April 4, 2013

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Otilia Delchamps
Obituary

Mrs. Otilia "Tillie" Meyer Delchamps age 79, a native of Mobile, AL and a resident of Fairhope, AL died on Sunday March 31, 2013 at her residence.
She was preceded in death by her parents Otilia Evans Meyer and Clarence William Meyer, an infant son, and her brother Clarence W. Meyer, Jr.
Mrs. Delchamps is survived by her husband Oliver H. Delchamps Jr., her children Oliver H. Delchamps, III, Karen Delchamps McCoy, and John Meyer (Edna) Delchamps. "Gams" will be greatly missed by her seven grandchildren O. Harris Delchamps, IV, Marilyn F. Delchamps, Hallie Otilia McCoy, V. Brittain McCoy, John M. Delchamps, Jr., Evans H. Delchamps, and William H. Delchamps. Her manners lessons will be fondly remembered! "Tillie" was a devoted wife and mother. She loved her grand-dogs, and the peacefulness of Mobile Bay and Pt. Clear.

Funeral services will be held from the graveside on Wednesday April 3, 2013 at 12:30PM. Interment will be in Pine Crest Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the family request donations may be made to Dauphin Way United Methodist Church, or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The family would like to thank everyone at The Brennity of Fairhope, and give special thanks to Tiffani White and the sitters with Heavenly Caregivers.
Bentley seeking raises for teachers

Governor aims to lift pay 10 percent over three years

By Phillip Rawls
The Associated Press

MONTGOMERY | Gov. Robert Bentley has set a goal of raising teachers' pay by close to 10 percent over three years.

Bentley has already recommended that the Legislature approve a 2.5 percent cost-of-living raise for the 2013-2014 school year. He said he intends to propose a similar amount for the 2014-2015 school year and another raise for 2015-2016.

"My goal is to have close to a 10 percent pay raise by the end of three years. I think it is reasonable," he said in a speech Tuesday to retired teachers in Montgomery.

Bentley said he believes the goal is achievable because Alabama's economy is recovering from the recession and businesses are creating new jobs.

"I truly believe we are right now on the verge of seeing our state create more jobs than we have created in decades," he said.

House Speaker Mike Hubbard, R-Auburn, and House budget committee Chairman Jay Love, R-Montgomery,

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said the governor had never mentioned the goal to them.

"That's a great goal," Hubbard said. But, he said, "it's going to be hard to do the 2.5 percent" for the first year.

He said Alabama's tax revenue for education will be smaller than legislators originally anticipated because of rising retirement costs and an increase in federal payroll taxes that started in January.

Alabama gives a state income tax deduction for federal taxes paid, and the federal increase will result in Alabama collecting $60 million less, he said.

That affects public schools because income taxes are the largest source of revenue for education.

Hubbard said legislators also want to make sure that any raise is sustainable in future years and won't result in midyear cutbacks in education spending.

The pay raise issue will be among the first issues addressed by legislators when they return from spring break. Love's Ways and Means Education Committee is scheduled to discuss the education budget on Tuesday and possibly vote on it Wednesday.

Love isn't saying what he will recommend ahead of Tuesday's meeting, but he said he will encourage his committee to approve a fiscally conservative budget.

If educators get a raise, it would be the first increase of Bentley's term and the first since they got 7 percent for the 2007-2008 school year.

Henry Mabry, the executive secretary of the Alabama Education Association, said the teachers' organization would like to see Bentley achieve his goal, but it doesn't appear financially possible.

The reason, he said, is the Legislature has approved new tax credits for parents who enroll their children in private school rather than a public school rated as failing. The tax credits will come from money now going to public education.

Mabry said the tax credits could curtail school funding by $50 million to $365 million a year, depending on how many families use them.

"With full implementation of this thing, there is no way to do these raises," he said.

AEA is challenging the tax credits in court.

Bentley has not proposed a raise for state employees for the new fiscal year because he said tax revenue for the state General Fund budget is still lagging from the recession. Hubbard said state employees deserve a raise, but he agrees with the governor that it's not possible.
Tuscaloosa unemployment rate falls

Drop continues a trend over the past year, but rate still not back to pre-recession level

By Patrick Rupinski
Business Editor

Alabama’s unemployment rate rose in February, but Tuscaloosa County’s rate fell slightly to 6.8 percent, down from 7.0 percent in January.

State figures released Friday showed Alabama’s preliminary February unemployment rate is 7.2 percent, up from January’s rate of 6.9 percent. The February rate matched February 2012’s adjusted rate.

Statewide, about 154,885 people were unemployed in February, compared with 148,663 in January and 155,673 in February 2012.

“While we did experience a slight uptick in the unemployment rate this month, we also saw an increase in the number of people working, both over the past month and the past year,” said a statement from state Labor Commissioner Tom Surtees. “We’ve also seen an increase in the number of people in the labor force. This tells us that some people are regaining confidence in the job market and are looking for work again.”

Tuscaloosa County’s unemployment rate reflected 6,391 people as unemployed.

Labor economists have said the actual number of people unemployed is higher because the official rate does not include people trying to enter the workforce for the first time or re-entering the workforce after a prolonged absence. It also does not include those who have given up looking for work.

Tuscaloosa County has shown a gradually improving employment picture over the past year, with a workforce that has gradually grown and more people becoming employed. The unemployment numbers, however, are still higher than they were before the recession hit in 2008.

