical properties of matter. "From a scientific viewpoint, it is very important that we model neutral atoms kinetically with the Boltzmann equation because collisions are very rare between hydrogen atoms and ions."

Such solutions "take a lot of computational power," says Dr. Pogorelov. "It is not only our previous research that made it possible to use this supercomputer, but our current research then leads to new results that create funding to support more projects on new questions."

One area of possible future exploration the UAH team has acquired support to deal with from NASA is a smart, adaptive refinement of the computational grid used to explore the heliosphere. "The idea is that we can perform small-scale simulations of instabilities and magnetic reconnection locally," Dr. Pogorelov says, "while simultaneously doing a good job in the resolution of global features of the solar wind's interaction with the interstellar medium."
Fuel cell power becoming more viable

By: Christopher Martin and Bloomberg News

Once relegated to the realm of science projects, hydrogen fuel cells are starting to displace fossil fuels as a means of powering cars, homes and businesses.

On June 10, in the latest addition to mainstream fuel-cell use, Hyundai will begin deliveries of a consumer SUV in Southern California. The technology is already producing electricity for the grid in Connecticut. AT&T is using fuel cells to power server farms, and Wal-Mart Stores uses hydrogen-powered forklifts. Later this summer FedEx will begin using hydrogen cargo tractors at its Memphis air hub.

"This is the most exciting time for fuel cells in my career," said Daniel Dedrick, head of hydrogen and combustion technologies at Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore, California. The hydrogen market "is starting to accelerate."

Fuel cells produce electricity from hydrogen in a process that dates back to the 1830s, yet high costs have historically made the technology better suited for Apollo space missions and Soviet submarines. In recent years, the technology has made big strides, and prices are falling. And because the process produces little or no greenhouse gases, hydrogen power stands to get a boost in the wake of President Barack Obama's recent call for tighter controls on carbon emissions.

It's still early days for hydrogen power. Prominent skeptics, including former Energy Secretary Steven Chu and Tesla Motors Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk, have questioned whether the technology will ever catch on.

Hydrogen currently provides less than 1 percent of power worldwide, while coal and gas produced 67 percent of U.S. electricity in 2012, according to the Energy Information Administration. Chu, who was appointed by Obama, called for a 44 percent reduction in funding for hydrogen research.

"People have been working to improve fuel cells for over 150 years, and it's still not commercially viable," said Joseph Romm, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, a Washington-based think-tank.

Only about 1,000 cars and buses using hydrogen technology operate today worldwide. There are nine hydrogen filling stations in California, with 48 more under development. California promises to boost that number to about 100 over the next several years. By comparison, there are 160,000 traditional filling stations across the country.

Advocates argue the hydrogen landscape could quickly evolve as corporations' use of hydrogen spreads. The infrastructure for corporate fuel cells has been quietly spreading. Across the U.S., there are now tanks of hydrogen and fueling systems for fleet vehicles and forklifts. There are pipelines delivering the fuel to refineries that use it to make gasoline. As more companies adopt hydrogen power, the needed equipment will come, said Andy Marsh, chief executive officer of Plug Power Inc. in Latham, New York.

See next page
Yet even industry leaders say that, without a national pipeline network, it will be a long time before the nascent industry will enjoy widespread development.

"You have to get critical mass to build a business case," said Ed Kiczek, global business director for hydrogen at Air Products and Chemicals in Allentown, Pennsylvania, the world's largest supplier of hydrogen. "That could be 30 years away."

For now, local pockets of hydrogen use are flourishing. Plug supplies fuel-cell powered forklifts for customers including Wal-Mart, the grocery chain Kroger and Bayerische Motoren Werke. Plug also provides hydrogen-fueling systems. Once a company has a flock of its forklifts at a warehouse, it's a short leap to installing larger fuel cells that can produce both hydrogen on site and electricity for the entire building, Marsh said.

The company is supplying the systems for FedEx's airport tractors in Memphis, another location where stationary fuel cells might eventually become either a primary or back-up source of electricity.

AT&T is the largest non-utility fuel cell customer in the U.S.. It has 17.1 megawatts of fuel cells operating at 28 sites in California and Connecticut. The systems offer cleaner power that's more consistent than electricity supplied by the grid, said John Schinter, the company's assistant vice president of energy and smart buildings.

"For us, reliability is so critical and these help us ride through power disruptions," Schinter said. "We deploy fuel cells in our high-cost markets, so these actually reduce our operating costs. We're definitely planning to expand."

Proponents of hydrogen say all this activity will soon spill over to the auto market, and it's already happening in Southern California. Hyundai will begin deliveries of its fuel-cell Tucson SUV next week. Honda already offers one there and Toyota will follow next year.

"The shift to hydrogen is inevitable, and it's happening faster than we expected," said Amory Lovins, founder of the Rocky Mountain Institute, a non-profit clean energy research organization based in Snowmass, Colorado.

Not everyone agrees. Elon Musk, a longtime critic of fuel cell technology, particularly in automobiles that compete with Tesla's Model S, revisited his opposition to the power-generating devices earlier this week.

"I'm not the biggest fan of fuel cells," Musk said at the company's annual meeting in Mountain View, California, on June 3. "I usually call them 'fool cells.' "

Even so, California is participating in an eight-state effort to get 3.3 million zero-emission cars on the road by 2025, powered by either fuel cells or batteries. Also participating are Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island and Vermont, which together account for 25 percent of all U.S. auto sales.

