ARTICLES OF INTEREST

For specific news stories, see the following page numbers:

NEWS ABOUT

TRUSTEES/SYSTEM INFORMATION 2
STATE ISSUES 5
UA CAMPUS ISSUES 6
UAB CAMPUS ISSUES 24
UAH CAMPUS ISSUES 32
OTHER STATE UNIVERSITIES 39
SPORTS 42
NATIONAL NEWS 51
Unanswered questions surround hiring of Jo Bonner

By John Brinkerhoff
Opinion Editor

On May 23, Josiah "Jo" Bonner, a respected Congressman from Alabama 1st district in Mobile, announced that he was resigning from his seat in the U.S. House of Representatives to take the position of Vice Chancellor of Government Relations and Economic Development within The University of Alabama System.

At first glance, this move would seem to be a good match. After all, Bonner has decades of service, as a congressional staffer, and later as a Congressman and chair of the House Ethics Committee. Even within the UA system, he was active within the University of Alabama Alumni Association. His connections, expertise and dedication would appear to serve the University system well.

However, the actual story is a bit more complicated. As the brother of UA President Judy Bonner, questions have been raised regarding the role of nepotism in the selection. Those questions have been compounded by the fact that the position itself is new, and its responsibilities, as well as potential benefits to students, are unclear to the public.

Why was the position created, and why was Jo Bonner selected for it? Did family play a role in the process or was experience the main determining factor?

The answers are not so clear.

John Brinkerhoff is the Opinion Editor of the Crimson White.
Suitability, not nepotism, reasoning behind selection of Rep. Jo Bonner

By Regan Williams
Staff Columnist

This month, The University of Alabama System welcomed an alumnus back into its ranks to fill a brand new position. Congressman Jo Bonner's selection as the vice chancellor of governmental relations and economic development has drawn some controversy. Rep. Bonner also happens to be the brother of President Judy Bonner. Now, to some, this is seen as a terrible thing and should be stopped. However, when the issue is seriously examined, it is clearly not a scandal.

A common accusation is that Bonner's hiring is nepotism and a case study in unfair hiring practices. They feel Rep. Bonner is only being hired because of the fact that his sister is president of The University of Alabama.

This idea is just false and shrouded in misconception. The first issue is that President Bonner works for The University of Alabama. Rep. Bonner will work for The University of Alabama System. There is a huge difference. The University of Alabama is only the Tuscaloosa campus, but Rep. Bonner will be working for all three campuses in the state, not just our campus. This means they will not be working in the same office. Furthermore, they will not even be working in the same city. Rep. Bonner is working in an office in Montgomery.

It may seem a little fishy at first, but President Bonner did not hire her brother, nor did she have a way to authorize it. So the whole idea that President Bonner made a position for her brother is ludicrous. Chancellor Robert Witt was the one who hired Rep. Bonner. It was his idea, and he created the position.

Surely the litmus test for making an appropriate hiring test should include a candidate's suitability for the position? Well, butter my biscuit. It is a governmental relations job. Someone who spent 10 and half years in Congress is taking a job to work with governments. Gasp!

In all seriousness: This is exactly why we need him. The government is constantly changing, and as new policies are passed and new grants become available, why would we not want someone who spent 10 and a half years in Congress helping us make sure we are well represented?

We need someone with government experience to help us go to the next level. We also need someone who loves the state and all the universities in the system to take the position. Rep. Bonner has great ties to the system as a double graduate of the University with an undergraduate degree and a law degree.

He now has worked as a civil servant more than a decade, serving this great state to his best ability. Rep. Bonner fits the job perfectly, and he is what we need in order to keep on climbing to the top of the list of public universities. This is an individual who has given his life to helping this state, and now he is just finding a new avenue to help the state in new ways.

These two siblings have done so much for not only the University but also the state of Alabama. It is not only ridiculous to think that this was wrong but just plain insulting toward a family that has given so much time and energy to ensure our education. Instead of questioning these individuals, we should be thanking them.

Regan Williams is a senior majoring in political science and communication studies.
UA student body deserves answers about ‘tailor-made’ Bonner position

By Nathan James
Senior Staff Columnist

If you’re a student at The University of Alabama, you should be questioning the hire of Josiah “Jo” Bonner.

For those of you who haven’t been keeping abreast of the situation, here are the details: Jo Bonner, Alabama congressman and younger brother of President Judy Bonner, was recently hired by The University of Alabama System. His job, vice chancellor of government relations and economic development, did not exist until it was created for Jo Bonner.

This position also seems to have no job description. No one has released any kind of statement detailing what, exactly, Jo Bonner will be expected to do.

The salary for this job has not been established, which is interesting, since Jo Bonner gave up a successful political career to work at the University. He must feel confident that he will be well-compensated.

So to recap: The president’s brother was given a job that was created out of thin air. No details have been given as to why this position is now suddenly necessary, or why Jo Bonner was the person to fill it. The only thing known about Jo Bonner’s new salary is that it will be substantial. No one but Jo ‘Bonner’ appears to have been given the chance to apply for the job.

To be blunt, it appears that this new position was tailor-made to give our president’s brother a job at the Capstone. That’s a longer way of saying this taxpayer-funded position was created not for the taxpayers, and not for the students, but for the Bonners.

I suppose UA administrators expect the student body to trust that nepotism was not a factor in Jo Bonner’s hiring. But frankly, my trust doesn’t extend quite this far.

So what should UA administrators do to prove their integrity? For starters, they should tell us what the vice chancellor of government relations and economics will do. I’m not talking about some meaningless piece of fluff, like “harnessing the diverse strengths of the three campuses for the economic betterment of the state and nation” (Jo Bonner’s official job description). Administrators should tell us what Jo Bonner’s day-to-day and week-to-week responsibilities will be.

Second, they should tell us why this job is being created now. We haven’t had a position like Bonner’s in the past. Has something changed? Have administrators come to some realization, some kind of paradigm change, that necessitates the creation of such a position? If so, they need to tell us what it was.

Finally, administrators need to tell us why Jo Bonner, specifically, got this job. There are a lot of congressmen in Alabama. Why do we need the one who’s related to our president?

This is important because Jo Bonner is going to draw his salary from your — and my — tuition costs. He’s going to have jurisdiction over your — and my — university.

We didn’t apply to the University, pay through the nose to go here and work to keep our grades up so that the Bonner family can keep its members in comfort. We do these things because we want the best education we can get, provided by the best individuals for the job.

This school owes us nothing less.

Nathan James is a junior majoring in public relations.
Gov. Bentley selects acting finance director

MONTGOMERY | Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley has appointed Jill Newton to serve as acting finance director.

Bentley said Friday that Newton, who previously served as assistant finance director, has more than 30 years of experience in state government finance operations. Newton oversaw two state budgets, purchasing, accounting, payroll, financial reporting and debt management functions in his previous role.

Bentley says Newton's commitment to public service and legal background made him the ideal candidate for the position.

Newton says he looks forward to continuing to work with the Department of Finance to ensure state officials use taxpayer money effectively and efficiently.

Newton's appointment is effective June 1.
Tuscaloosa leads state metros in jobs growth

Alex Walsh
awalsh@al.com

The winner is Tuscaloosa. The home of the University of Alabama’s main campus added 2,200 jobs between April 2013 and the same month a year ago, good for a 2.3 percent increase in total employment — the best of any metro in the state over that time frame, according to data published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Florence-Muscle Shoals and Auburn-Opelika also saw total employment grow by at least 2 percent.

Montgomery and Mobile each enjoyed a more than 1 percent bump in employment.

Employment was flat in the Birmingham-Hoover area, ticking up 0.1 percent.

Four Alabama metros saw total employment decrease, including Huntsville, which lost nearly 1,000 jobs. Anniston-Oxford, Dothan, and Gadsden also shrank.

Overall, the state added 9,100 jobs, a 0.5 percent gain.

**EMPLOYMENT GROWTH/LOSS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metro</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birmingham-Hoover</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuscaloosa</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscle Shoals</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auburn-Opelika</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
Teams at UA earn academic accolades

NCAA recognizes five UA sports for classroom work

By Tommy Deas
Executive Sports Editor

TUSCALOOSA | The University of Alabama’s national championship football and golf teams were among five of the university’s teams honored Wednesday with the NCAA Division I Public Recognition Award for academic excellence.

The UA women’s golf team, which won the 2012 national championship, was honored for the third year in a row. Alabama was honored for the second consecutive year in women’s tennis and for the first time in men’s basketball.

The five awards are the most ever for UA. Only Vanderbilt, with six such honors, received more public recognition awards among Southeastern Conference schools.

“To have five of our programs honored in this way, especially considering the success they all enjoyed on the field, is a true testament to the excellence the University of Alabama strives for both athletically and academically,” University of Alabama Director of Athletics Bill Battle said in a statement.

“We’re very proud not only to have had the most teams we’ve ever had receive this award in a single year, but also by the fact that we’ve now had at least one team honored every year since the award’s inception in 2005,” he said.

Alabama was the only football program in the Southeastern Conference to be awarded this year.

“I think it’s fantastic,” Alabama football coach Nick Saban said Wednesday at the Regions Tradition Pro-Am golf tournament in Birmingham. “We pride ourselves in

See next page
TEAMS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

trying to have a great program where we do a good job of personal development with our players.

"The thing that's most important about what our players do while they're at the University of Alabama is graduate from school and develop a career off the field. To see that we're one of however-many teams in the country that have one of the highest APRs, I think that speaks volumes for the commitment that we have to academics and the standard of excellence to help our players have the best opportunity to graduate."

Overall APR reports in each sport will be released next week.

Aaron Suttles contributed to this report.
UA to mark ‘Schoolhouse Door’ date

50th anniversary of famed confrontation pays tribute to courage of black students

By Ken Roberts
City Editor

TUSCALOOSA | On June 11, 1963, Vivian Malone and James Hood stepped through the doors of Foster Auditorium and ended racial segregation at the University of Alabama.

On June 11, 2013, UA will host “Through the Doors: Courage. Change. Progress.” at the same site where then-Gov. George C. Wallace made his infamous “Stand in the Schoolhouse Door” before the National Guard forced him to step aside and allow the two black students to make civil rights history.

The program is part of a yearlong commemoration of the events of 50 years ago. Also part of the commemoration is a Friday interfaith prayer breakfast celebrating the role of the faith community in the civil rights movement.

“This is an opportunity to reflect on our history, celebrate our progress and look ahead to the next 50 years of change on our campus,” said UA President Judy Bonner.

The June 11 program will feature speakers and musical performances designed to honor the courage and dedication of Malone, who died in

SEE STAND | 6B
STAND
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

2005, and Hood, who died in January.