Tuscaloosa County’s February unemployment rate matched that of Madison County for the fourth lowest unemployment rate among the state’s 67 counties.

Shelby, Lee and Blount counties had lower unemployment rates.

In January, Tuscaloosa County had the 11th lowest rate among the state’s counties.

Throughout the rest of central West Alabama, unemployment remained

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higher with the Black Belt counties south of Tuscaloosa—Sumter, Greene, Hale, Perry and Marengo—continuing with a double-digit unemployment rate.

Pickens, Fayette and Lamar to the west and north of Tuscaloosa had unemployment rates near 9 percent, and Bibb County, southeast of Tuscaloosa, had an unemployment rate of 8.5 percent.

The Tuscaloosa metro area, which includes Tuscaloosa, Greene and Hale counties, saw a significant increase in employment by state and local governments, which added about 800 workers in February. About 300 workers were added to the leisure and hospitality industry, while manufacturing added 200 workers, as did mining, construction and natural resources.

Retailers and wholesalers reported a loss of 100 workers in the metro area.

Statewide, Surtees said initial unemployment compensation claims were down by more than 50 percent from last month.

"This represents stabilization in initial claims as the expected loss from seasonal hiring and temporary shutdowns begins to wane," he said.

Shelby County had the state's lowest unemployment rate at 5.6 percent, and Wilcox County had the highest at 17.6 percent.
Thank God for Mississippi...

...and 19 other states

Evan Belanger
ebelanger@al.com

Perhaps comedian Jay Leno put it best following Alabama’s 42-14 trouncing of rival Notre Dame in the BCS national title game.

"Congratulations to the state of Alabama. They are No. 1 in college football, 49th in everything else," he said during his nightly monologue.

It’s an easy conclusion to reach. Even House Speaker Mike Hubbard, R-Auburn, cited the stats when commenting to the Times-Daily on the Alabama Education Association’s waning influence in Montgomery.

"Think of all the years that the AEA ran the show in Montgomery and then consider the fact that public education in Alabama was consistently ranked 49th and 50th in the nation throughout that period," he told paper this month.

But a report published in Education Week paints a different picture of the state’s much-scrutinized K-12 public education system, ranking it 30th nationwide based on six performance and policy measures.

Overall, the rankings from the EPE Research Center — a division of Education Projects in Education, which publishes Education Week — give Alabama a C+ and a score of 76.6, just below the national average of 76.9.

The report gives Alabama high marks for its curriculum and assessment policies (13th in the nation), its efforts to better coordinate with colleges, employers and early education programs (14th), and the quality of its teachers (19th).

However, Alabama still struggles in the Chance-for-Success Index, intended to measure the impact of education on a person’s life. The state ranks 43rd nationally in that category.

It also lacks in the student-achievement measure — an index of standardized tests, success in reducing the poverty gap, graduation rates and student success in Advanced Placement classes — ranking 44th nationally.

The center ranks Alabama 31st in the nation for school finance, an index that examines state spending relative to benchmarks such as the national average or the total size of the state’s budget.

ONLINE POLL
(An unscientific, open-access poll at al.com/politics)

WHAT’S THE BEST WAY TO IMPROVE PUBLIC EDUCATION IN ALABAMA?

Implement a lottery to raise revenue: 31 percent
Raise state taxes: 19 percent
Increase funding for targeted programs such as the Alabama Reading Initiative and the Alabama Math Science Technology Initiative: 18 percent
Increase teacher pay: 9 percent
Pass laws that hold public schools accountable for poor performance: 9 percent
Pass laws that prohibit schools from considering teacher seniority when reducing staff: 8 percent
Implement regulations to make teaching colleges more selective when admitting students: 4 percent
No changes are needed: 1 percent

Results as of 5 p.m. Thursday. Total votes: 2,047

HOW SOUTHERN STATES RANK

In overall measures of public education, according to Education Week

Florida: 6
Georgia: 7
Kentucky: 10
Louisiana: 15
Tennessee: 22
South Carolina: 26
ALABAMA: 30
Mississippi: 48

Overall, the rankings from the EPE Research Center — a division of Education Projects in Education, which publishes Education Week — give Alabama a C+ and a score of 76.6, just below the national average of 76.9.
ENVIRONMENT

Alabama streams, rivers struggling under pollution

EPA says Southern coastal streams in worst shape

Ben Raines
braines@al.com

More than half of the nation's streams and rivers are in poor condition, according to a survey conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The majority "do not support healthy populations of aquatic life, with phosphorus and nitrogen pollution and poor habitat the most widespread problems."

The streams in the coastal South, including states bordering both the Gulf and the Atlantic coastlines, are in the worst shape. Alabama sits in the heart of the area with the most problems. Streams in the Pacific Northwest are in the best shape.

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STREAMS
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In general, the streams suffer from exposure to people. The two primary pollutants, nitrogen and phosphorus, come from fertilizers, detergents, sewage waste and other human activities. Both pollutants fuel algae growth, which sets off a cascade of problems in aquatic environments.

In Alabama, the cloudy waters often seen in the Cahaba River and other streams around Birmingham, and in Mobile's Three Mile Creek, provide examples of the problems described in the EPA report.