Some analysts are predicting steady if modest growth. Automakers may be selling 1.76 million fuel-cell vehicles a year worldwide by 2025, according to Deloitte Tohmatsu Consulting.
Cars that run on hydrogen can typically go more than 250 miles (400 kilometers) on a tank of the gas and then must be refilled. They differ from battery electric vehicles like Tesla's Model S or the Nissan Leaf, which use lithium ion batteries to store electricity. When those batteries are drained, they must be recharged.

After decades of losses, fuel cell makers are finally closing in on profits. Ballard Power Systems Inc. expects to report break-even earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization for 2014, after posting one profitable year since 1992. The Vancouver-based company supplies power systems used in buses and Plug’s forklifts.

FuelCell Energy, a supplier of large stationary systems that run buildings and factories, said Wednesday it will have break-even EBITDA by the end of this year. The company's systems are running the world's biggest fuel-cell power plant, a 59-megawatt facility in South Korea, and the first utility-scale plant in the U.S., in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Investors are taking note. Plug is up more than 1,000 percent in the past year, the best performer on the Nasdaq Composite Index. Ballard has doubled and FuelCell has gained 49 percent, compared with a 23 percent gain for the broader market index.

In the future, suppliers may tap excess power from wind and solar farms to make hydrogen, reducing the carbon emissions that come when it's derived from gas, said Michael Beckman, vice president of hydrogen fueling at Linde AG, the world's largest industrial gas supplier.

"In three to five years you will see that become more prevalent," Beckman said. "Wind and solar can make hydrogen cheap when the grid doesn't need the power."
The 97 Percent Myth

Global warming advocates routinely toss out the statistic that 97 percent of scientists agree that climate change is real and man-made. Where did that figure come from? Joseph Bast, president of the Heartland Institute, and Roy Spencer, principal research scientist for the University of Alabama in Huntsville, explain the history behind the misleading number.

In short, there is no basis for the claim that 97 percent of scientists believe that man-made climate change is a dangerous problem.

In 2004, Naomi Oreskes, a Harvard science historian, examined 928 abstracts of scientific journal articles, finding that three-quarters of them believed that humans were responsible for most of the observed warming of the last half-century.

However, Oreskes did not analyze articles by prominent scientists -- such as Richard Lindzen and John Christy -- who question the "consensus" view.

Additionally, a recent study in Nature magazine confirms that academic abstracts often contain claims that are not proven in the studies themselves. A 2009 article by University of Illinois student Maggie Kendall Zimmerman and her master's thesis adviser Peter Doran also made the 97 percent claim.

The authors made this conclusion after conducting a two-question online survey of 3,146 scientists, only 79 of which were experts in climate science and had published half of their recent peer-reviewed papers on climate change.

It did not include the scientists most likely to understand the natural causes of climate change: solar scientists, space scientists, cosmologists, physicists, meteorologists or astronomers.

Moreover, the survey did not specify whether the human impact on global warming was large enough to constitute a problem.

In 2013, Australian blogger John Cook reviewed abstracts of peer-reviewed papers published from 1991 to 2011, concluding that 97 percent of the authors who stated their position on the subject believed that human activity was responsible for some warming.

However, when University of Delaware geography professor David Legates reviewed Cook's papers, he found that only 41 of them (0.3 percent of all of the abstracts, and just 1 percent of those that expressed an opinion) believed human activity was causing most current warming.

On the other hand, write Bast and Spencer, the Petition Project -- a group of physicists and physical chemists in California -- has collected more than 31,000 signatures from scientists agreeing that there is "no convincing scientific evidence that human release of...carbon dioxide...or other greenhouse gases is causing or will, in the foreseeable future, cause catastrophic heating of the Earth's atmosphere and disruption of the Earth's climate."
PIGS IN SPACE: CLEANING THE CELESTIAL JUNKYARD

In April the International Space Station had to sidestep space junk twice in three weeks. Photo courtesy of NASA

America has no ride into space at the moment other than with its estranged Russian space partners, but we can still address cleaning up the satellite-scattered trash heap in space, says a University of Alabama in Huntsville graduate student.

From the perspective of populated areas on Earth, big space junk is a worry.

“What we’re really concerned about is the big stuff that comes in uncontrolled and breaks up in the atmosphere into big chunks,” says Tom Percy. He is the primary author with his advisor, UAH Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering professor Brian Landrum, of a paper that outlines methods and policies that could be employed to mitigate space debris.

Larger objects are more likely to have parts survive re-entry, posing a potential risk to people on the ground. Think Skylab, big parts of which were strewn across Australia, if it had landed in New York.

But the biggest worry for satellites operating in orbit comes from the smaller debris, the stuff that’s 1 to 10 cm in size – from marble to softball-sized.

“We can’t see that stuff from the ground, we can’t see it with radar and we can’t see it with satellites,” Percy says. Yet small debris has the greatest potential to damage working satellites, rockets in flight or even the International Space Station.

In early April, according to news reports, the space station had to change position to avoid a space debris field of parts from an old Ariane 5 rocket launched by the European Space Agency that came within 1,000 feet of the ISS. It was the second time in three weeks the station had to sidestep space junk.

In 1978, NASA scientist Donal J. Kessler proposed a scenario now known as the Kessler Syndrome or Kessler Effect, where the density of space junk reached a point that collisions between objects would cause a cascade that would generate further debris to promote added collisions, potentially rendering space exploration unfeasible for generations.

In his paper, Percy outlines policy initiatives and engineering solutions that could prevent that tipping point from being reached.

“What we’re concentrating on now is the methods we can use to reduce space debris easier,” Percy says. “The work I’m doing for my PhD is how to deal with the problem through design modifications or additions before a space vehicle is launched.”