Speakers will include:

- Tyler Merriweather, a UA communication studies major and Coca-Cola First Generation Scholarship recipient from Tuscaloosa.
- Zaneta Lowe, a 1997 UA graduate who serves as chief consumer investigator for WREG, the CBS affiliate in Memphis, Tenn.
- Andre Taylor, a 1973 UA graduate who retired as vice president-communications at Alabama Gas Corp. and served as the first African-American president of UA’s National Alumni Association.
- Circuit Judge John England, a UA board of trustees member and 1974 graduate of the UA School of Law, who serves on the Sixth Judicial Circuit in Tuscaloosa.
- Musicians will include:
  - Everett McCorvey, a three-time UA graduate and holder of the Lexington Opera Society Endowed Chair in Opera Studies at the University of Kentucky.
  - Joshua Williams, a UA student who is a horn performance major from Tuscaloosa.
  - Noel Engrebetson, a professor of piano at UA since 1991.
  - Tedrin Blair Lindsay of the University of Kentucky.

The public is also invited to the interfaith prayer breakfast to be held at 7:30 a.m., Friday in Sellers Auditorium of UA’s Bryant Conference Center, 240 Paul W. Bryant Drive.

While the breakfast is free, those planning to attend are asked to register by Monday at http://uaferguson.tix.com/Event.asp?Event=576940 by Monday.

The Rev. Christopher Spencer, director of community development in UA’s Center for Community Based Partnerships, will serve as master of ceremonies.

After commendations to Canterbury Episcopal Chapel and First African Baptist Church for their roles in the events of 1963, the program will include performances by UA’s Afro-American Gospel Choir and a brief oral history of the local civil rights movement, along with prayers and music.

Participants will include the Rev. Ken Dunivant, senior pastor, First United Methodist Church of Tuscaloosa; the Rev. Thomas W. Linton, a civil rights pioneer and pastor of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ; the Rev. Tyshawn Gardner, pastor, Plum Grove Baptist Church; the Rev. Kelvin Croom, pastor, College Hill Baptist Church; Father Gerald Holloway, pastor, St. Francis of Assisi University Parish; Lisa Besnoy, program director at Bama Hillel; and Brother Arzo X, coordinator for Muhammad Study Group of Tuscaloosa.
Fifty years after the Stand in the Schoolhouse Door, has Alabama achieved racial diversity in higher education?

By: Evan Belanger

Vivian Malone Jones and James Hood made history 50 years integrating the University of Alabama after the Stand in the Schoolhouse door.

After five decades, 19 percent of students at predominantly white, four-year public colleges and universities in Alabama are black.

Add in students enrolled at historically black colleges and universities, and the total rises to 24 percent of the enrollment at four-year public colleges statewide. Enrollment rises to 25 percent when the students in two-year community colleges are added.

Though there has been progress since former Gov. George Wallace's attempt to uphold his promise "segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever," black student enrollment has yet to reach the 27 percent that U.S. Census demographics would predict based on the state's overall population, according to Alabama Commission on Higher Education figures from 1976 to 2012.

The database here allows a look at demographic breakdowns of students at Alabama's public colleges and universities for most of the years between 1976 and 2012.
UA researchers join team studying Okla. tornado

TUSCALOOSA — Researchers from the University of Alabama are part of a team studying the deadly tornado that struck Moore, Okla., last month.

Experts from six schools were part of a group that went to the city to assess damage from the twister, which killed two dozen people. The work is part of a National Science Foundation grant program.

The researchers will look at ways to improve the construction of wood-frame homes in tornado-prone areas.

Alabama engineering professor Andrew Graettinger said the Moore area has a history of twisters, so the team will look at the performance of homes built after earlier storms.

Several members of the research team worked together surveying damage left by the killer tornadoes that hit Tuscaloosa and Joplin, Mo., in 2011.
UA men's golf team makes history with first title
Tide routs Illinois in match play competition

By Chase Goodbread
Sports Writer

TUSCALOOSA
The University of Alabama men's golf team returned home with the first national championship in program history Sunday after emerging from a field of 30 qualifying teams over six days to win the NCAA Golf Championship at the Capital City Club Crabapple Course in Milton, Ga.

INSIDE
Bobby Wyatt leads early charge to help Crimson Tide to first NCAA Golf Championship.

After three days of stroke play earlier in the week, the Crimson Tide reached weekend match play among eight finalists, defeating New Mexico on Friday, Georgia Tech on Saturday and Illinois on Sunday to win the title.

When the team bus arrived at the team's facility at Ol' Colony Golf Complex, UA senior Scott Strohmeyer left the bus with the NCAA trophy in hand.

"It's still shocking," UA coach Jay Seawell said. "We've been a contender for a while, so to win it shows the resilience of the players and shows that we are a powerhouse. The trophy doesn't define who you are."

PHOTO | AMELIA J. BRACKIN, CRIMSONTIDEPHOTOS.COM

Alabama men's golf coach Jay Seawell holds the NCAA championship trophy as assistant coach Rob Bradley and golfer Cory Whitsett look on Sunday after the Crimson Tide won its first men's golf championship in Milton, Ga.

See next page
GOLF

Continued From Page 1A

are. (The UA men's golf team has) done something no one else has done before here in golf. Their legacy will be here in stone."

Bobby Wyatt and Cory Whitsett were in control of their matches throughout the day, particularly Wyatt, who won his first seven holes against Illinois' Thomas Detry and finished his match on the 13th green with a chip into the hole from more than 50 feet. UA clinched the title when Whitsett's opponent, Alex Burge, missed a putt on the 15th green to set off a celebration.

Alabama fans in the gallery heavily outnumbered the Illinois crowd and roared approval with each hole won, something Seawell and his players said was an inspiration throughout match play.

Seawell said he received 166 text messages and 172 emails of congratulations within hours of the victory. Among those who reached him by phone was UA football coach Nick Saban.

"I think it's really cool coach Saban called me after; it was really special," Seawell said. "I look forward to getting a ring and showing off my bling, although he's got four, so he still trumps me."

The UA golf team is the only Alabama men's sport other than football to win a national title.

"I never realized we were going to win until it was over, when they handed us the national championship shirt, that's when it all started to sink in," Strohmeyer said. "It feels great to be part of a national championship team. It's amazing to go out on top and couldn't ask for anything better."

Reach Chase Goodbread at chase@tidesports.com or at 205-722-0196. Lydia Seabolt-Avant contributed to this report.
The Croyles

Big Oak Ranch founder writes book, grooms son to take over the family business

Greg Garrison
ggarrison@al.com

Big Oak Ranch founder John Croyle will be in Birmingham on Saturday with a new book he’s just written on how to raise boys.

Croyle will always be known as an All-American football player who played defensive end for the University of Alabama and Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant.

He’s also known as the father of former Alabama and NFL quarterback Brodie Croyle.

But Croyle says his most important role in life has been helping to raise nearly 2,000 kids dropped off at the Big Oak Ranch, many of whom had parents who gave up on them.

"My job is to give them the emotional support, security and discipline they need because their parents didn’t want the job," he said.

There are currently 114 children living at the Big Oak ranches for boys and girls, with nine in college.

"When our son, Brodie, and all the ranch boys were growing up, we came up with a formula on how to raise boys," Croyle said.

Croyle has put those lessons in a new book, "The Two-Minute Drill to Manhood," which he will be signing on Saturday, May 25, starting at 6 p.m. at the Books-A-Million in Brookwood Village.

The lessons in the book center around instilling a work ethic, time management and handling finances, he said.

Parents have a responsibility to raise their children right, he said. "The job of parents is to prepare and pack their bags for life," Croyle said.

Spending time with parents is not enough, Croyle said.

"If you don’t have a plan, it means nothing," he said.

"Never compromise. We compromise all the time. We tell our kids, ‘don’t do that,’ but we do it ourselves. You’ve got to do what’s right," he said.

Example outlines advice: Children listen with their eyes. They don’t listen with their ears. When fully taught, the student will become like a teacher. The master you choose is going to be the master they choose," he said.

Croyle said his son, Brodie, who recently retired after five years in the NFL, has returned to Big Oak Ranch to join the staff.

Croyle will train his son to run the ranch in a gradual transition. "He’s not ready yet, but one day he’ll take my place," Brodie grow up on the ranch and attended its affiliated Westbrook Christian School.

"He and my daughter will have you for dinner if you step across the line," Croyle said. "They are the two people I trust the most to handle the children."

Croyle’s daughter, Reagan, who played basketball at Alabama and was homecoming queen, joined the staff several years ago as childcare director.

Croyle recalls his daughter in the seventh grade coming home and telling him she punched a boy in the chest. His nickname was Big’un. He was 6 foot 7.

"She said he was making fun of the ranch girls," Croyle said. "I’m not condoning hitting or fighting, but I told my kids, ‘You will never get in trouble for defending someone.’ — when someone is being bullied, someone has to step in and say, ‘Stop.’"

Bear Bryant was demanding of his players in the way a parent should be demanding of his children, Croyle said.

Practices were always harder than games, he said.

"Coach would say, ‘If you’ll quit on Tuesday, you’re definitely going to
quit on Saturday. We practiced so hard all week, game day was the easiest day of the week. It’s not whether you were going to win, it’s how much you’re going to win by. In three years, we lost one regular season game. We were 34-4. I’ll take that.

(Coach Nick) Saban has done a phenomenal job and has many of the same characteristics.”

Bryant rarely complimented his players, Croyle said.

“I’ve copied him in this,” Croyle said. “He wasn’t one to throw out compliments. But when he did, you knew he meant it.”

And he often motivated players by challenging them to do better.

“One time we played LSU,” Croyle recalled. “I hit the quarterback three times just as after he threw the ball. Coach Bryant walked over to me and said, ‘When are you gonna get him?’ That’s all I had to hear. He was good at taking already-motivated people and steering them the way he wanted them to go.”

Parents are not demanding enough of their children, Croyle said. “We’re raising people that give up,” he said. “It’s too easy to quit. Don’t ever, ever give up.”

Croyle founded Big Oak Ranch for abused or neglected boys in 1974, a year after playing defensive end for Bryant’s 1973 national championship team at the University of Alabama. The girls’ ranch opened in 1988. In 1990, Big Oak Ranch took over the Westbrook Christian School.

It’s okay to call him old-fashioned, Croyle said.