Ultimately, streams with too much nitrogen or phosphorus become cloudy with algae, which kills aquatic vegetation and results in low oxygen levels.

Fish, snails, mussels and other aquatic creatures can't live in streams with low oxygen, and animals can't hunt or forage in cloudy, murky water.

Another key issue affecting the nation's streams is the loss of vegetation along the banks. The ecosystem of a stream relies partly on the shade provided by trees and bushes growing along its course.

The trees help keep water temperatures cool in the warm months, and limit the growth of algae by blocking sunlight. Stumps and limbs that end up in the water provide critical structure in stream beds required by fish.

In Oregon, the state with the most logging in the U.S., logging companies are required by state law to leave a wide buffer zone around streams to ensure a shady canopy remains. In Alabama, which ranks third nationally in terms of logging, there is no such requirement in place.

Streamside buffer zones are also critical in keeping mud from flowing off the land and into streams.

Excess sediment was identified as a critical problem in the study: Streams containing high levels of sediment were about 60 percent more likely to be in poor condition biologically.

Overall, the study found a 7 percent increase in the number of streams that ranked as poor since the last nationwide survey in 2004.

Eighty-five crews sampled 1,924 stream locations for this survey.

The study calls for immediate action to prevent further declines in stream quality.

"Our rivers and streams are under significant stress and more than half exhibit poor biological condition. "Phosphorus, nitrogen and streamed sediments in particular have widespread and severe impacts; reducing levels of these constituents will significantly improve the biological health of rivers and streams," reads the conclusion.

"This survey suggests the need to address the many sources of these stressors — including runoff from urban areas, agricultural practices and wastewater — in order to ensure healthier waters for future generations."
Park still growing despite federal budget struggles

Martin Swant
mswant@al.com

"Despite federal budget struggles affecting the outlook for defense contractors, Cummings Research Park — home to thousands of technology, defense and life sciences professionals — is poised for further growth in 2013.

The nation's second largest research park saw a number of gains last year. Wyle CAS Group announced plans for an $18.75 million facility. Aegis Technologies made $1 million in capital improvements. Companies such as Lockheed Martin, Decibel Research, ASI and Sigmatel all announced new jobs in 2012.

Bridge Street Town Centre based in Research Park is also experiencing growth. Last fall, Belk announced it would build a two-story flagship department store at the shopping center. The store, expected to open in 2014, will be surrounded by 45,000 square feet of additional retail space, a large sit-down restaurant, and 900 new parking spaces.

"Year after year, Research Park has brought high-tech sector jobs and above-average pay," Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle said in an interview. "It's been the foundation of our economic development."

The Chamber of Huntsville-Madison County is working to recruit around 27 new businesses to Huntsville, many of which could bring in anywhere between 200 and a few thousand jobs in a broad range of sectors. Battle said. At a price of less than $100,000 an acre, the city has kept the cost of land in the park relatively low — a key selling point for recruiting new companies.

But Battle said the biggest challenge could be a good thing. What if the park is too successful and runs out of land too quickly?

Research Park, founded in 1962, has about 430 acres left and sells about 40 acres a year, according to Research Park Director John Southard. It still has a "pretty substantial amount" of acres remaining, but at the current pace the park could run out of room in 10 years. The growth of Redstone Gateway, an office/commercial complex at the northern gate of Redstone Arsenal, might slow that some as companies expanding in Huntsville or moving to the city now have another option.

"Even though we expect there to be some government cuts, there is a still a healthy interest in land purchase and renting available space in the park, no question about it," Southard said. "We have several we are working on."

Southard said the unannounced projects are in some traditional aero-

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space and defense sectors, but also include cybersecurity and other emerging markets that will help further diversify Huntsville's economy. He said the park — and Huntsville's economy as a whole — is already much more diversified than it was at the end of the Apollo program. Further diversification in the fields of geospatial, cybersecurity and green energy sectors will continue that.

"There's a lot of growth we're looking at," Soutberland said. "It may come incrementally or in the form of small offices at first but the great thing is it all brings a chance
to diversity. And soon enough, maybe we'll have the next AdTran or Digitum."

AdTran, a telecommunications equipment developer, is Huntsville's only home-grown publicly traded company. Digitum is a Huntsville-based software developer.

The success of the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology is also breathing new energy into Research Park. The institute — which brings together life-sience researchers and entrepreneurs — has already grown from housing 12 companies when it opened in 2007 to 24 and counting. Larger companies have since acquired four others previously housed at HudsonAlpha.

Much of the work focuses on genome sequencing, a rapidly growing field. Knowing more about the human genome provides a wealth of information that scientists say has potential to solve a number of questions related to the cause and cure of diseases and disorders.

"We have the keys to the biggest library that ever existed," O'Neal Smitherman, executive vice president of HudsonAlpha, said in an interview.

The 150-acre campus is also growing. Some of the companies in the main 270,000-square-foot building will be expanding to the 88,000-square-foot facility being built next door. Fifty percent of the new building's space has already been claimed and will be used for customizable lab and office space. Smitherman said it's likely the rest could be filled by the end of the year.

"Everybody talks about how we're in a knowledge economy, but my thought is we've always been in a knowledge economy."
BROOKLEY AEROPLEX

Broadband for Airbus up in air

Officials don’t know who will pay for costly network

John Sharp
jsharp@al.com

Hooking up Airbus to a telecommunications and Internet network is going to be costly. So who’s going to pay for it?