Working to equip future craft for their eventual removal could have a large impact, he says, because the size of the space community is growing quickly, from 16 nations two decades ago to 46 now. Engineering solutions for future spacecraft depend on type and size, as well as orbit. A deployable sail attached to a satellite could gradually slow it in low Earth orbit so it eventually burns up in the atmosphere. Or a small and light dedicated ion propulsion pack can nudge a craft into contact with the atmosphere.

“Implementing these engineering solutions on satellites before launch is becoming more critical in the burgeoning age of cube satellites, when scores of satellites can be launched from a single rocket,” says Landrum.

Pre-launch engineered solutions will probably have to be coupled with some form of active debris removal system to clear older debris and avoid the Kessler Syndrome, Percy says. “We’re investing some time and resources into active debris removal and how that can be accomplished now.”
What happened during House Science committee hearing on climate change? Tell us what you think

By: Paul Gattis

WASHINGTON - The U.S. House Science, Space & Technology Committee, of which U.S. Rep. Mo Brooks, R-Huntsville, is a member, held a hearing Thursday "to examine the methodology and reliability of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fifth Assessment Report."

The takeaway for what happened in the hearing depends on your point of view.

Brooks' office issued a press release late Thursday about the hearing, which included this paragraph:

John Christy chart 5.30.14View full sizeA chart put together by John Christy, director of the Earth System Science Center at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, that was used during a House hearing Thursday to demonstrate how climate change models are inaccurate. (Submitted by office of U.S. Rep. Mo Brooks)

During the hearing, Brooks questioned the expert witnesses about climate models used by the Obama Administration to justify costly policies that stifle economic growth, cost jobs, and burden American families with higher costs of living. Brooks asked whether these climate projection models should be relied on given that past, real climate data (referenced in the below chart created by Dr. John Christy at the University of Alabama in Huntsville) proves the climate models have been notably inaccurate in predicting future climate change. The witnesses' response: excellent question.

Meanwhile, one of the witnesses at the hearing -- Michael Oppenheimer, Albert G. Milbank Professor of Geosciences and International Affairs, Department of Geosciences, Princeton University - summed up his views on Twitter that linked to his blog about the hearing.

The Washington Times covered the hearing. Committee chair Lamar Smith, R-Texas, released this statement about the hearing, which included this conclusion:

"The Obama administration should stop trying to scare Americans and then impose costly, unnecessary regulations on them. The President says there is no debate. Actually the debate has only just begun.

"When assessing climate change, we need to make sure that findings are driven by science, not an alarmist, partisan agenda."

Brooks' press release included a Q&A between Brooks and panelists Roger Pielke Sr., Senior Research Scientist, Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, and Professor
Emeritus of Atmospheric Science, Colorado State University, and Daniel Botkin, Professor Emeritus, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Here is that Q&A:

Congressman Brooks: Why does it matter that these climate models have failed so frequently?

Dr. Pielke: Well it's one of the tests of the model. I mean, if you're going to use these models to try to predict what will happen in the next several decades, you want to have some confidence that they're robust tools, and I think the models have failed to show that. In fact, I think they've been a cause for a lot of the debate and discussion. And I think, what Michael was saying, we don't probably need the models, because the models are misleading us. They're talking about a future that may not occur. It certainly hasn't shown that the models are able to replicate what's happened in the last several decades. And so you wouldn't believe a weather prediction model that was forecast for tomorrow or the next day if it kept failing all the time. I think that's what we have with these climate models. They're not ready for prime time. Models are very useful. They understand processes, they can help assimilate data, but as forecasting tools decades into the future, they're not ready.

Brooks: Dr. Botkin, do you have anything to add?

Dr. Botkin: Yes, first of all, the models are well known not to be very well validated at any level. And there's work, such as by [J.] Scott Armstrong, who's an expert on model validation mainly for businesses, and he says that these climate models meet hardly any of the criteria for legitimate validation. And so, you have to question the validity of the model. And I say this having worked on some of the models. I had a graduate student who added vegetation to one of the climate models as his Ph.D. thesis. So I think that the models, since they are so much failing to come close and haven't been well-validated, they're not a good guide now.

Brooks: Well we've used this "97% of scientists agree" kind of number--is it fair to say that close to 100% of scientists agree that our models are failures?

Pielke: No, a lot of people--look, obviously they don't believe they're failures because they base the IPCC and national climate assessment on it.

Brooks: Well let me be more specific, that for the time frame from 2000 to 2014 that they have failed?

Pielke: I would think some would still disagree. They've been trying to explain why they're not agreeing, why there's less warming. They say now the warming has gone deeper into the ocean, for example, which obviously raises the question, if it's gone deeper in the ocean, why didn't they predict that? But I would think there are people who are still arguing that the models are robust.
Brooks: Well I'm looking at the graph, is this graph accurate?

Pielke: Yes, the graph is accurate.

Brooks: Well the graph shows that the models don't correspond with actual temperatures. So how can people contend that the models are good if they're way off base with the temperatures, with the exception of perhaps one or two out of all the models being run?

Pielke: That is an excellent question. But I think it's even broader than that because as I showed in my written testimony, there are a range of peer-reviewed papers that have shown when these models have run over the last several decades, they can't predict regional statistics well at all, they can't predict changes in regional climate statistics, and therefore there's a whole range of reasons they shouldn't be accepted. But the problem is this issue is not being discussed, and it wasn't discussed at the NIPCC.

So what do you think? Drop a comment below.
5.5% tuition increase OK'd by trustees at UWA

Firm hired to help in national search for new president

By Ed Enoch
Staff writer

LIVINGSTON | The University of West Alabama board of trustees on Monday approved a 5.5 percent tuition increase and hired a Birmingham executive search firm to aid the search for a new school president.