“I’m old school,” Croyle said. “I’m set in my ways. I’ll die set in my ways. I know with all my heart they’re right. Fighting for what we believe, saying, ‘Yes, sir; no, sir; yes, ma’am; no, ma’am; thank you, sir; thank you, ma’am.”
BRIEFLY

Turnipseed headed to Clemson

TUSCALOOSA | Thad Turnipseed, associate athletics director for special projects, has accepted a position on the Clemson football staff, heading up the school's recruiting operation in an off-the-field position under head coach Dabo Swinney.

Swinney and Turnipseed were teammates at UA in the early 1990s. Turnipseed joined the Alabama athletic department staff in 2002 as director of intercollegiate athletic capital projects and later become director of athletics facilities. Prior to his stint at UA, he was project manager at Beaver Construction from 1995-97 and owner of Calvary Construction and Calvary Flooring from 1997-2003.

Turnipseed has also played a key role in the UA athletic department in keeping in touch with former players and helping in organizing reunions of past Alabama football teams. He is expected to have other unspecified duties at Clemson in addition to running recruiting operations.
Bailey finalist for New Mexico State University provost position

Former UA president has no interest in job

By Mackenzie Brown
Online Editor

Former University of Alabama president Guy Bailey is considered a finalist for New Mexico State University provost, but he does not know why. "I have no interest in the NMSU [provost] position," Bailey said. "I don't know why my name is being associated with it."

He then questioned the source of the allegations.

Bailey was one of five finalists being considered for the next president of NMSU in Las Cruces, N.M. The university's Board of Regents announced May 6 that Garrey Carruthers, dean of NMSU's College of Business and governor of New Mexico from 1987 to 1991, had been selected as the new president.

Bailey interviewed as a presidential candidate just six months after his abrupt resignation from the University of Alabama in October 2012, after only 57 days in office.

Prior to his presidency at the University, Bailey served as president of Texas Tech University from August 2008 to July 2012.

Bailey cited his wife's declining health as the reason for him stepping down at the University in a press release at the time.

Upon Carruthers' selection as president, one of his first orders of business was to select a new provost, a position that had been open since Nov. 6, 2012.

Jordan Banegas, a student at NMSU and member of the university's Board of Regents, said Carruthers will request that the NMSU Board of Regents approve the suspension of a policy requiring a national search. Carruthers is scheduled to ask the Board of Regents to approve the waiver at their next meeting on June 21.

"This suspension is done to give Dr. Carruthers the ability to make a selection from the four remaining candidates of our recent presidential search," Banegas said.

On May 23, Carruthers approached the university's Faculty Senate Leadership...
Bailey looks forward to staying at Alabama

BAILEY FROM PAGE 1

Council to endorse the selection of one of the four remaining presidential finalists.

Dennis Clason, chair of the NMSU Faculty Senate, said the request boils down to time limitations.

"President Carruthers would have to name a new interim provost during the national search," Clason said, adding that a search could take up to a year to find an adequate provost.

Although he could not comment on who Carruthers preferred for the position, Clason said each of the four candidates have already visited campus and been reviewed.

He said Bailey, as one of the four finalists, had as equal a chance as any of the four.

The Albuquerque Journal, however, reported May 29 that of the four remaining candidates, three of them either had no interest in the position or had not been contacted by the university.

Daniel Howard, the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Colorado Denver, was the only one to decline to respond. Howard was a biology professor at NMSU from 1988 to 2008.

During the May 6 presidential selection Board of Regents meeting, three of the five members voted for Carruthers, while two voted for Howard, according to meeting minutes.

Banegas said he will support the request and believes the other four Regents will do the same.

Bailey, however, said he was excited about staying at The University of Alabama.

"I'm looking forward to being a faculty member and teaching here," he said.
FBI: Pollard knew about kidnap plans

UA basketball player's trial set for Aug. 6 in U.S. District Court

By Stephanie Taylor
Staff Writer

FBI agents believe that University of Alabama basketball player Devonta Pollard knew that his mother planned to kidnap her cousin's daughter from a Mississippi elementary school in April and say that he gave a ride to a woman who later dropped the child off in rural Mississippi.

Pollard, 18, is one of seven people charged in the kidnapping of 6-year-old Jashayla Hopson from East Kemper Elementary School in Scooba, Miss., on April 30. He was one of six who appeared before a U.S. magistrate judge in Jackson, Miss., Wednesday morning on conspiracy to commit kidnapping charges after being arrested Tuesday. His bond was set at $10,000.

A trial in the case is set for Aug. 6 before U.S. District Judge William H. Barbour Jr.

According to Associated Press reports, Jesse Mae Pollard kidnapped the girl as part of an ongoing land dispute involving the child's mother.

The four-count grand jury indictment charging the seven defendants was released Wednesday by U.S. Attorney Gregory K. Davis, attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi.

According to the document, Jesse Pollard spoke with school secretary Wanda Faye Dancy, 52, who told her that Jashayla was in the school library.

See Pollard | 5A
POLLARD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

and what she was wearing. Pollard sent Shamarios Ruffin, 25, into the school, where she
told the girl's teacher that "Miss Wanda said it was all right" to
take her, according to the indi
cement.

The indictment states that
Devoanta Pollard met with his
mother and Ruffin in a church
parking lot earlier that day. He
delivered a screwdriver and
wrench to them before Ruffin
told him "we fixin' to do some
crazy s---," the indictment states.

Jesse Pollard and Ruffin then
traveled to Bessemer in a rental
car with Jashayla and Ruffin's
infant, according to the court
documents, where they bought
a cellphone and checked into a
hotel.

Devoanta Pollard then drove
to Boligee in Greene County,
where he picked up Shaquayla
Johnigan, 21, of Porterville,
Miss., according to the indi
cement. He drove her to Besse-
mer, it stated, where he dropped
her off at the hotel. Johni
gan then took the girl to a hotel in
Laurel, Miss., the indictment
stated.

He called her the next day to
say that his mother had been
summoned by authorities to
take a lie detector test, accord-
ing to the document. Following
Jesse Pollard's instructions,
Johnigan had sent a text mes-
sage demanding $50,000 from
the girls' mother, the indict-
ment stated. Agents said that
she then broke the phone and
placed it in a gym bag, which
she later gave to James Johni-
gan, 39, who is accused of de-
stroying it.

The indictment states that
Shaquayla Johnigan then called
Joyce Johnigan, 42, and the two
drove Jashayla to a remote loca-
tion in Vossburg, Miss. where
they told her "mom was in a
trailer and to run up to it."

They are accused of then run-
ning the rental car into a ditch
and throwing the keys in a
pond.

Reach Stephanie Taylor at
stephanie.taylor@tuscaloosa
news.com or 205-722-0210.
UA's Pollard charged in kidnapping

Basketball player, mother among 6 defendants in Mississippi abduction

By Cecil Hurt
Sports Editor

Devonta Pollard, a forward on the University of Alabama basketball team, was charged Tuesday as part of a kidnapping for which his mother was arrested last month.

Sheriff James Moore of Kemper County (Miss.) said Tuesday that Pollard faces one count of conspiracy to commit kidnapping in the April 30 abduction of Jashayla Hopson, 6, who was taken from her school in Scooba, Miss.

Pollard and Joyce Johnigan, were arrested in Kemper County on Tuesday. Moore said. A third suspect, identified by a Meridian television station as Shaquayla Johnigan, was arrested in Hattiesburg, Miss., making a total of six arrests in the case.

The other defendants are Wanda Dancy, Shamarius Ruffin and Pollard's mother, Jesse Mae Brown Pollard.

The Associated Press reported that the kidnapping grew out of an ongoing land

See Pollard | 6A
POLLARD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

dispute involving the child’s mother and Jesse Mae Brown Pollard.

According to a criminal affidavit filed in the case, Dancy, 51, who worked at the school in Scooba, allegedly told Jesse Mae Brown Pollard, 54, where the child was in the school and what she was wearing. Shamarius Ruffin, 25, allegedly was directed to go to the library to get the girl, and to tell them that Dancy “said it was all right,” the AP reported.

Authorities said they traced a cellphone used to contact the child’s mother to Pollard.

According to the affidavit, Dancy told agents that Pollard had told her she wanted to take the child for “leverage” in order to get some land back, the AP reported.

Devonta Pollard had not been working out with the UA basketball team in the off-season and was reportedly contemplating a transfer to East Mississippi Community College near his Scooba home after his mother’s arrest.

UA coach Anthony Grant was not immediately available for comment. Asked about Devonta Pollard last week at the SEC meetings in Destin, Fla., Grant said that Devonta Pollard was still a member of the team but was “dealing with issues bigger than basketball.”

Jesse Mae Brown Pollard, was accused of kidnapping Jashayla from her elementary school in Scooba on April 30.

The former teacher recently moved to Northport from Porterville, Miss., to be near her son, according to the Jackson (Miss.) Clarion-Ledger.

Media reports from Mississippi said Jesse Mae Brown Pollard and the child’s mother are cousins.

Jashayla’s parents called police when she was not on the bus the afternoon of April 30.

FBI agents traced a text message and hang-up call to a phone Jesse Mae Brown Pollard was videotaped buying in Bessemer that afternoon.

Surveillance video from the Bessemer Best Western hotel captured the woman walking with the girl in a hallway and leaving in a gold or tan Cadillac Deville, according to court records.

FBI agents reported that the vehicle belonged to Devonta Pollard. They found the hotel key and a receipt for the cellphone in the car after searching it with his permission.
In Support of SUPPORT — A View from the NIH

Each year in the United States, nearly 500,000 infants — 1 in every 8 — are born prematurely, before 37 weeks of gestation. Despite substantial advances in their care, premature infants face a daunting array of challenges; they are at high risk for death in infancy and face severe and lifelong health problems if they survive.1 The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has a legal and moral responsibility to do research in partnership with scientists and families to optimize the care of these highly vulnerable infants. In recent weeks, a major public debate has arisen regarding a study designed to do just that. And the ramifications go well beyond this one study: the outcome of this debate could affect how we conduct and communicate about critical research on interventions that are within the standard of care for all diseases and conditions.

The Surfactant, Positive Pressure, and Oxygenation Randomized Trial (SUPPORT), carried out at more than 20 sites between 2004 and 2009, sought to identify, in infants born very prematurely at 24 to 27 weeks' gestation, the oxygen-saturation level within the range considered the standard of care that would minimize the risk of retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), a complication of oxygen therapy that can result in vision loss.2 When the study began, targeting an oxygen-saturation range of 85 to 95% was becoming standard clinical practice, and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) later recommended this range in its 2007 guidelines. The SUPPORT researchers and institutional review boards (IRBs), practicing clinicians, and the AAP had no scientific evidence to expect a difference in mortality between the two treatment groups in SUPPORT — one with the oxygen saturation target of 85 to 89%, the other with the target of 91 to 95%.