Mobile city, county and airport officials fresh off a trip to Hamburg, Germany, are mulling the potential scenarios for getting a $10 million to $15 million fiber optics system installed at the Brookley Aeroplex before major construction begins on the $600 million Airbus assembly plant for its A320 aircraft.

“The question is whether the private sector will participate,” Bill Slisson, executive director with the Mobile Airport Authority, said Tuesday.

That issue could create some discussions and differences for local officials. Most envision some sort of public-private partnership, although no private entity has been identified as a possible developer.

“Any company that would locate at Brookley would

REWARD AND RISK

Mobile does not have a history of publicly investing in fiber optics systems for private companies or residences, but various governments elsewhere have pursued it.

Local officials point to Chattanooga, Tenn., as an example of a city that is fully invested in its fiber optics network. There, a municipal electrical company installed over 6,000 miles of cable paid for with federal stimulus money and $169 million in bonds.

Public endeavors into fiber optics can be risky, however. In Memphis, about $28 million in public money was poured into a failed spin-off company of the publicly owned Memphis Light, Gas and Water Division.

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BROOKLEY

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have to pay to get that connectivity, and eventually the expenses would be recouped," Sisson said. "It's one of those things where a private company may have to take initial risk."

It's unclear which public entity — the city of Mobile, the Airport Authority or the Mobile County Commission — would be responsible for the costs if the private sector shies away.

The airport authority is an independent branch of city government that owns and operates Mobile's three airports: Mobile Regional, Brookley Aeroplex and the Downtown Airport. The authority also oversees economic development at Brookley.

"I think we need to make some decisions about technology and infrastructure," Mobile Mayor Sam Jones said, adding that the city will have to "work with the county and everyone else to get it done."

Some public officials in Mobile are weary about local taxpayers getting overly involved.

County Commissioner Jerry Carl described a cost of $12 million to establish the fiber optics system.

"From a taxpayer standpoint, that is a lot of money," Carl said.

City Councilwoman Bess Rich said that in Hamburg, which is home to a vast Air-

bus assembly plant, "They had the private sector put all that in, and the people became their customers and clients for their service. I hope ours is done that way."

Rich said, "If we were in the industry of having fiber optics in our city and we were billing people for it, then I could see putting it in. But we're not in that business. We really don't have the financial ability to do so."

Both Sisson and Rich mentioned the urgency of addressing the fiber optics question, especially as road construction projects commence, such as preparation work to overhaul Broad Street. The city is spending $2.5 million on Broad Street alone.

The city of Mobile maintains major streets at Brookley, while the airport authority owns and maintains most side streets.

The airport authority is redeveloping some of the side streets within the complex as part of a $7.5 million bond issued two years ago. The 20-year borrowing plan provides financing for new drainage, roads, signage and lighting.

Sisson said that the best time to proceed with fiber optics installation is while the roads are being reworked. Otherwise, the roads would have to be dug up again.

Also, Sisson said that the airport authority is developing a technology plan that could serve as a blueprint for future work within the Brookley area.
Lawsuit filed in UA student’s death

20-year-old was in wreck on way back from BCS title game

By Stephanie Taylor
Staff Writer

The family of a University of Alabama student killed in a crash on her way home from the national championship football game in Miami has filed a wrongful death suit against all of the drivers involved.

Natalie Baine of Roswell, Ga., died at a Montgomery hospital after the Jan. 8 crash that involved a bus, the truck she was in and a third vehicle.

Baine, 20, was the passenger in a 2009 Chevrolet Silverado that was driven by Hudson Riedel, president of UA’s Sigma Chi chapter. Defendants in the suit are Riedel, truck owner and Sigma Chi member Thomas Matheny, Capital Motor Lines, bus driver Herbert James Sanders and Atiya Chana Crawley, who was driving a Chevrolet Impala that struck the truck.

According to the suit, Riedel made a left turn in front of the bus. The bus and the Impala driven by Crawley both struck the truck, causing the injuries that led to Baine’s death.

The suit filed in Montgomery Circuit Court last Thursday claims that the drivers did not use proper care while driving and demands a jury trial.

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LAW SUIT

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Attorneys Jere Beasley and Chris Glover of the Montgomery firm Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis & Miles PC and Russell Blank of Georgia are representing Baine's family.

"I didn't know Natalie, but I've learned a lot about her since I've begun my representation of her family," Glover stated in a release sent to news outlets Thursday morning. "She was an incredible girl who was loved by so many. Her life had so much promise and it was stolen from her far too early. It shouldn't have happened nor should she have died that night. Careless mistakes and foolish choices have consequences in life. We will do everything we can to hold those responsible for the death of this precious young woman."

Baine's family members told news station WSB-TV that her heart was donated to a 13-year-old girl, her kidney to a 10-year-old girl and her liver to a 58-year-old man.

Baine's stepsister told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution in January that she was considering studying in London and Belgium this summer. She wanted to attend graduate school after earning her degree in accounting, according to the newspaper.

Reach Stephanie Taylor at stephanie.taylor@tuscaloosa news.com or 205-722-0210.
Events at UA to mark business enterprise

Staff report

TUSCALOOSA] Entrepreneurship Week will be celebrated next week in Tuscaloosa with a number of special events that will include students from middle school through graduate school and university faculty. All the events will be geared toward fostering an entrepreneurial spirit.