The tuition increase will be used to retire debt on a $25 million 2012 bond issue for capital improvements and increase revenue for the general fund. The increase of about $179 for Alabama residents and $358 for out of state students is expected to generate about $500,000 annually, according to Raiford Noland, vice president of financial affairs. Interim President John Blackwell said the increase would start this fall.

Trustee Alex Saad, chairman of the finance committee, said there was about $602,000 in fixed cost increases estimated for the upcoming fiscal year — a mix of personnel, insurance and maintenance costs associated with Lyons Hall, the former Livingston High School building that UWA bought and renovated.

Saad said the tentative general fund budget approved Monday would become the foundation of more detailed budget discussion before the fall, including the online programs budget. Noland said the budget for the online courses has yet to be prepared for the upcoming fiscal year.

"I will tell you this has been the oddest budget we have ever had to approve," Saad said. "There has not been a lot of budgeting because of the situation we have just been through."

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UWA
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The tuition increase spurred discussion of student retention and enrollment at UWA, which had about 3,241 traditional students and 2,256 online students in the fall. Blackwell said recruiting and retention remain the administration's top priorities.

The campus has seen a gradual decline in enrollment during recent years, with retention of students a major concern. In the fall of 2009, on-campus enrollment was 2,256 and online enrollment was 2,901, according to UWA enrollment records. First-year retention rates of new students have averaged about 56 percent for the past few years, according to UWA enrollment figures.

"We need to get every single student we can get at the university," Saad said.

The board heard a brief report during its full meeting from the Division of Online Programs about efforts to reverse the slide in enrollment. "We feel the pressure; we are ready to hit the ground running," Jan Miller, dean of Division of Online Programs, said.

Lisa Compton, director of online recruiting, said the strategies include attracting more students with online marketing, adding new products and expanding the university's recruitment area.

The trustees approved spending up to $100,000 to retain WholeSale Partners of Birmingham to assist with the search for a successor to Richard Holland, who resigned as president this spring. The allocation was added to the agenda during the finance committee meeting ahead of the general board meeting.

Board President Terry Bunn introduced the measure. "I just think it is crucial that this board take the proper actions to assure we get the most qualified individual that we can get," Bunn said.

Trustee Jerry Smith made the motion during the regular meeting to hire the firm. UWA hopes to find a new president in a national search within a year. The board named a 10-member search committee of faculty, staff, students and trustees in April. Holland resigned in May after a public dispute over the extension of his contract until 2016.

Blackwell said the university had reach settlements with the former president, former provost David Taylor and employee Billy McFarland. The three were part of a group that special investigators hired by the trustees say conspired to pressure the board to extend Holland's contract.

During the facilities committee meeting, Smith also suggested the board consider renovating and updating the president's home, a two-story brick structure adjacent to Brock Hall on campus. "We are about to begin the search process, and I think it is important to update that house," Smith said.

Bunn agreed and asked for a report on the status of the home by the next meeting.

The trustees voted again in committee to table a decision on whether to begin design work and bid letting on the renovation of Bibb Graves Hall, a proposed project that would include work on the roof, windows and bathrooms in the aging building. The work is estimated to cost about $2.1 million, according to a presentation by HOAR Project Management.

The building houses the Education and Natural Sciences and Mathematics colleges and the Division of Online Programs, according to the UWA website.

The board voted in March to delay the next stage of the project as a precaution against cost overruns on other construction projects underway.

Blackwell suggested putting the decision on hold again during a discussion by the facilities committee that focused on the planned use for the facility weighed against the estimated cost of the construction. Smith made the motion for the delay.

Saad expressed concerns about the state of the roof, gutters and windows, arguing the building would have to be updated and maintained regardless of its future use. "We have to make some decisions about that building, particularly with the roof and the windows," Saad said.

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Tuesday, June 03, 2014

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NEW APPOINTMENT

Birmingham-Southern College has named a new provost and vice president for academic affairs—Michelle Behr of the University of Northern Colorado.

Behr, currently acting dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at UNC, will assume her new duties on July 7.

She will replace Mark Schantz, who recently announced that he wants to go back to the classroom to teach history after a sabbatical the next academic year.

The provost and VP for academic affairs reports to the president, is the school's chief academic officer and has broad responsibilities for the full range of the college's academic programs and support services.

Behr's has been in academia for more than 25 years and has a lot of experience in higher education administration, according to the school. At UNC, she manages 150 full-time faculty and staff and a $14 million budget.

A New York City native, Behr has bachelor's and master's degrees in anthropology and a Ph.D in geography. She has published and lectured on topics ranging from higher education to population demographics, and her work has been featured in such magazines as National Geographic and World Geography.

Jose Chambers
FOOTBALL

UAB

Blazers set for two televised games on 2014 C-USA schedule.

Conference USA announced its preliminary television schedule for the 2014 football season Thursday and UAB is listed for a pair of broadcasts.

The Blazers’ season opener on Aug. 30 against Troy will kick off at 11 a.m. at Legion Field and will be televised by FOX College Sports. UAB’s Oct. 18 contest at Conference USA foe Middle Tennessee will also be a FOX College Sports telecast. It will kick off at 2:30 p.m.

UAB will meet Troy for the 12th time overall and for the sixth consecutive season. This will be the seventh matchup between the schools in Alabama.

Solomon Crenshaw Jr.
Florida wins softball title with second win over Alabama

By Tommy Deas
Executive Sports Editor

OKLAHOMA CITY | The University of Alabama softball team had a plan for Hannah Rogers.

From what little could be seen Tuesday night at ASA Hall of Fame Stadium, it looked like a pretty good one.

Problem was, the Crimson Tide saw Florida’s ace pitcher for only two innings in the Women’s College World Series final.