An important finding of the study was a reduced incidence of ROP in the lower oxygen-saturation range. However, contrary to what was known at the time, the study also showed a slightly but significantly increased incidence of death — 19.9% versus 16.2% (P=0.04) — among infants assigned to the lower as compared with the upper range. As a result, last year the AAP amended its guidelines, citing SUPPORT, and physicians treating very premature infants are starting to use higher saturation rates to reduce the risk of death, even with the potentially higher risk of ROP at these levels. Studies such as SUPPORT that compare two alternatives, both within current standard clinical practice, often lead to critical improvements in medical care.

A 400-Gram Female Infant Delivered at 24 and 4/7 Weeks.

The federal Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP), which is charged with providing leadership in the protection of the rights, welfare, and well-being of persons involved in research conducted or supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), asserted in March 2013, on the basis of its own examination of the evidence, that the SUPPORT researchers failed to provide prospective parents sufficient information about the risks posed by the study. After a detailed review of the protocol, the relevant consent documents, and the

See next page
research literature, we respectfully disagree with the conclusions of the OHRP, which we believe resulted from a fundamental difference in interpretations of how the regulations should apply to the state of scientific understanding when the SUPPORT study commenced. Moreover, there is a larger issue here: how risks should be conveyed in the informed-consent process when research is comparing interventions that are all considered to be the standard of care.

In a letter dated March 7, 2013, the OHRP asserted that the study's consent form failed to convey that "the level of oxygen being provided to some infants, compared to the level they would have received had they not participated, could increase the risk of brain injury or death." That finding was influenced by research conducted in the 1950s, but in our view, it failed to assign proper weight to studies conducted in premature infants in the 2000s, which used more sophisticated oxygen-monitoring and oxygen-measurement devices, similar to those used in SUPPORT. The more recent studies showed no increased risk of death or neurodevelopmental impairment at saturation levels as low as 70%.

Given these data, the investigators had no reason to foresee that infants in one study group would have a higher risk of death than those in the other group. The babies included in SUPPORT were, of course, facing substantial risks because of prematurity — the same risks as premature babies who were not enrolled in the study — but their care was never compromised for the sake of the study. The sample consent form for SUPPORT stated that each of the "possible combinations of treatments is considered by some units to represent their desired approach" (www.nih.gov/icd/od/foia/library/Records.htm). This statement describes the clinical equipoise at the time of the study, which was, in fact, the justification for conducting a clinical trial. Although the OHRP took issue with the consent form, it stated that the study design was ethical — a conclusion worth emphasizing. The increased risk of death was a significant and unexpected finding of the study; if it had been known before the study began, standard clinical care would not have encompassed the lower oxygen range, and it would have been unethical to conduct the study.

The NIH is committed to ensuring that prospective research participants — and the people who speak for and love them — are given clear, complete, and accurate information about the risks and benefits of participating in research. We are strongly committed to supporting critical research studies like SUPPORT, which inform clinical care by providing rigorous evidence for use in daily practice. This controversy has alarmed some of the parents of infants who were in the study, confused the biomedical research community, and befuddled IRBs. Several other studies seeking new insights to improve care for these vulnerable infants have been put on hold as the field tries to understand the OHRP findings.

But controversies such as this are also an opportunity to advance shared understanding, provide clarification, and encourage progress. The public debate surrounding the SUPPORT study has set the stage for a substantive national dialogue with the research, advocacy, and ethics communities.
on how best to respect and protect participants in research studies conducted within the standard of care and how to define “reasonably foreseeable risks” in this setting. The timing is critical — the clinical research community, bioethicists, regulators, IRBs, and prospective research participants are paying close attention now. The NIH is happy to work with all stakeholders to advance this important dialogue and its translation into clear guidance, in accordance with the plan just announced by the DHHS (www.hhs.gov/ohrp/). In addition, a new letter to the University of Alabama at Birmingham from the OHRP, stating its intention to put all compliance actions on hold until the process of producing appropriate guidance is completed, is available now on the OHRP website (www.hhs.gov/ohrp/detrm_letrs/YR13/jun13a.pdf).

Going forward, the NIH strongly and unequivocally supports the importance of the role of the OHRP in the oversight of human subjects research. But the community will benefit from an explicit description of the process the OHRP follows for investigating complaints. For example, when questions are raised about reasonably foreseeable risks and the state of the science relevant to a particular clinical trial, appropriate independent experts might need to be consulted. Finally, we are pleased to see the DHHS plans to ensure that investigators and IRBs will have a fair and transparent process for appealing OHRP findings and compliance actions, in those situations in which reasonable people disagree about the actions taken.

The circumstances surrounding the SUPPORT study have unquestionably created controversy in the research community, but the situation has created an opportunity for a better understanding of the scientific and ethical issues that must be addressed when designing such studies in the future. We look forward to working with the OHRP, the research community, and patient advocates to improve the effectiveness and ethical standards of research involving human participants.
U.S. Agency Backs Away From Penalties in Controversial Study Involving Infants

By: Paul Baskin

Federal research-ethics regulators have retreated from their consideration of punitive action over a medical trial at 23 universities in which premature babies faced potentially lethal oxygen levels, saying government rules may have been unclear.

The federal Office for Human Research Protections, in a letter to the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the lead institution in the "Support" study, cited a series of problems with the research project, including the failure to properly notify parents of the risks that infants enrolled in the study might face.

The agency then blamed itself, saying it had an "obligation to provide clear guidance on what the rules are with regard to disclosure of risks in randomized studies whose treatments fall within the range of standard of care."

The human-research-protections office therefore will "put on hold all compliance actions against UAB relating to the Support case," Lisa R. Buchanan, a compliance-oversight coordinator at the agency, said in a letter on Tuesday to Richard B. Marchase, vice president for research and economic development at Birmingham.

The study—"Support" is an abbreviation of its full title, the "Surfactant, Positive Pressure, and Oxygenation Randomized Trial"—involved some 1,300 premature infants at two dozen hospitals. It was designed to determine the optimal levels of oxygen to give to the babies in the neonatal unit.

All of the oxygen levels that were used in the study were considered as being within a commonly used range, but previous research and clinical experience had suggested that too little oxygen could increase the risk of death, and too much could lead to blindness.

Ms. Buchanan issued her letter less than two months after the director of the research-protections office, Jerry A. Menikoff, in response to public revelations of the study's handling, criticized the consent form given to parents. The form "was written in a slanted way," describing the benefits but not all of the risks, he said.

Implications for Researchers

The agency's retreat was endorsed on Wednesday both by the National Institutes of Health, which financed the study, and by a group of 46 university experts in medicine and ethics, writing in The New England Journal of Medicine.
The university experts, led by Benjamin S. Wilfond, a professor of bioethics in the pediatrics department at the University of Washington, said the original position of Dr. Menikoff's agency "was a substantive error and will have adverse implications for future research."

Writing in the same journal, the NIH's director, Francis S. Collins, and two other top NIH officials also urged a pullback, saying the controversy had "alarmed some of the parents of infants who were in the study, confused the biomedical-research community, and befuddled IRBs," the institutional review boards that approve study protocols.

The reversal nevertheless is likely to generate its own pushback among both parents of the infants and university bioethics experts who regard the case as a clear-cut violation of the right of patients to informed consent, said Alice D. Dreger, a professor of clinical medical humanities and bioethics at Northwestern University.

Ms. Buchanan's letter "did a beautiful job" of reiterating the specific risks faced by babies in the trial and making clear that the parental consent forms did not convey those risks, Ms. Dreger said. In her letter, therefore, "the OHRP has said, 'You're guilty, but we're not going to do anything about it,'" she said.

At least one lawsuit has been filed against the University of Alabama at Birmingham and its institutional review board over the matter. The case, filed in April in a federal court in Alabama, names 11 families as plaintiffs and contends that infants in the research "suffered permanent neurological and vision issues, among other catastrophic injuries."

Other institutions that were involved in the research, which took place from 2004 to 2009, include Duke, Stanford, and Yale Universities.

The NIH agrees that the federal government needs to do a better job of setting rules in such cases, and it plans a process to accomplish that, including a public hearing, said Kathy L. Hudson, the NIH's deputy director for science, outreach, and policy.

But the NIH does not accept Ms. Buchanan's conclusion that there was a reasonably foreseeable increased risk of death from the lower oxygen levels provided to some of the infants in the trial, Ms. Hudson said. "That's where NIH and OHRP disagree," she said.

Although the research-protectsions office took issue with the consent form, Ms. Buchanan emphasized her agency's belief that the study itself was fundamentally ethical and designed to gain important information.

She was less clear on whether the state of scientific knowledge at the outset of the trial could have reasonably justified a warning to parents of heightened risk.

At one point in her letter, she said investigators did not design the study with the expectation that they would find a difference in mortality rates between the high and low oxygen groups. Yet she
also wrote that many researchers and clinicians were worried that low oxygen levels could lead to increased mortality and neurodevelopmental problems. Those concerns, she said, were a prime reason for the study.
UAB seeking type 2 diabetics for study

Mike Oliver
mlover@al.com

UAB researchers are looking for people diagnosed with type 2 diabetes within the last five years for a national study on the long-term benefits and risks of four widely used diabetes drugs in combination with Metformin.

Metformin is the most common first-line medication for type 2 diabetes. Participants will have their diabetes medication managed free of charge through the study, including at least four medical visits per year, but they will receive other health care through their own service provider, according to a University of Alabama at Birmingham news release.

Those interested should contact Dana Golson by email, ccnm@uab.edu or call 205-996-4015.

Short-term studies have shown the value of different drugs with Metformin, but there haven’t been any long-term studies to determine which is the best combination with the fewest side effects.

The project, called Glycemia Reduction Approaches in Diabetes: A Comparative Effectiveness (GRADE) Study, is looking to enroll about 5,000 patients at UAB and 36 other sites.

“It is estimated that nearly 1 in 3 children, and actually 1 in 2 minority children, born after the year 2000 will develop type 2 diabetes,” said Dr. W. Timothy Garvey, co-primary investigator for the GRADE study at UAB. “Type 2 diabetes progresses gradually, and this study will help us understand how different combinations of medicine affect the disease and the people who are taking those medications over time.”
UAB, Samford set sights on community college students

Two of Birmingham's largest universities are strengthening their relationships with Alabama's community colleges.

Both the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Samford University recently announced initiatives targeting community college students.

School leaders say the changes will help students reap the cost savings associated with community colleges while streamlining the process to receive a degree from the larger, four-year universities.