The activities will start Tuesday with the focus on the youngest budding entrepreneurs. Ten students, ages 11 to 18, who are the first class of the Young Entrepreneurs Academy, known as YEAI, will pitch their business ideas to members of the business community at the University of Alabama Law School.

The public is invited to the YEAI Investor Panel Event, which will be in Room 187. Student presentations will start at 6 p.m. A pre-event reception will begin at 5:30 p.m.

YEAI was started last fall by the University of Alabama in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama. It took students from grades six through 12 who in November met for three hours on Mondays to learn how to create and develop a business or social movement. Part of their training included making pitches to potential investors.

That's what they will do on Tuesday as they compete for funding that will enable them to get their ideas off the ground.

On April 10, an entrepreneur forum will be held from 5 to 6:15 p.m. at Hotel Capstone's ballroom. Speakers include Greg Sheek, director of Alabama Launchpad programs, and entrepreneurs David Snyder of Urban Cookhouse and Sam Brewer and Nick Wright of GameDayTents.

On April 11, UA students will have an entrepreneurial pitch competition at The Edge, the new business incubator at 2200 University Blvd.

The week's activities will conclude on April 12 with UA's annual Alabama Innovation and Mentoring of Entrepreneurs Day, or AIME Day.

Investors and business leaders will hear presentations about specific UA-based technologies and entrepreneurial activities under way on campus. Presenters will have up to 10 minutes to pitch their enterprise to a panel of judges. Some 20 presentations are scheduled, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and concluding about 4 p.m.

The presentations at UA's AIME Building, Room 110, will feature students and faculty and will include UA representatives competing in the state's Alabama Launchpad business plan competition, a statewide competition that awards winners with grants to help launch new businesses.

The AIME Day afternoon session will feature presentations by nine entrepreneurial teams competing for funding. Winners will receive funding and in-kind services from UA.
UA's Culverhouse College moves up in Bloomberg Businessweek rankings

Ben Flanagan
bflanagan@al.com

The University of Alabama's Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business Administration was ranked No. 29 among public universities in the 2013 Bloomberg Businessweek rankings, and it moved up seven places to No. 73 among all business schools.

Culverhouse was No. 33 among public universities in the 2012 Bloomberg Businessweek rankings and No. 80 overall.

"Our goal is to be in the top 25 among public institutions," said J. Michael Hardin, dean of the Culverhouse College of Commerce, in a release. "We are pleased with this new position, but, as with any ranking, it takes hard work to move upward and dedication to maintain and improve your ranking. We have to continue to be innovative with our curriculum and activities and make sure we remain relevant in today's evolving economic environment."

The Alabama business school earned a high ranking from students, coming in at No. 35 among all institutions.

Among SEC schools, Culverhouse ranked behind Texas A&M, Florida and Georgia, and ahead of Missouri, South Carolina, Arkansas, Louisiana State and Kentucky.

No other SEC schools were among the 124 undergraduate business programs ranked, according to UA.
UA grad hits Broadway

Stephen T. Williams acting alongside Tom Hanks in ‘Lucky Guy,’ Nora Ephron’s last complete work

Stephen T. Williams, seen here in 2004, is a University of Alabama graduate. He will be performing on Broadway in “Lucky Guy.”

By Mark Hughes Cobb
Staff Writer

A lucky guy, maybe; but hard work and training, natural talent, and more hard work brought him to Broadway. Tuscaloosa native and University of Alabama graduate Stephen T. Williams, acting opposite Tom Hanks in “Lucky Guy,” has arrived in theater’s mecca, just as many around here predicted.

UA System spokeswoman Kellee Reinhart saw Williams’ star shine in his first play, a production of “Once On This Island” at Central High School. Back in 2004, when fans and friends threw a going-away party on his graduation from UA, she said:

‘LUCKY GUY’

Directed by: George C. Wolfe
Written by: the late Nora Ephron, as her last completed work
Opening: Today on Broadway in New York City

“He is a towering talent. We knew we were watching the beginning of an incredible career, like seeing a young Sidney Poitier. We knew we’d see him on Broadway one day.”

Within a week of hitting the Big Apple, he’d landed a starring role in a national tour, gaining his Equity (the actors’ union) card in the process. He’s worked steadily upward since, in independent films and on TV, including the lead role in the Showtime movie “Children of God,” and a part in the David Mamet-written HBO film “Phil Spector,” along with numerous off-Broadway and prestigious regional theater works.

The New York Times, Variety and others have noticed. Some of his best reviews came from last year’s production of Athol Fugard’s “My Children! My Africa!” for which the playwright was involved.

Variety said: “Williams is never less than a strong presence from the moment he comes onstage, but he’s positively riveting in a beautiful — and painful — soliloquy in which

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BROADWAY

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Thami reveals the secret thoughts and buried feelings that have transformed him from a scholar into a fighter.

The Times wrote: "Stephen Tyrone Williams has the most layered role, and he mines its ambivalence with both fierceness and precision."