Florida used a combination of three pitchers, saving Rogers for last, and kept Alabama batters off stride enough for a 6-3 national championship victory.

Alabama (53-13) had to settle for a second-place finish, dropping two straight games to the Gators (54-13) in the best-of-three national title series.

UF started junior Lauren Haeger rather than Rogers, who had pitched her team through the entire World Series, and then turned to freshman left-hander Delanie Gourley in middle relief before Rogers got the ball.

“We were ready for whoever they were going to throw,” senior infielder Kaila Hunt said. “We had a plan for each one of them.”

Florida had a plan, too, and employed it to attack UF ace Jaclyn Traina. The Gators knocked her out of the game for the second night in a row, this time early, posting five runs in the first two innings to take control of the contest.

Traina, the two-time Southeastern Conference Pitcher of the Year, seemed to have used all she had left in her senior season to get Alabama to the title series.

“It happens,” she said. “My pitches may not have been as sharp.”

By the time the Crimson Tide saw Rogers, who pitched the final two innings for the save to close out her senior year with a national title, Florida had the lead and time was running out for Alabama. The Gators’ ace entered in the sixth inning with a three-run lead, and UF added an insurance run in the bottom of the inning to give her a bigger cushion for Alabama’s final turn at bat.

UA went down in order in the sixth, but pounced on Rogers in the seventh. Sophomore outfielder Haylie McCleney roped a triple to left-center after Florida’s Kirsti Merritt made a diving catch in center field for the first out on a well-hit ball by pinch hitter Andrea Hawkins. Another impressive defensive play on a fly ball to left put Florida one out.

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away from capturing the title trophy, but Hunt hit a hard single to drive in McClency to cut the UF lead to three runs.

Rogers, the tournament's Most Outstanding Player, fielded a hard grounder up the middle off of the bat of Jadyen Spencer for out three.

"The biggest thing was they continued innings and they got key hits," Alabama coach Patrick Murphy said of the Gators. "We just couldn't get that big inning and we hit into way too many double plays. You know, unlucky."

Florida committed four errors, but followed two of them with double plays to erase the mistakes. Alabama wasn't able to capitalize on the other two miscues.

UF coach Tim Walton's decision to start junior Haeger instead of Rogers might have been a surprise, but Alabama was prepared. UA started the top of the first with singles by McClency and Kallie Case, and Spencer singled in a run for a 1-0 lead.

"You have to be ready for anything," Spencer said. "I wouldn't say it was necessarily a surprise because we had seen all three of them before."

Kelsey Stewart evened the score with a solo home run off Traina in the bottom of the inning, and Florida took over in the second inning with a four-run outburst. The Gators put together three consecutive singles before Kirstl Merritt's three-run homer put UF up 5-1.

Freshman Sydney Littlejohn came on in relief of Traina and gave up one run on six hits in 4 2/3 innings.

Florida committed four errors, but followed two of them with double plays to erase the mistakes. Alabama wasn't able to capitalize on the other two miscues.

Alabama continued to get to Haeger, with Hunt hitting a solo homer in the third to cut the deficit to 5-2. Florida turned to Gourley in the fourth, when UAblew its biggest chance to get back in the game when it failed to scratch in a bases-loaded situation with two outs.

Rogers came on to get the final six outs, surviving Alabama's seventh-inning rally.

The finish to Alabama's season was emotional for the players, but not a completely tearful affair.

"It was a good moment," Traina said of UA's final gathering in the outfield after the game.

"To be able to be around these people, they're great people. The best thing that I'm going to take from this is the memories and the relationships that I built with these, you know, my family. "And yeah, I didn't come out with a win; but all I can ask is to have great memories with them and that's what I'll take with me."

Traina and Hunt were named to the World Series all-tournament team.

Reach Tommy Deas at tommy@tidesports.com or at 205-722-0224.
Future excites Alabama's Murphy

By Tommy Deas
Executive Sports Editor

OKLAHOMA CITY | The University of Alabama softball team will lose five seniors who were part of one national championship run and who played out their careers with a second-place finish at the Women's College World Series.

The Crimson Tide will return eight players who are coming off their first World Series run, as well as a few veteran 2015 seniors who were part of the national title team when they were freshmen.

Patrick Murphy, the coach who guided UA through it all, as well as four Southwestern Conference championships in the last five years, is excited about the future.

"I think it's terrific because those ... newbies got to experience a ride of a lifetime," Murphy said. "They've got that experience now, they're going to have that hunger when we come back in the fall."

Alabama lost 6-3 to Florida on Tuesday night to drop its second game in the best-of-three national championship series at ASA Hall of Fame Stadium. The Crimson Tide finished with a 53-13 record.

UA will lose two-time SEC Pitcher of the Year Jaclyn Traina, standout infielder Kaila Hunt and catcher Molly Fichtner as well as role players Jordan Patterson and Ryan Iamurri.

"The five seniors, they've been the easiest kids to coach," Murphy said. "Not one issue off the field, everybody is above 3.4 (grade-point average), four of the five are going to graduate in four years — with Kaila being the lone one because she's got to student teach, and it's impossible to student teach and play at the same time."

Alabama will return everyday players like center fielder Haylie McCleney, a first-team All-American, fellow outfielder Jady Spencer and shortstop Danae Hays, along with first baseman Leona Lafaele and outfielder Kallie Case. Also back will be key freshmen who emerged in the postseason: third baseman Peyton Grantham and utility player Marisa Runyon.

The most important piece of the puzzle might be pitcher Sydney Littlejohn, who made strides late in the season to position herself to take over the ace spot held by Traina over the last three years. She will be joined by senior-to-be Leslie Jury, who also got World Series experience, and incoming freshman Alexis Osorio, a highly recruited prospect from California.