Considering Birmingham's Jefferson State Community College and Lawson State Community College alone have more than 13,000 total students, the programs will significantly expand the reach of both UAB and Samford.

UAB, Birmingham's largest university, signed an agreement May 8 with Jefferson State, Lawson State, Gadsden State and Wallace State-Hanceville community colleges.

Those agreements establish a new program in which students who are not eligible for standard UAB admission can be jointly enrolled at the partner colleges. After their graduation, they will be able to transition to UAB and have access to financial assistance.

The program will also allow the students to take advantage of UAB's resources while enrolled at the community colleges.

The program is also expected to cut costs for many students.

UAB's undergraduate in-state tuition for this school year's fall and spring semesters is $462 for the first semester hour for liberal arts, business and engineering students and $267 for each additional hour of coursework.

In contrast, an in-state student at Jefferson State pays $140 per credit hour.

Brent Gage, UAB's associate provost for enrollment management, said in a statement that the change in cost relative to tuition would be around $3,200 less per year by attending the community college versus UAB.

"While this is an estimate, using this logic, a student who graduated from UAB via the joint admission program and received the scholarship could save $10,000," he said.

Just days after UAB's announcement, Samford said it was replacing its adult degree program with its new Evening College, which will allow Alabama Community College System graduates to obtain bachelor's degrees from the private university in less than two years.

Evening College will offer two eight-week terms each fall and spring, one January term and two five-week terms during the summer.

According to Laura Tomlin, executive director of Evening College, the program's students will have a significantly reduced tuition rate that is competitive with other degree completion programs in the area.
So why is radar showing a mysterious blob above Redstone Arsenal? No one seems to know

By: Leada Gore

Researchers at the University of Alabama in Huntsville and the National Weather Service are working to figure out why radars are showing a mysterious blob above Redstone Arsenal after 1:45 p.m. today, the Times' news partner WHNT News 19 is reporting.

The anomaly showed up late this afternoon and was centered near the northwest edge of Redstone Arsenal close to Zierdt Road and Madison Boulevard/I-565. WHNT reported it was first believed the radar image was being caused by a damaged substation in the Madison or West Huntsville area.

However, Huntsville Utilities used a spectral analyzer to see if a frequency generated at the substation was "tricking" the radar but tests showed no damage or other problems that could be causing the image.

Radar showed no chaff as would be deployed from military aircraft, clouds or anything else in the sky that might be causing the image. Arsenal officials said they did not know what was causing the echo to appear.

While no one seems to know what caused the image, the conspiracy theorists are already abuzz. Posters on various internet sites said a white substance was falling from the sky in the area of Zierdt Road during the same time, while others pointed to another cause - aliens.

Update: Wednesday morning's radar looks clear of mysterious blobs but there does seem to be some rain headed our way. At 10:15 p.m. Tuesday, Times' news partner WHNT News 19 reported the blob was still showing on radar but was dissipating quickly.
Scientists say radar blob over Huntsville's Redstone Arsenal possibly new kind of 'chaff'

By: Lee Roop

The mysterious blob that appeared on radar screens over the Redstone Arsenal military base here Tuesday may have been caused by the release of a new form of "chaff," or reflective particles designed to test or fool military radar, experts indicated Wednesday morning.

Dr. Kevin Knupp, professor in the Department of Atmospheric Science at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH), said early Wednesday that he has a theory but would not discuss it until conferring with Arsenal meteorologists. Knupp said the material, whatever it was, "was not natural" and hovered in the air "much longer than normal chaff."

Chaff are highly reflective particles released into the air either to test or fool military radar, said Huntsville-based National Weather Service meteorologist Brian Carcione early Wednesday. Based on interviews with Knupp and Carcione, the informed speculation about the event seems to be centering on some new form of chaff. "I don't think we have an official explanation," Carcione said early Wednesday. "What it matches most closely is chaff." Carcione said, "It was very clear it was not meteorological." A large plume of smoke or swarm of bugs was also ruled out.

The wide blob appeared on radar at approximately 1:45 p.m. CDT, Carcione said. Knupp said it was still visible as late as 10:30 p.m. Tuesday night. It reached a height of 6,000 feet in the air. It was the subject of wide speculation on the Internet and in the Huntsville scientific community, where the atmosphere is monitored by scientists like Knupp based at the National Space Science and Technology Center.
UAH confirms fiberglass chaff near origin of 'Redstone blob'

By: Paul Gattis

The mystery of the "Redstone blob" that formed Tuesday near the north end of Redstone Arsenal may be getting solved.

The Severe Weather and Radar research groups at the University of Alabama in Huntsville tweeted moments ago that it has confirmed fiberglass chaff has been found near Zierdt Road, which is about the point of the blob's origin.

The blob has been the source of much speculation since it randomly appeared Tuesday.
Student-driven project aims to help farmers and environment

What if you could save farmers money, protect the quality of the water in a watershed, help keep invasive plants out of waterways, protect biodiversity and prevent potential oxygen-depletion mass fish kills all with one predictive tool?

That’s the goal of a University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) student-driven project in the Lake Guntersville watershed that’s using NASA geospatial technologies and U.S. Department of Agriculture crop data, along with university aquatic plant growth research.

Senior Earth System Science majors Casey Calamaio and Kel Markert have teamed up with advisors Dr. Rob Griffin of UAH and Dr. Jeff Luvall of NASA’s Global Climatology and Hydrology Center to examine the inherent relationship between aquatic vegetation growth and water drainage near locations of high agricultural activity.

“We’d like for the end result of this to be a type of product that you can use to predict the results of various activities on the watershed,” said Dr. Griffin. The product would use historical data on crop acreage and type, combined with annual agricultural activity data and watershed maps to be predictive of aquatic growth, he said.

As a student-driven effort, Dr. Griffin said Calamaio and Markert presented the project to NASA’s DEVELOP program in a competitive process to get it funded. They work as paid interns for NASA as the research is being done. Markert is currently the Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) center lead for DEVELOP.

By combining topographical mapping from NASA satellites and Space Shuttle missions with U.S. Dept. of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service data to show where crops are grown and the types of crops, “you can use the digital satellite information to estimate where the crop was planted over the years and what effects of various crops are on the lake vegetation further downstream,” said Dr. Griffin, an assistant professor in Atmospheric Science.

“NASA is always looking for ways to use its satellite imagery to benefit society,” Dr. Griffin said. “What we used from the Shuttle was elevation data to identify our sub-watersheds, where essentially after a rain event occurs, the water flows to a drainage area.”

Measuring the lake’s annual aquatic plant growth and correlating that to periods of agricultural activity like field preparation, fertilizing, herbicide or pesticide spraying and harvest can illustrate when runoff from these activities is affecting the lake, Calamaio said. Using multispectral satellite imagery in the near-infrared and red wavelengths, the researchers created vegetation indices for observing aquatic vegetation growth in the lake and seasonal variations for Lake Guntersville.
The research could save farmers money by showing them how much of the expensive inputs they apply to crops are not staying in place to do their intended jobs. The researchers are working to make it an accurate prediction tool for the future consequences of various farming practices like no till planting or more precise fertilizer, herbicide and pesticide application using GPS data.

Now that the Tennessee Valley Authority is no longer spraying herbicides to kill aquatic weeds, controlling their growth from the nutrient input side has become more important. Controlling the conditions that lead to algae blooms and aquatic weeds helps support the tourism industry at Lake Guntersville by keeping weeds from choking landings and harbors while preventing fish from eventually falling prey to possible mass deaths from oxygen depletion caused by the decay of plant matter in the water column.

That process is known as eutrophication, Calamaio said, where over-enriched waters allow native vegetation to be replaced with different species and biodiversity declines.

“Hopefully with this tool,” he said, “we will be able to create prevention measures to help better keep farm nutrients and chemicals with the crops.”
Design For SLS Adapters All in the Drawings of NASA Marshall's Jonathon Walden

By: Kim Henry

When a scholarship to the University of Alabama in Huntsville opened the door to an engineering degree for Jonathon Walden, it opened another door for him as well -- a job at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., designing a crucial piece of flight hardware for the Space Launch System (SLS), NASA's new heavy-lift rocket.

Walden, a native of Decatur, Ala., is the lead designer for the Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle Stage Adapter. It will attach NASA's Orion spacecraft to a United Launch Alliance Delta IV rocket for Exploration Flight Test-1 in 2014. The same adapter technology later will connect Orion to SLS, which is managed and in development at Marshall and will be capable of sending Orion into deep space.

"I really didn't know if I was even going to go to college after I graduated high school, but when I received a scholarship to UAH, I decided I wanted to go into engineering," said Walden, who is currently working on his master's degree in aerospace engineering at his alma mater.
"Engineering seemed like a natural choice for me, as my grandfather helped design the Patriot missile. I wanted to follow in his footsteps."

"It's an exciting field of work," he added. "Especially getting to see my designs go from sketches to manufacturing. That's a big deal in the design world. It's not just ideas on paper anymore."

And a lot of pen-to-the-paper concepts are necessary when you're crafting twin adapters -- one to use for a structural test, and the other to actually fly on Orion's first test flight. During its initial flight, Orion will travel to an altitude of approximately 3,600 miles above Earth's surface. By flying Orion out to those distances, NASA will be able to see how the spacecraft performs in and returns from deep space journeys. The flight test also will provide engineers with important data about the adapter's performance before it is flown on SLS.

Walden has spent countless hours with analysts and other engineers, assessing the design of the adapter, creating models, problem solving for better configurations, reviewing data prior to machining and overseeing each part of the manufacturing process to make sure design requirements are met at each stage.

"We just flipped the structural test adapter to drill holes in it to connect it to the Delta IV," Walden said. "I make sure any manufacturing we do, like drilling holes and surfacing, follows the design requirements. That's a big part of ensuring we get things right on the second adapter before it flies."

Now that the twin adapters are going through final machining, and the Spacecraft & Payload Integration Office's preliminary design review is underway, it's back to the drawing board for

See next page
Walden, who's preparing for the SLS program critical design review, scheduled for 2015. The prototype adapter's structural test is planned for later this fall.

"With every concept, every drawing, we are one step closer to being ready to fly in 2014, and 2017," Walden said. "It's an incredible feeling to know my work is a part of getting us there."
Black college enrollment 2 percent below US Census predictions

By: Evan Belanger

Vivian Malone Jones and James Hood made history 50 years ago by integrating the University of Alabama after the Stand in the Schoolhouse door.

After five decades, 19 percent of students at predominantly white, four-year public colleges and universities in Alabama are black.

Add in students enrolled at historically black colleges and universities, and the total rises to 24 percent of the enrollment at four-year public colleges statewide. Enrollment rises to 25 percent when the students in two-year community colleges are added.