New York Magazine said: "Stephen Tyrone Williams has gotten in the habit of being the best thing about a highly imperfect production; here, he does it again. He's a young performer who combines great power and great subtlety, and — uniquely for an actor with leading-man looks — he's entirely protean: I've never seen the same Williams on stage twice. He feels around for the air-gaps in Fugard's relentlessly position-paper and fills them with immediacy, fierceness, freshness, youth. Bravo."

Perhaps because of the star power involved — "Lucky Guy" is the Broadway debut for not only Williams, but also Hanks. It's directed by George C. Wolfe, and written by the late Nora Ephron, as her last completed work — it's already a hit. Preview performances have been packed. It officially opens today.

"Lucky Guy" is based on the true story of tabloid columnist Mike McAlary (Hanks), who rose spectacularly, writing about the scandal-ridden New York City of the 1980s, but suffered a horrific fall, with a libel suit falling about the same time as the diagnosis of colon cancer that ultimately killed him.

Williams plays Abner Louima, a Haitian brutally assaulted by policemen. McAlary came back in his final months, bringing the horrors of Louima's story to life, and winning the Pulitzer Prize for that work, shortly before succumbing to cancer on Christmas Day 1998.

One lucky guy who saw it last week was Cornelius Carter, one of Williams' mentors as director of the dance program at UA. "It was absolutely brilliant," Carter said. "Stephen was breathtaking. He's got this one scene at the end, the audience just falls completely quiet; everybody's holding their breath when he delivers these very important lines at the end, with Tom Hanks."

Like Reinhart, he spotted Williams' star quality in "Once on This Island," which Carter guest-choreographed. "I knew this kid would end up on Broadway," Carter said.

Even after auditioning for "Lucky Guy," and getting called back at the end of last year, Wil-
liams wasn’t sure this would be his Broadway breakthrough.

“Twas in a Starbucks when I got the call, and I was like ‘You have got to be kidding me,’ ” he said, laughing. “George has this incredible reputation; he can work with whoever he wants to work with. So I went in (to auditions) knowing more than likely, it won’t happen, but damnit I’m gonna go in the room and give it my best.”

It was the allure of working with Wolfe, as much as Broadway, that drew him. Wolfe has won Tony awards for directing “Angels in America: Millennium Approaches” and the musical “Bring in ‘da Noise/Bring in ‘da Funk.”

“Williams didn’t even know Hans was set to star.

“I didn’t find out that Courtney B. Vance was in it until like two weeks before we started,” he said. The cast is filled with journeyman actors of TV, stage and screen such as Vance, Maura Tierney, Christopher McDonald and more.

“I’ve always thought they were amazing, but to actually see them in the rehearsal space, how they craft these incredible performances... I’ve learned a lot, and it has everything to do with my cast.

“There seems to be this understanding of the story, but being completely open during the process; ‘Even if this doesn’t work, let’s see it anyway.’ There’s a process of trial and error leading up to this performance, this very clear, very specific performance. And it’s like, ‘Wow.’

“You better believe every moment I’m not on stage, I’m in the wings, storing it up. I will store that for later, thank you very much.”

For much of the play, McAlary’s friends and fellow journalists tell tales of the high-living columnist; Hanks lives some of them out. Near the end, the libel suit against McAlary had been dismissed, but it had forced him to admit several opinions from columns were unfounded. Though he’d cut back his workload because of the cancer, McAlary found the drive to complete one last crusade, making a grab for redemption with Louima’s story.

“In the second half of the second act, where my scene is, it’s just me and Tom for that,” Williams said. And yes, he can now call Tom Hanks simply Tom. “That’s what’s so incredible about it, just like you and I would be hanging out and chill between scenes; I’ll look over and it’s Tom Hanks in this rehearsal room!”

Hanks is much like his good-guy image, Williams said. “There’s not a lot of pretense with him,” he said. “After that first performance, and going outside (to greet crowds at the stage door; it looked like ‘nobody had gone home,’ Williams said) and realizing, this is his life every day, and he’s still just a good guy.”

The past several years have seen Williams working from the Bahamas to Seattle and back to New York City, so he’s not a stranger to audiences. But the scale has changed.

“There’s something about getting off the subway, walking down the street, seeing lines on 44th to the box office” at the Broadhurst Theatre. “I don’t know if it’s being in the middle of Times Square, I don’t know if it’s Tom Hanks, I don’t know if it’s being in a house with 1,500 people. That’s different,” Williams said, laughing.

Being surrounded by so many talented people at the top of their game is “inspiring, but also daunting, too.”

“What I love most about acting is that moment: You get the group of actors all coming from different places, this house of people from different ages and different places, they’re coming from work, for the most part they don’t know the people they’re going to be sitting with ... And there’s this moment, when there’s no movement on stage, no talking on stage, just stillness. And there’s no talking or movement in the house.

We’re all in this space, sharing this moment together.”

He’s loved having folks from back home coming to see him work, like Carter, or the big group from Huntsville that gave out a big “Roll Tide!” after one show. His father will be at today’s opening. “It’s gonna be pretty special.”

But Williams resists claiming the moment as an arrival.

“Something feels uncomfortable about declaring I’ve made it. Maybe I don’t know if it’s an exact destination. More than anything I just feel it’s a huge opportunity, and a huge responsibility. I know Tuscaloosa people who have gone to New York, and who have moved back home. I know tons of actors in New York, and I’ve heard from tons of actors who’ve been here for years, and they haven’t gotten to Broadway yet.