"To have Sydney and Leslie both get to pitch this week was awesome, too, and I think a lot of people got to see what Sydney is capable of," Murphy said. "It's going to be a lot of fun with her."

Traina, too, had high praise for Littlejohn.

"I'm really proud of her for what she's done here," Traina said. "She is going to do a lot of great things at Alabama."

Littlejohn benefitted from a season as Traina's understudy.

"Learning everything that I have from Jac is definitely going to carry me over through the next three years," she said. "She has been a great leader not only for me and Leslie, but for this entire team."

"What she has done for this team is truly remarkable, and we're just going to try to carry on her legacy."

Reach Tommy Deas at tommy@tidesports.com or at 205-722-0224.
Alabama makes a large, smart bet on Nick Saban

Alabama fans must not be the only ones who think that a) the Kick Six was a lightning bolt out of the blue and orange, and b) lightning will NEVER AGAIN strike twice. Or at least not anytime soon.

"Apparently, that’s an official University of Alabama position as well.

Why else would the school give Nick Saban $1.4 million raise for this year right after he lost the Mother of All Iron Bowls?"

Oh, that’s right. Texas was about to be in the market for a new coach at the time, and some of the Big Oil bars then wanted to sign over half their cattle and much of their oil to hire Saban.

Timing is everything.

Money isn’t, but when the compensation committee of the Alabama Board of Trustees approved Saban’s raise and two-year contract extension on Tuesday — like there was a choice — they made him an even richer and more powerful man.

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Do the math, and Alabama will have paid Saban $55.2 million between now and Jan. 31, 2022 if he's still the school's football coach three months after his 70th birthday. That's $6.9 million a year for each of the next eight years, and that's if he doesn't reach any of his incentives.

It's hard to imagine that he won't win the occasional SEC Championship Game, which is worth another $125,000 to him, or reach the playoff semifinals ($200,000) or finals ($300,000) or win another national title ($400,000) at least a time or two.

He has four rings now, and though he's never said it, and always focuses on the journey rather than the destination, I believe he's driven to add at least two more national championships to match the record six of Bear Bryant.

I expect Saban will get there with room on this contract to spare. He's still that good at what he does, which makes him worth the incredible investment that seems obscene only when it's not measured against the even greater return.

As much as some Auburn fans see the 0-2 conclusion of last season as the beginning of the end for Saban, that's more wishful thinking than predictable decline.

If better be. Alabama's betting a lot of money on it.

There were great expectations before Saban arrived in Tuscaloosa, and he's raised the bar even higher. Occasional Iron Bowl losses can be tolerated as long as they're sandwiched in between national championships.

One contract item that hasn't changed from the start: Saban still has the power to walk away from Alabama to take another job without owing the school a penny. The school gave him that power when it hired him, and he's done nothing to forfeit that privilege. It's always possible the landscape will change, but something tells me that Texas had the last, best shot at luring him away to another school.

Alabama responded to that threat by showing Saban just how much it values him. He should respond by coaching his last game, sometime between now and January of 2022, in crimson.
Cal finds little company in push to cut subsidies

By: Steve Berkowitz, Christopher Schnaars and Jodi Upton

The University of California-Berkeley's dramatic, sustained decrease in its subsidization of its athletics program during a recent three-year period may well be replicable by other NCAA Division I schools.

But none has done it.

According to Cal athletics director Sandy Barbour and the campus' vice chancellor for administration and finance, John Wilton, none has even asked Cal officials how they did it.

DATABASE: College athletics finance database

"I think there are a couple of reasons for that — one of which is I think it's widely recognized that, in about every way imaginable, Berkeley's different," Barbour said with a chuckle.

Just five of the 227 public schools that were in Division I from 2009-10 through 2012-13 have managed to reduce their subsidies for athletics in each of the past three years, a USA TODAY Sports analysis found — Cal, Illinois, Missouri, South Carolina State and Southern Illinois. And Cal was the only one of those five to drop its subsidies by more than $1.2 million during those years.

USA TODAY Sports has collected the schools' financial information dating from the 2004-05 fiscal year. The data are now collected in conjunction with Indiana University's National Sports Journalism Center.

From 2009-10 through 2012-13, there were seven public schools that received no subsidy money in any of those four years: LSU, Nebraska, Ohio State, Oklahoma, Penn State, Purdue, Texas. All are members of one of the six elite conferences — the Atlantic Coast, Big 12, Big East, Big Ten, Pacific-12 and Southeastern.

Comparing figures from 2009-10 to those from 2012-13, roughly one in three of the other 48 power-conference public schools has reduced subsidies for athletics while one in 13 of the non-power-conference schools has done so.

This potentially adds fuel to the ongoing debate about the future look of major-college sports. The power conference schools' revenues are going to continue climbing with the start of the College Football Playoff and television-related developments like the continued growth of the Pac-12 Networks, the SEC Network's debut. Those schools are campaigning for changes in the NCAA's governance structure that would allow them to make rules changes such as increasing the value of athletic scholarship so it can fully cover the actual cost of attending college.
Schools outside the power conferences have resisted these types of changes, in part, because they know their athletics departments will have a tough time generating enough new revenues to cover the increased costs. That will mean falling further away from the elites — or continuing to increase subsidies, either by making greater demands on debt-burdened students or on tight university budgets.