Though there has been progress since former Gov. George Wallace’s attempt to uphold his promise of “segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever,” black student enrollment has yet to reach the 27 percent that U.S. census demographics predict based on the state’s overall population, according to Alabama Commission on Higher Education figures from 1976 to 2012.

The 19 percent enrollment in 2012 is well above the most recently available national average for black student enrollment at all colleges, including private schools: 14 percent in 2009, according to National Center for Education Statistics records.

The challenges facing true equality in education go beyond the simple right to access at predominantly white schools, says Christopher Foreman Jr., a senior fellow with the Brookings Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank that focuses on research and education in social sciences and government.

“Once that problem dissolved, as was inevitable, the real long-term obstacles loomed — poor preparation for college-level work and financial obstacles that put college out of reach for many,” Foreman said. “These, of course, could not be cured with political empowerment and turnover in the governor’s mansion.”

Fewer at flagships

While blacks now are a significant portion of the student body at several historically white schools — they account for 53 percent of the students at the University of West Alabama, for instance — they account for a significantly smaller portion of the enrollment at the state’s flagship schools.

At the University of Alabama, black students accounted for 11.9 percent of the student body in the fall of 2012, and at Auburn University just 7.42 percent of the student population was black.
Problems in the K-12 system contribute to black students being underrepresented at flagship and highly selective schools, says Ibran Rogers, a diversity and higher education expert at the State University of New York in Albany.

Rogers says this is primarily because black students are statistically less likely to have access to advanced placement and other college preparation course in their K-12 education than their white counterparts. And those courses are coveted by college admissions officers at flagship institutions.

"Admissions factors at flagships are clearly a lot higher," Rogers said. "They (black students) are struggling in those admissions criteria not because they're less intelligent, but because of the opportunities that are afforded them."

To counter this, Rogers says, some educators have proposed that colleges change their admissions criteria so that high school graduates are competing only against those at similarly situated high schools instead of competing against students from all high schools, regardless of advantage.

The University of Texas System uses a similar approach. For in-state students, it guarantees admission into the college system for any student who graduates in the top 10 percent of his or her high school class, evening the playing field between students from various high schools.

However, while the program guarantees student admission into the 15-campus system, it does not guarantee admission into the more selective schools such as the University of Texas in Austin.

University of Alabama officials said last week that the university is a leader among flagship universities nationwide in the enrollment of black students. A statement from the school noted it ranks third in the nation among the top 50 flagship universities for the percentage of total degrees conferred to black students.

Wayne Alderman, dean of enrollment management at Auburn University, said the school is committed to increasing diversity on campus. Black enrollment has increased by 14 percent in the past 10 years and 74 percent in the past 20 years, he said.

"This is one of our key strategic goals for the university, and one of the focuses for us in private giving is more funding for academic and need-based scholarships," Alderman said. "Because money is a factor."

Out of poverty

Federal statistics indicate that only 14.3 percent of black Alabamians had a bachelor’s degree or better as of 2011, compared to 24.8 percent of whites.
The median family income for blacks that year was $32,368 compared to $59,725 for whites.

Education remains the surest way to address poverty, says Sen. Henry “Hank” Sanders, D-Selma, a longtime state legislator and one of 13 children born to an illiterate father and a mother who did not complete the eighth grade.

“I knew poverty first hand, and education for me was a ticket out of poverty, and I think that education has been a ticket out of poverty for a whole lot of folks.”

Where students of any race choose to attend school depends largely on the course of study they’re pursuing, the students’ preparation and their ability to pay, according to Gregory Fitch, executive

Public colleges have no quotas to meet when it comes to racial demographics, he said.

“If doesn’t matter whether you’re black, white or who you are,” he said. “The idea is that you’re attracting students based on their interests.”
Kleinendorst leaves Chargers with a solid foundation

Mark McCarter
mmccarter@aol.com

Though the abrupt resignation of its coach might create a perception of a setback for the UAHuntsville ice hockey program, those close to the program are as optimistic as ever about the Chargers' future.

Kurt Kleinendorst, who became head coach last Sept. 26, resigned Wednesday, hoping to return to professional hockey.

He was lauded Thursday with praise for helping put the program back on solid ground to make its move into the Western Collegiate Hockey Association next year.

"As far as the program, it looks like we've got everything shored up," said director of athletics E.J. Brophy.

"We've got facilities shored up (with contract at Propst Arena). We've got the conference shored up. The recruiting is solid, and the (support) staff is solid."

"Now," Brophy said, "we've just got to get a head coach to come here and win."

"We're light years ahead (of this time last year)," said Ralph Drensek, one of the leaders in the Huntsville hockey community. "It all comes to the conference membership. That is the key. I think we're an attractive opportunity for a coach to put his mark on a program. Huntsville is a modern, attractive, dynamic city for somebody to come in and be a part of that and take our program from the foundation Kurt has left behind."

See UAH, Page 4B
UAH
From Page 1B

The Chargers finished 3-21-1 last year. The recent lack of success, supporters of the team say, has been due to UAH's status as an independent and the instability prompted by the decision, since rescinded, by interim President Malcolm Portera to drop intercollegiate hockey at the NCAA level.

UAH signed nine new players to scholarships for next season. As Kleinendorst said, "This is a good program. We've signed nine quality recruits. This is going to be a nice situation."

Kleinendorst acknowledged his decision was "something that caught some people by surprise," but he did not want to leave UAH in a lurch should an opportunity in pro hockey arise. He had played and coached at the professional level and was on the staff of the New Jersey Devils for their 2000 Stanley Cup win.

"There's no question in my mind that I enjoy the pro game. It's nothing more or nothing less. It's about me being me and being true to myself. I'm totally at peace with it," he said. "I'm not leaving for another job. I don't have one waiting for me. I don't believe in sticking around and collecting a paycheck. That's not fair to anybody. I feel good that the time is now. To leave in the middle of July because something (in pro hockey) came along would not be fair."

"I feel we owe Kurt thanks for coming into a difficult situation," Drensek said. "He had to assemble a schedule, and he was a consummate professional, and so I'd wish him well."

"He steadied the waters and we're thankful for that," Brophy said.

UAH will immediately begin a search for his successor, and Brophy wants to have someone hired by no later than mid-July.

"Like John Wooden said, we want to be quick, but we don't want to be in a hurry," Brophy said. "Everything else is in place. The important thing is we get the right guy."
UAH's Smith voted top small college athlete

HUNTSVILLE | Jaime Smith scored 1,980 points in his four seasons at Alabama-Huntsville, a vast number of them coming in clutch situations, like the game-winning 3-pointer in the NCAA South Region semifinals on an evening when he scored 31.

But the most imposing statistic is this: During his four years in the UAH lineup, the Chargers won 106 of 128 games, won four regular-season Gulf South Conference championships and earned four NCAA invitations.

Smith, a Hoover native, has been named Alabama's 2013 Small College Athlete of the Year by the Alabama Sports Writers Association, which holds its annual convention this weekend in Jacksonville.

He was the GSC Player of the Year, the NCAA South Region Player of the Year and was selected for the NCAA Division II National All-Star Game, along with UAH teammate Zane Campbell.

Smith was second in the GSC in scoring at 18.5 points per game (45th in the nation) while making the difficult transition from shooting guard to point guard; he also averaged 4.8 assists per game.
Ninth-inning meltdown ends season for Tide

By Aaron Suttles
Sports Writer

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. | Kenny Roberts didn't move from his third base position, bent over at the waist staring at the dirt for minutes until teammates finally wrapped their arms around him and shuffled him over into the postgame handshake line.

Andrew Miller sat teary-eyed in the postgame press conference. Brett Booth didn't make the interview session, too emotional to speak. It was the seniors who took what might be one of the University of Alabama baseball program's most embarrassing postseason losses the hardest Sunday.

The Alabama bullpen blew a three-run ninth-inning lead, walking in the winning run to fall to Troy, 9-8, for the second time in three days. The loss eliminates the Crimson Tide from the regional. UA ends its season 35-23. Troy was eliminated by Florida State later Sunday.

"I can't describe it. You never want to go out that way," Miller said. "It happened, and we're just going to have to live with it and move on, but you never want to go out like we just did."

Freshman reliever Ray Castillo, who set the UA rookie record for saves the day before, came on in the bottom of the ninth with an 8-5 lead. He recorded only one out before walking in the winning run. He hit two Troy batters, walked another three and allowed two hits in his third blown save of the season.

With his play throughout the season, Castillo earned the role of closer, and even with the freshman laboring and struggling with command, UA coach Mitch Gaspard stuck with his guy.

"It's tough. Guys earn trust," Gaspard said. "That's the thing as a coach. You stick with the guys to where you can put your head on the pillow at night. It's the old adage, 'I can put my head down at night if I know I got beat with my best guy.' Ray's come through in so many of those situations, we felt like he was going to get a double play when it was 8-7. You go with it that way. That's the nature of the game. You're going to win some like that. You're going to lose some like that."

An almost wholesale change in the batting order sparked an offense that had been stagnant in the previous two games for eight runs on 15 hits. The team never trailed until the walk-off base on balls.

After Troy pulled tied the game at 4 in the sixth inning, Alabama surged the next inning with a two-run double by Booth followed by an Austen Smith RBI double. The teams traded runs in the eighth before Troy's ninth-inning heroics.

Gaspard said it's one of the toughest losses of his career to swallow.

"It is because it's about these (seniors)," Gaspard said. "That's the ones that hurt you; because I know how much they care and what it means to them. I know how hard they've worked for four years."

Shortstop Mickey Wiltz, second baseman Kyle Overy and Booth were named to the all-tournament team.

Reach Aaron Suttles at aaron@tidesports.com or at 205-722-0229.
Best college team ever?
Let the debate begin

Don Kauster Jr.
dkauster@al.com

Going into the 2013 NCAA Championships, California was ranked No. 1. Alabama was ranked No. 2.

Cal had won an NCAA-record 11 tournaments this season. There was talk that the Golden Bears were the greatest team in the history of men's college golf.

But Cal lost to Illinois on Saturday in the semifinals of the national tournament in Milton, Ga. Alabama defeated the Fighting Illini on Sunday to win its first national championship.

So is the Crimson Tide the greatest team in the history of men's college golf?

Let the conversation begin.

"We won every tournament this spring except one," Alabama coach Jay Seawell said after arriving back in Tuscaloosa. "We finished second."