“More than anything, I try to focus on tonight, making my best a little better, every night. Don’t have to do no Marlon Brando tricks; just every night, progress a little better.

“That is how I show my gratitude for this play. I wanted to work with George Wolfe before I left Alabama. I dreamed about working on Broadway when I first started acting, 14 years ago, and it’s here.

“What am I gonna do with it? That’s what it means.”
Bailey open to administrative work in future

For now, former president to teach

By Adrienne Burch
Assistant News Editor

Former president of The University of Alabama Guy Bailey said the two English professors he had his freshman year at the Capstone changed his life.

"It's really unbelievable the effects teachers have on the lives of their students," Bailey said during a discussion of his linguistics research Tuesday afternoon in Room 205 of Gorgas Library.

Bailey will have the chance to fill the shoes of those two professors he had in 1968 when he returns to Morgan Hall this fall to teach two courses, Intro to Linguistics and History of the English Language.

"For four years I knew about linguistics I learned in Morgan Hall and Gorgas Library," Bailey said.

Bailey said in some cases he even taught when he served as president and provost. He did post-doctoral studies and taught classes at Emory University after earning his Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee. He served as provost of University of Texas at San Antonio, chancellor of the University of Missouri-Kansas City and president of Texas Tech University before accepting the presidency at The University of Alabama last fall.

"I've never really gotten out of the classroom, and I've always kept a hand in both teaching and research," he said. "I'm ready to be back."

Bailey stepped down as president on Oct. 31, 2012, just two months after he was hired. He cited his wife's health issues as his primary reason for resigning.

"What I've done since Nov. 1 is focus on Jan's health," Bailey said. "Helping her gain the weight she lost in the fall and my preparing to go back to the classroom."

Bailey said when he discussed giving up the presidency with Chancellor Robert Witt, they also talked about him going back into the classroom.

"With my wife's health problem it would not be a problem for me to teach at all," he said. "I mean at some point in the future, it may not be a problem for me to do administrative work either."

See Bailey Page 2
Bailey plans to return to teaching linguistics

Bailey from page 1:

Bailey said he will have more flexibility as a professor than as an administrator. He also said the two positions, administration and linguistics, are more alike than one would think.

"If you look at what I was doing, I was solving problems, problems of research. I was interviewing people. If you interview people and do field work with people, those are really the two key things for administration – solving problems and interacting with people," he said.

Tuesday, Bailey gave a lecture titled "Demography and Linguistic Destiny," in which he discussed his research on linguistics.

Bailey has published more than 100 articles and books on the subject of linguistics. Some of his major studies that he discussed in the lecture included a two-decade long-term study of the language of a small tenant farming town in Texas, with a population of 150, and a large scale linguistics survey he did in Oklahoma.

"There are a lot of great things you can do with linguistics," Bailey said. "Linguistics also lends itself to collaboration. It gives insight into many different subjects."

Bailey has studied everything from the transformation and spread of the word "y'all" to the effects the Great Migration after the Civil War had on language across the country.

"How language is changing is a good index of how the culture is changing," Bailey said.

Jane Stanfield, associated provost for international education and global outreach, worked with Bailey while they were getting their graduate degrees at the University of Tennessee.

"He was an outstanding teacher, and his abilities only increased outside of grad school," Stanfield said.

She said she would not be surprised if many of the students who attended Tuesday's lecture signed up for Bailey's courses next fall.

"They seemed truly interested in the subject matter," she said.

Jake Boyd, an English and French major, is from Dayton, Ohio, and said a lot of what Bailey said about speech in the South resonated with conversations he has had since living in Alabama.

"His work is impressive," Boyd said.

Boyd also said he would be interested in taking Bailey's courses in the fall.

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Bailey to speak on his linguistic studies Tuesday

Former president to teach classes in 2013

By Adrienne Burch
Assistant News Editor

Former University of Alabama president Guy Bailey will give an overview of his work on Southern English Tuesday at 2 p.m. in 205 Gorgas Library. Bailey will return to the classroom this fall, teaching two courses in the English department: EN 320, an Intro to Linguistics course and a combination EN 423/523 course on the History of the English Language.

Bailey was hired as the new president of the University on July 11, 2012, and took over the position in September 2012. He stepped down just two months later on Oct. 31, 2012, citing his wife's ill health.

Despite his resignation, Bailey remains an employee of the University, continuing to draw a $535,000 salary per his employment agreement.

Though the University president never operates under an employment contract, Bailey's original letter of understanding or appointment outlined his status as a tenured professor upon his hiring as president.

In a November 2012 interview with The Crimson White, UA Chancellor Robert Witt said Bailey would receive a paid developmental leave until August 2013, during which he could elect to return to the classroom as a professor.

This one-year paid sabbatical leave is outlined in Rule 309 of the Board of Trustees Board Manual, but the rule stipulates that the retired president should have served five or more years.

In the November 2012 interview, Witt said the University was basing the decision on circumstances rather than Bailey's length of tenure.

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Bailey to teach fall 2013 linguistics class

BAILEY FROM PAGE 1

"I felt that the honorable thing for the University to do was to give him the same type of developmental leave appointment as if he had served here for years," Witt said in the November 2012 interview.