RAISE: Nick Saban to make $6.9 million per year

Whether Cal and its 30-sport, 850-athlete program can continue on its path remains to be seen. It will have to keep increasing its revenue to pay off $445 million in long-term facilities debt and the cost of additional benefits for athletes that could be triggered by Division I governance changes and/or various litigation against the NCAA such as the Ed O’Bannon class-action anti-trust case scheduled for trial starting Monday in U.S. District Court in Oakland.

For now, though, Cal has been able to leverage advantages that schools from one of the six — soon to be five — power conferences have. For example, Cal has been helped immeasurably by the Pac-12’s 12-year, $3 billion television contract.

Kansas also has been helped by a new Big 12 TV deal, and earlier this year, it announced a reduction in the student athletics fee, beginning this fall.

O’BANNON CASE: Mark Emmert to testify

Meanwhile, some schools even in not-quite-elite, but-definitely-not-TV-billionaire conferences have been continuing to increase their subsidies of athletics programs. From 2009-10 to 2012-13, Houston — in Conference USA during those years, but now in the American Athletic Conference — has increased subsidies from $17.4 million to $26.1 million. Mountain West member Colorado State has increased subsidies from $13.3 million to $18 million.

Colorado State spokesman Mike Hooker said the school had no comment.

Houston's university chief financial officer Carl Carlucci says "of course, there is concern" within the university's administration about the increasing subsidy — especially since the athletics department has made no progress in paying down an accumulated operating debt of $8 million that has been on the books since 2009. But he points out that Houston's students voted to increase student fees to help pay for a soon-to-be opening, $120 million football stadium that also has drawn $60 million in donations and that the university views as a future money-maker for athletics.

"Our strategy is very much on the revenue side," Carlucci said. "There's a certain amount of spending that you have to incur and the real issue is — well — my impression is, the biggest institutions, they generate a lot of revenue."

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PROTEST AT CAL

Cal went from generating $57.2 million in athletics operating revenue in 2009-10 and having $69.3 million in operational spending, to generating $86.9 million in operating revenue 2012-13 and having $90.1 million in operational spending.

The difference is the sum of "hundreds of different things," Wilton says.

But the first one is undeniable. A place where campus protest has been raised to an art form, Cal faced an uproar in 2010 after university support and student fees totaled $7.5 million in 2007-08, then $12.1 million plus a $5.6 million loan in '08-'09, then $12.1 million in '09-'10.

Two campus task forces — one appointed by then-chancellor Robert Birgeneau, one by the faculty senate — agreed that the subsidy for athletics had to be reduced. The target was a $5 million subsidy by the 2013-14 school year.

A major challenge under the best of circumstances, this was to occur while Cal completed, and began paying for, a $321 million seismic-retrofitting and renovation of its football stadium and the construction of a $153 million athletics training center.

Initially, a big part of the solution was cutting five teams. However, more than $10 million in specifically targeted fundraising pledges saved those teams. Meanwhile, Cal began benefiting from the Pac-12's new TV arrangements.

"Certainly, there are some things that have gone really well for us," Barbour said.

And while undertaking the construction projects, Barbour said, "I think it's widely known that we have not blindly followed the arms race and that there are things that we're just not willing to do, or perhaps you would say we don't have to do because of the pre-eminence of our institution and why people make a decision to come to Cal. ... Our facilities, they're fantastic ... but they're not over the top. They're not glitzy."

However, Cal's athletics program did start becoming like many others in undertaking business deals the school never had seen before: Selling long-term seat licenses for premium locations in the stadium; negotiating a naming rights contract for the stadium's field; hiring an outside company to help design the seat license program and then adding 15 people to its in-house sales and service staff; leasing space in the stadium to other campus units.

Still other unprecedented moves have come more recently: contracts to host a soccer match between European club powers Real Madrid and Inter Milan on July 26 and moving a home football game this season against Oregon from Memorial Stadium to the San Francisco 49ers' new Levi's Stadium; allowing weddings and other special events to be held in the stadium.

"We have to be paying attention every day — every minute of every day," said Barbour, who is well aware that the $445 million in facilities debt — while under control for now at $18 million a year — will remain an issue for decades. "John and I probably see each other far more than we..."
want to, but ... intercollegiate athletics is a very powerful and valuable contributor to the
vibrancy of any campus — certainly this campus — and it is worthy of institutional support. ... The question becomes, OK, what is that number? And that's one that all campuses struggle with
— what is that number?"

At Kansas, another of the power-conference schools, the struggle ended up in the hands of
chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. After KU's 2012-13 financial report to the NCAA showed
$93.1 million in total operating revenue and a $13.4 million operating surplus, the university's
Student Senate pressed for a decrease in the already relatively low athletics fee, and Gray-Little
accommodated the request.

"We discussed this issue with the students and with athletics a number of times," she said. "I
think it was the case that reducing the fee was not going to be crippling to athletics. ... If
athletics had been broke, would we have made the same decision? Probably not, and I doubt that
the students would have asked for the reduction."

HOUSTON'S PROBLEM

Houston's students, in the winter of 2012 overwhelmingly voted in favor of a $50 per semester
fee increase, $45 of which is being put toward the football stadium and a renovation of Hofheinz
Pavilion, the school's basketball arena. The result was a $3.4 million increase in the athletics
department's subsidy total.

But in 2012-13, the university added to that, as well.

University CFO Carlucci said the school's exit from Conference USA involved a $3.35 million
fee that the university covered. Absent the exit fee, the university's contribution to the athletics
program would have declined from $16.9 million in 2011-12 to just under $15 million in 2012-
13.

The increase in university support related to the exit fee might have been less problematic if
Houston's conference destination had remained the one it envisioned when it announced its
departure from Conference USA in December 2011. That didn't happen, however. In November
2012, the Big East that Houston thought it was joining saw Louisville and Rutgers announce
their departures for the Atlantic Coast Conference and Big Ten, respectively. Basketball-only
members such as Georgetown and Villanova later voted to leave, and they negotiated to take the
Big East name with them.