The Tide ended its season with victories in the SEC Championships, the NCAA Baton Rouge Regional and the NCAA Championships. Alabama junior Bobby Wyatt went into the NCAA Championships ranked No. 3 in the nation. Junior Cory Whitten was ranked No. 4 and sophomore Justin Thomas was ranked No. 8.

So where does this championship put Alabama?

"We're a national power," said Seawell, whose team was the runner-up last season after losing on the last hole to No. 1 Texas.

Seawell didn't know it was Alabama's first national championship in a men's sport other than football until earlier in the day.

"That's really cool," he said. "Coach (Nick) Saban actually called me right after the tournament and gave me my congratulations. It was really special that he did that. He's a friend of mine. ... I look forward to getting a ring and showing off my bling. He's got four, so there you go. He's still trumping me."

Alabama's Scott Strohmeyer, right, hugs a teammate after defeating Illinois. (AP)
Year in the making

After a runner-up finish last season, Alabama breaks through to capture first national championship

By Chase Goodbread
Sports Writer

MILTON, Ga. | Junior Bobby Wyatt won his first seven holes in match play to spark the University of Alabama men’s golf team to a 4-1 win over Illinois on Sunday, winning the program’s first NCAA championship.

When Wyatt’s wedge shot from the rough on hole No. 13 at the Capital City Club Crabapple Course fell in the cup, the Crimson Tide had the first of three points needed to win much earlier than expected. Wyatt needed just 13 holes to defeat the Illini’s Thomas Detry, then roamed the course encouraging his teammates to finish what he started.

Wyatt said he didn’t like much about his lie on what was one of the match’s most impressive shots.

“I was really in trouble there. I didn’t think I could keep it on the top slope where the pin was, and I tried to hit it as high and as soft as I could,” Wyatt said. “I landed it right where I wanted to. The only way it could have stopped on that slope was by hitting the pin, and it did, and went in for me.”

UA’s two-man coaching staff had an early sense of what was to come for Wyatt shortly after the team arrived at the course at 6:30 a.m. to warm up for an 8 a.m. start.

“Bobby on the driving range, I don’t think Tiger Woods would have wanted him when I watched him warm up,” UA coach Jay Seawell said. “(Assistant coach Rob Bradley) came up to me, and said, ‘I wouldn’t want to play him today.’”

Wyatt won seven consecutive holes to start the match, putting his point virtually out of reach before his pairing had even finished the front nine.

“I could just tell. He’s been really focused this week, and his ball striking has been so spot-on, and he doesn’t ever get rattled,” Bradley said. “I could see it in his eyes. There is a reason we ran him out first every day.”

Alabama got its second point when Trey Mullinax defeated Illinois’ Charlie Danielson with a par on the 18th hole. The match was all square after 17, but Danielson bogeyed the par-4, 468-yard hole. Minutes later, Illinois’ Alex Burge missed a putt on the 15th hole to seal his loss to UA’s Cory Whitsett and clinch the Crimson Tide’s victory.

Whitsett was unbeaten in three days of match play, ending his matches early each day on Nos. 14, 15 and 16.

PHOTO JERI A. GULSBY, CRIMSONTIDEPHOTOS.COM

Alabama’s Bobby Wyatt, right, celebrates with Trey Mullinax, middle, and assistant coach Rob Bradley after the Crimson Tide clinched the national championship.

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH PLAY RESULTS

Bobby Wyatt (Alabama) def. Thomas Detry (Illinois), 6 and 5
Trey Mullinax (Alabama) def. Charlie Danielson (Illinois), 1-up
Thomas Pieters (Illinois) def. Justin Thomas (Alabama), 1-up
Scott Strohmeyer (Alabama) def. Brian Campbell (Illinois), 3 and 2
Cory Whitsett (Alabama) def. Alex Burge (Illinois), 4 and 3

See next page
ALABAMA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1C

16 and 15, respectively. In 45 match play holes over three days, Whitsett made 16 birdies with just two bogeys and one double-bogey.

For Alabama, the victory was a year in waiting after the Crimson Tide lost to Texas on the final day of match play last year.

"It's so difficult, so hard to sustain a high level of play for six days (in a row). I'm so relieved," Whitsett said. "I felt like I let down my whole team last year, my university. I gave away a lot in that match. So today's round, we played well and did what we needed to do."

UA's Scott Strohmeyer won his match against Brian Campbell.

Seawell said the son of former Alabama athletic director Hootie Ingram helped him place the victory in proper perspective.

"I saw a former player, who played in the late '70s, Cecil Ingram, whose dad was an AD, right after we won. And he couldn't speak. He was crying," Seawell said. "It gave me a perspective of what it meant to the people who have played on this team. There have been hundreds of guys who have played Alabama golf, and this trophy is for all of them. Everybody has a part."

Illinois coach Mike Small indicated Alabama's experience against Texas last year was a clear advantage.

"You can tell Alabama had an edge to them today. They went through this once and not winning is a powerful feeling when your group (stays) together and comes back this year," Small said.

A pro-Alabama gallery that heavily outnumbered Illinoise fans roared on holes won for the Crimson Tide, which provided each player with an indication that things were going well elsewhere on the course.

"I knew we had the bigger crowd, and when you hear those big roars, you had a good feeling it was your team," Mullinax said. "We had a lot more fans here, obviously, because it's a lot closer for us. I know I made a good putt on 12, and Bobby chipped in on 13 at about the same time, and people just went crazy."

Reach Chase Goodbread at chase@tidesports.com or at 205-722-0196.
To stay, or not to stay

Commissioner Slive will decide whether to stay beyond 2013-14

Jon Solomon
jsolomon@aol.com

The topic isn't being discussed formally yet between SEC Commissioner Mike Slive and the conference's presidents and chancellors. But during the next year, Slive will determine if he wants to continue as commissioner beyond 2013-14.

Slive, who turns 73 next month, said he is in no rush to decide. He will sit down with his family and university presidents in the coming months to consider his future.

"There were certainly big things in my Apple (to complete before retiring): the expansion, the SEC network and the BCS and modeling that out to how we hoped it would come out," Slive said. "I have another year to go in my current agreement, and at some point this year we'll sit down and have a conversation and see where we go from there."

Slive has one year remaining on his contract that paid him approximately $1.6 million in 2011, making him the fourth highest-paid conference commissioner behind the Pac-12's Larry Scott; Big Ten's Jim Delany and ACC's John Swofford. The SEC Network and College Football Playoff both launch after Slive's contract expires in 2014, two big-ticket items Slive contributed to creating.

"To me, it's important that Mike stay as long as Mike feels comfortable and healthy and wise to the job," said Auburn President Jay Gogue, chairman of the SEC's presidents and chancellors. "We'll talk about it. I'm sure in the next few months and find out exactly what his long-range interests are."

Slive will have served 12 years as commissioner when his current contract expires next summer. That would make him the SEC's longest-tenured commissioner since Boyd McWhorter served from 1972 to 1986.

In recent years, Slive has been working on shorter two-year contracts.

"It's probably not unusual for somebody his age to say, 'I feel good right now, my family is healthy, feel good for another year or two years,'" Gogue said.

"A long-term contract when you reach a certain age is probably not the sort of thing you want to do."

Several SEC presidents interviewed for this article say Slive has earned the right to do what's best for him after this year. Texas A&M President R. Bowen Loftin said he hopes Slive remains commissioner when the conference network starts in 2014.

Roy Kramer, Slive's predecessor who retired at the age of 73, oversaw the SEC as revenue distributions to members soared from $16.3 million to $95.7 million by 2002. In Slive's era, a period that has seen escalating media rights dollars nationally, the SEC's revenue distributions reached $289.4 million this year.
Coaches vote 13-1 to keep eight league games

DESTIN, Fla. — SEC football coaches voted 13-1 Wednesday to keep eight conference games — Alabama coach Nick Saban is the lone holdout for nine — and were about evenly divided on whether to maintain permanent cross-divisional opponents.

Those votes, of course, can mean very little in the big picture. Athletics directors and university presidents are part of these discussions, which won’t be resolved this week at the SEC spring meetings.

Even with the coaches’ vote to keep eight games, there’s a sense by some coaches and administrations that switching to nine is inevitable.

“Personally, I think we’ll end up moving to nine games eventually,” Florida coach Will Muschamp said. “You create an SEC Network. At the end of the day, it’s going to be driven by the dollar and having those games are going to be important. Having enough quality games on television promoting for a nine-game SEC regular season in my opinion will eventually happen.”

Tennessee AD Dave Hart, who is trying to maintain the annual Alabama-Tennessee rivalry, believes nine is inevitable because college football is encountering “a paradigm shift.” Part of that shift is teams will no longer have to go undefeated or “have the stars aligned” to win a national title, Hart said.

SEC Commissioner Mike Slive said he made clear to coaches they have to upgrade their nonconference schedule: Several athletics directors and coaches said Slive wants teams to have 10 quality games, both for strength of schedule and fan attendance purposes.

“I don’t know that nine (SEC) games is the answer,” Alabama Athletics Director Bill Battle said. “What I think is that we really need to play at least 10 good games.”

South Carolina coach Steve Spurrier, who favors eight games, questions why conference games are necessarily more important than nonconference games.

“Anything can happen when television starts telling you what to do,” Spurrier said. “My thought is this: Would television people rather televise Texas-Texas A&M or Texas A&M-Kentucky? Why are the conference games supposed to be bigger? They’re not bigger than some rivalry games like that.”
Ohio St. president retires over jabs at Notre Dame

By Andrew Welsh-Huggins
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio | Ohio State University President Gordon Gee abruptly announced his retirement Tuesday after he came under fire for jokingly referring to "those damn Catholics" at Notre Dame and poking fun at the academic quality of other schools.

The remarks were first reported last week by The Associated Press, and Ohio State at the time called them unacceptable and said it had placed Gee on a "remediation plan" to change his behavior.

Gee, 69, said in a teleconference that the furor was only part of his decision to retire, which he said he had been considering for a while. He said his age and the start of a long-term planning process at the university were also factors.

"I live in turbulent times and I've had a lot of headwinds, and so almost every occasion, I have just moved on," he said.

Gee explained away the abrupt timing by saying he was "quirky as hell" and hated long transitions.

According to a recording of a Dec. 5 meeting obtained by the AP under a public records request, Gee, a Mormon, said Notre Dame was never invited to join the Big Ten athletic conference because "you just can't trust those damn Catholics."

Gee also took shots at schools in the Southeastern Conference and the University of Louisville, according to the recording of the meeting of the school's Athletic Council.

Gee apologized when the comments were disclosed, saying they were "a poor attempt at humor and entirely inappropriate."

His decision to retire was first reported by The Columbus Dispatch.

Robert Schottenstein, who as chairman of the university's board of trustees condemned the remarks last week as "wholly unacceptable" and "not presidential in nature," deflected questions about whether Gee had been forced out by the board.

"It's really about a decision to retire for the reasons that Gordon has articulated," Schottenstein said.

Ohio State, one of the biggest universities in the nation, with 65,000 students, named provost Joseph Alutto as interim president.
GEE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1C

Gee, a familiar figure on campus with his bowties and owlish eyeglasses, has repeatedly gotten in trouble over the years for verbal gaffes.

Ohio State trustees learned of Gee's latest remarks in January and created the remediation plan. In a March 11 letter, the trustees warned any repeat offenses could lead to his firing and ordered him to apologize to those he offended. But it appeared that several of Gee's apologies came only in the last week or so as the school prepared to respond to the AP's inquiries.

Gee said Tuesday he waited until recently to apologize in person to the Notre Dame president, Rev. John Jenkins, because they had a long-scheduled meeting. Schottenstein said the board was satisfied with Gee's response to the letter.

In the recording of his meeting with the Athletic Council, Gee said that the top goal of Big Ten presidents is to "make certain that we have institutions of like-minded academic integrity. So you won't see us adding Louisville." After laughter from the audience, Gee added that the Big Ten wouldn't add the University of Kentucky, either.

When asked by a questioner how to respond to SEC fans who say the Big Ten can't count because it now has 14 members, Gee said: "You tell the SEC when they can learn to read and write, then they can figure out what we're doing."

Notre Dame and the SEC had no comment on Gee's retirement.
Thorp: Sports not for school presidents

The Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. | Holden Thorp is packing up after nearly five years as chancellor at the University of North Carolina, preparing for his next job as provost at Washington University in St. Louis.

It’s no accident he’s leaving a school that regularly plays for national titles at the NCAA’s highest level to one that competes at its lowest.

Thorp’s done with big-time college sports, and if he had his way, other school presidents would be finished with them, too. Many leaders just don’t have the training to handle a major athletics program, he argues.

It’s a message that may resonate with administrators at institutions that have lately felt the sting of scandals tied to athletics.

“I feel great compassion for my colleagues that are getting caught up in this,” Thorp said. “My main concern in this, and the reason I’ve been saying what I’ve been saying, is I’m worried about the people who are my friends. But I’m also worried about the institutions that are having their leadership diverted in this way.”

Thorp will resign from his alma mater with its 18,000 undergraduates at the end of June to work at Washington (about 6,000 undergrads) after spending most of the past three years dealing with a withering array of NCAA and athletics-related problems. They dominated his time, despite the fact that — at least when he took the job — he was a novice in the business of athletics.

He’s come to the conclusion that presidents should step aside and let their athletic directors handle the job.

“Either we put the ADs back in charge and hold them accountable if things don’t work,” Thorp said in April during a campus forum. “... or let’s be honest and tell everyone when we select (presidents) to run institutions that run big-time sports that athletics is the most important part of their job.”

Sports have certainly created enormous problems for several top college administrators.

Ohio State University president Gordon Gee announced he was retiring Tuesday, after The Associated Press last week published remarks he made mocking Notre Dame,
Catholics and the Southeastern Conference during an athletic council meeting in December. Previously, during a 2011 scandal, Gee joked he was worried then-football coach Jim Tressel, who admitted to breaking NCAA rules, would dismiss him.

Rutgers University president Robert Barchi and the school have faced fierce criticism over the hiring of incoming athletic director Julie Hermann, who was accused of being verbally and emotionally abusive by players on the Tennessee volleyball team she coached in the 1990s. That came after the school fired men's basketball coach Mike Rice for throwing balls at his players and berating them in practice. In the aftermath of Rice's ouster, former athletic director Tim Pernetti also resigned.

At the University of Miami, president Donna Shalala has spent nearly two years dealing with an NCAA investigation of allegations that booster Nevin Shapiro provided thousands of dollars in improper benefits to Hurricanes athletes. She's publicly criticized the NCAA's probe, saying the school had been "wronged" and that the programs have "suffered enough" through self-imposed sanctions.

At Penn State University, former president Graham Spanier faces charges of perjury and concealing child sex abuse allegations involving former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky in a scandal that ended the long tenure of Joe Paterno and led to unprecedented sanctions from the NCAA.

Murray Sperber, a critic of commercialization in college sports, wonders why presidents don't stumble more often when it comes to overseeing a realm that is often foreign to them. Most come from the academic side and make their way through the administrative ranks that exist as separate worlds from athletics on a college campus, he said.

"If you put me in charge of the Atomic Energy Commission, I would get in trouble," said Sperber, an author and a visiting professor at the University of California, Berkeley's graduate school of education. "I wouldn't know what to say. It's so inevitable that I'm kind of amazed nobody just stands up and says, 'Look, these presidents don't know anything.'"
The Questions Keep Coming for Rutgers

By: Steve Eder

It was a few weeks after Rutgers hired a well-regarded recruiting firm to identify and vet candidates to lead the university’s athletic program, which was still reeling from a scandal involving an abusive coach, when Julie Hermann, a leading applicant, turned to one of the firm’s final questions.

“Are there any potential issues of controversy or concern we should be aware of?” Parker Executive Search asked. Ms. Hermann, a longtime athletics administrator at Louisville, signed the sheet, indicating that Rutgers had no cause to worry.

At a celebratory news conference on May 15 to announce her hiring as Rutgers’s athletic director, Ms. Hermann proclaimed it “a new day” at the university, saying that the slurs and epithets that Mike Rice, the former basketball coach, was caught on video hurling at his players would be replaced with a culture of “respect and dignity.”

But within days, the flood gates opened. Accusations about Ms. Hermann’s behavior at Louisville and Tennessee, including reportedly abusive conduct toward players on a volleyball team she coached, dominated the college sports world, plunging her and Rutgers into a controversy for the second time in as many months. There have been calls from elected officials and other critics for her to step down, along with criticism of the judgment of Robert L. Barchi, Rutgers’s president, at a crucial time in the university’s history.

New details about the vetting process, which included a 28-member search committee that even its own members found unwieldy, raise serious questions about the thoroughness of the search, and how much university officials, including Dr. Barchi, knew about their high-profile hire. Interviews with people close to the search process, as well as internal e-mails, show that it felt rushed and secretive, leaving some elected officials, major donors and search committee members deeply uneasy with how Rutgers responded to one of the biggest scandals in its history.

When Rutgers announced Ms. Hermann would replace Tim Pernetti, a former television executive who resigned in the wake of the Rice scandal, she became the first woman to head the Rutgers athletics department, and one of the few women to hold such a position anywhere in the country.

Parker, which is based in Georgia, was paid $70,000 to manage the search, which was extraordinarily sensitive because of the damage the Rice scandal had done to Rutgers’s reputation. Since Ms. Hermann’s selection, the firm has come under criticism for its role in the process.

See next page
But Parker, which vetted Ms. Hermann, who was among 63 initial candidates, made Rutgers aware of two lawsuits in which she played a central role: a 1997 case that ended with a jury awarding $150,000 to an assistant coach at Tennessee who said Ms. Hermann discouraged her from becoming pregnant; and a 2008 case at Louisville where a former assistant track coach said she was fired after complaining to Ms. Hermann and other university officials about sex discrimination. That case is pending at the Kentucky Supreme Court.

Mary Banker, the assistant coach in the second case, said she was shocked that Rutgers selected Ms. Hermann to turn around its program. “It has taken me a long time to heal from this,” she said. Rutgers never contacted her or Bryan Cassis, her lawyer, Mr. Cassis said.

Despite those cases, Dr. Barchi felt comfortable selecting Ms. Hermann to restore Rutgers’s tarnished athletics program, writing in her May 14 offer letter, “I have every confidence that you will lead our University with integrity and pride.” The job, which officially starts June 17, comes with a salary of $450,000.

But neither Rutgers nor Parker were aware of the existence of a two-page letter that her players wrote in 1997, saying she abused them and forced them to “endure mental cruelty.” That letter was first reported by The Star-Ledger of Newark.

In the days after the letter was made public, Dr. Barchi maintained his support of Ms. Hermann and his confidence in the search. “Rutgers was deliberative at every stage of this process,” he said.

Dr. Barchi did not respond to a request for an interview. A Rutgers spokesman declined to comment on the Parker questionnaire, calling it a personnel issue. Ms. Hermann did not respond to an e-mail seeking comment.

The turmoil has only grown, with members of the search committee criticizing how the group’s leaders conducted the search. Some familiar with the process called it unmanageable because it included 28 members. Others said that it felt like Ms. Hermann had been fast-tracked ahead of other candidates.

Underscoring how strange the search process became, some members of the committee openly supported the rehiring of Mr. Pernetti, whose resignation set off the search process. “Next time, I’d like a little bit more time,” said Ron Garutti, a member of the search committee and of the Rutgers Board of Trustees and the Board of Overseers. “I’d like a little more time and more transparency in the process.”

On Tuesday, Mr. Garutti sent an e-mail to the 28-member panel summarizing his grievances.

Among them, he said, some committee members received information on finalist candidates past 9:30 p.m. on a Sunday, less than 12 hours before interviews on Monday morning, making it
difficult to “prepare intelligently.” There was also “little or no time to ask follow-up questions, or probe deeply,” he wrote.

And, Mr. Garutti wrote, he still had concerns after the interview about the pregnancy discrimination lawsuit in Tennessee.

The lawsuit ultimately prompted additional questions of Tennessee officials as part of Ms. Hermann’s vetting, but did not turn up the allegations of abusive behavior toward players that were raised after her hiring. The players’ concerns were especially sensitive at Rutgers, in light of Rice’s firing.

According to the letter published by The Star-Ledger on Sunday, volleyball players coached by Ms. Hermann at Tennessee said they “have been lied to, publicly humiliated, and ripped apart as both players and people.”

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie has stood by Dr. Barchi, signaling that he is likely to survive the scandal. Dr. Barchi is leading a reorganization of the university that includes merging Rutgers and the three schools of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, attaching two to the Rutgers campus in New Brunswick, and one to Camden. It is scheduled to happen by July 1, which would make a change in leadership highly disruptive.

Still, elected officials like State Senator Raymond Lesniak, a Democrat and a Rutgers graduate, have criticized Dr. Barchi. “He’s not forthcoming, he dances, he parses,” he said.

State Senator Barbara Buono, who is seeking the Democratic nomination to run against Mr. Christie in his bid for re-election in November, has criticized Dr. Barchi for “defending the indefensible when it comes to the monthslong reality show” in the Rutgers athletic department.