This school year, Houston began competing in the nascent American Athletic Conference, which
will be generating substantially less revenue for Houston than the school had anticipated it would
be receiving from the former Big East, Carlucci said. To help offset that, while construction of
the new football stadium proceeded, the school made a comprehensive facilities-management
agreement with an outside, private company — Aramark. The company, according to spokesman
David Freirich, is taking over event operations, booking and ticketing; maintenance; food and
beverage programs and retail merchandising at all of the school's athletics facilities. The goal,
said Carlucci, is to turn them into "entertainment venues ... producing a revenue stream for athletics.

"I don't think anybody has a partnership quite like this one," he added. "Even before the stadium opens, they've started (booking) in events."

Ultimately, though, Carlucci knows that an outside management company can be only part of Houston's plan to lower its subsidy for athletics and begin recovering the debt owed by athletics.

He got a reminder last November, when Houston's Student Fees Advisory Committee recommended approval of the athletics department's fiscal 2014-15 request for the same $4.4 million in fee money that the department received for 2013-14. In its annual memo to university president Renu Khator and vice president for student affairs Richard Walker, the committee wrote it "would like to see an increased emphasis on development activities and season ticket sales. We believe it is imperative for the success of (the) department to seek revenue sources from outside the university."

Carlucci said that is supposed to happen.

"I guess to summarize, the AD (Mack Rhoades) is telling us that they will win more games and sell more tickets, and that's part of the plan with the new stadium. And my development officer (vice president for university advancement Eloise Stuhr), she's telling me that they'll make more friends and raise more money. And that we'll find out."

Asked what happens if those things don't happen, there was a long pause before Carlucci responded.

"We ask that for every business: What happens if things don't work?" he said. "And at that point, the plan has to be re-visited, but right now we're working on making the plan work."
Notable & Quotable: Mike Bloomberg at Harvard

Intolerance of ideas—whether liberal or conservative—is antithetical to individual rights and free societies.

From former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s commencement address at Harvard University, May 29:

Repressing free expression is a natural human weakness, and it is up to us to fight it at every turn. Intolerance of ideas—whether liberal or conservative—is antithetical to individual rights and free societies, and it is no less antithetical to great universities and first-rate scholarship.

There is an idea floating around college campuses—including here at Harvard—that scholars should be funded only if their work conforms to a particular view of justice. There’s a word for that idea: censorship. And it is just a modern-day form of McCarthyism.

Think about the irony: In the 1950s, the right wing was attempting to repress left wing ideas. Today, on many college campuses, it is liberals trying to repress conservative ideas, even as conservative faculty members are at risk of becoming an endangered species. And perhaps nowhere is that more true than here in the Ivy League.

In the 2012 presidential race, according to Federal Election Commission data, 96% of all campaign contributions from Ivy League faculty and employees went to Barack Obama.

Ninety-six percent. There was more disagreement among the old Soviet Politburo than there is among Ivy League donors.

That statistic should give us pause—and I say that as someone who endorsed President Obama for re-election—because let me tell you, neither party has a monopoly on truth or God on its side.

When 96% of Ivy League donors prefer one candidate to another, you have to wonder whether students are being exposed to the diversity of views that a great university should offer.

Diversity of gender, ethnicity, and orientation is important. But a university cannot be great if its faculty is politically homogenous. In fact, the whole purpose of granting tenure to professors is to ensure that they feel free to conduct research on ideas that run afoul of university politics and societal norms.

When tenure was created, it mostly protected liberals whose ideas ran up against conservative norms.

Today, if tenure is going to continue to exist, it must also protect conservatives whose ideas run up against liberal norms. Otherwise, university research—and the professors who conduct it—will lose credibility.

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Great universities must not become predictably partisan. And a liberal arts education must not be an education in the art of liberalism.

The role of universities is not to promote an ideology. It is to provide scholars and students with a neutral forum for researching and debating issues—without tipping the scales in one direction, or repressing unpopular views.

Requiring scholars—and commencement speakers, for that matter—to conform to certain political standards undermines the whole purpose of a university.

This spring, it has been disturbing to see a number of college commencement speakers withdraw—or have their invitations rescinded—after protests from students and—to me, shockingly—from senior faculty and administrators who should know better.

It happened at Brandeis, Haverford, Rutgers, and Smith. Last year, it happened at Swarthmore and Johns Hopkins, I’m sorry to say.

In each case, liberals silenced a voice—and denied an honorary degree—to individuals they deemed politically objectionable. That is an outrage and we must not let it continue.

If a university thinks twice before inviting a commencement speaker because of his or her politics, censorship and conformity—the mortal enemies of freedom—win out.

And sadly, it is not just commencement season when speakers are censored.

Last fall, when I was still in City Hall, our Police Commissioner was invited to deliver a lecture at another Ivy League institution—but he was unable to do so because students shouted him down.

Isn’t the purpose of a university to stir discussion, not silence it? What were the students afraid of hearing? Why did administrators not step in to prevent the mob from silencing speech? And did anyone consider that it is morally and pedagogically wrong to deprive other students the chance to hear the speech?

... As a former chairman of Johns Hopkins, I strongly believe that a university’s obligation is not to teach students what to think but to teach students how to think. And that requires listening to the other side, weighing arguments without prejudging them, and determining whether the other side might actually make some fair points.

If the faculty fails to do this, then it is the responsibility of the administration and governing body to step in and make it a priority. If they do not, if students graduate with ears and minds closed, the university has failed both the student and society.