According to Rule 309, Compensation Guidelines for Retreating Presidents and Chancellor, retreating presidents who have served five or more years can return to active faculty and receive a salary equal to that of the highest-paid faculty member in the individual’s department.

The manual states that retreating presidents who have not served five years are entitled to "compensation and benefits comparable to tenured faculty members at that department."

Bailey was a first-generation college student from Montgomery, Ala. He graduated from the University in 1972 with a degree in English and again in 1974 with a master's in English. He then went on to earn his Ph.D. in linguistics from the University of Tennessee.

"Former president Guy Bailey is a scholar who also became an administrator but has continued with his academic research throughout his career," linguistics professor Catherine Davies said.

Bailey studied linguistics while at the University with professor James MacMillan, one of the founders of Southern dialectology and chair of the UA English department in the 1970s. He also worked on the Linguistics Atlas of the Gulf States while attending UT, Davies said.

"He has been a prolific scholar in the sociolinguistics of Southern American English even while he has taken on important administrative jobs, and has made major contributions to our understanding of its history and development, including African American Vernacular English," Davies said.

Throughout his career, Bailey has conducted various studies of different dialects across the country – one of his most known ones being a 17-year study he conducted with Patricia Cukor-Avila about the local language of a small Texas town renamed for 'privacy reasons' as "Springville."

Davies said Bailey will speak on Tuesday about the sociolinguistics of Southern American English.

"[It is] for anybody who is interested in the way we talk here in the Heart of Dixie," Davies said.
Mal Moore 1939-2013

By: Cecil Hurt

Ten days after stepping down from the athletic directorship at the University of Alabama, Mal Moore - the former backup quarterback who became an administrator and led UA back to national prominence in athletics - died Saturday morning at the Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C.

Moore was hospitalized March 10 in Birmingham for treatment of pulmonary problems. On March 13, he was transferred to Duke Medical Center, where he died Saturday morning.

"There's no question we have lost a great man today," Alabama football coach Nick Saban said in a statement Saturday. "What won't be lost is Mal's legacy in serving our university to make it a better place today and in the future. Nobody genuinely cared more about the Crimson Tide than Mal did. Mal has positively impacted athletics at Alabama unlike anyone ever has or probably ever will.

"We can talk about all the championships Mal has been involved with, but I think what will be remembered most was the man he was. He always put the best interests of others ahead of his own, he carried himself as a first-class gentleman, and he helped bring out the best in those around him. Mal was an outstanding leader in terms of all he did for Alabama athletics. Most importantly, he was a great friend to me and my family. Mal was the number one reason we decided to make the move to Tuscaloosa."

Moore was a popular administrator who symbolized, for thousands of Alabama fans, the bridge between the Paul "Bear" Bryant era and the current football success under Saban. His time at UA began when athletics (and the school) were racially segregated and when women did not participate in varsity sports. By the end of his tenure, athletes of all races and both genders were part of the athletic mainstream at Alabama, participating at a national championship level.

"Mal Moore was a champion by every measure, and his impact on his alma mater and his native state will be felt for many years to come," said Robert Witt, chancellor of the University of Alabama System. "We greatly respect his constant commitment to excellence, his unwavering professional and personal integrity, and his lifetime of exemplary service."

UA President Judy Bonner called Moore "a transformational figure, a true visionary and a real friend to all who worked at the University of Alabama and loved it."

Moore was born on Dec. 19, 1939, in the small Crenshaw County town of Dozier, where he became a star athlete, signing with the Crimson Tide out of high school.

"Dozier was a small school, but Coach Bryant took a chance," Moore said in a 2011 interview, adding with a wry smile that "we didn't have scholarship limits then, fortunately."

See next page
Moore never became a star, although he did impress Bryant with his football acumen, enough to earn a spot as a graduate assistant on the 1962 Crimson Tide. After serving one year on the staff at Montana State, Moore returned to join Bryant's staff, coaching quarterbacks and serving as offensive coordinator.

"Coach Bryant had great respect for Mal's coaching abilities," recalled Gene Stallings, who served as an assistant coach during Moore's playing days and later hired Moore on his staffs with the Cardinals in the National Football League and, later, at Alabama. "After I became a head coach (at Texas A&M), Coach Bryant used to call me and say, 'Don't you forget that Mal is just as good a coach as you are.'

"When Mal worked for me at Arizona, he had been at Notre Dame and came straight from college. Now, it is extremely hard for anyone who has never played or coached pro ball to gain the respect of some veteran players. But it didn't take long for him to do that."

Moore returned to Tuscaloosa with Stallings in 1990 and was the offensive coordinator of the 1992 national championship team. He moved into athletic administration in 1992 and, after being passed over for the athletic director job in 1996, was selected by then-UA president Andrew Sorensen to take that post in 1999.

Despite the imminent onset of an onerous NCAA probation, Moore led major capital-donation and construction projects that helped UA maintain a competitive position in the Southeastern Conference. By the end of Moore's tenure as athletic director, he had overseen some $240 million in capital improvements at UA.

Moore held the distinction of being a part of 10 national championship teams as a player, coach and athletic director (1961, 1964, 1965, 1973, 1978, 1979, 1992, 2009, 2011 and 2012), 16 SEC championships and 39 bowl trips. He is the only individual connected with the Crimson Tide program - and likely the only person in collegiate athletics - to be a part of 10 national football championships.

He was equally proud, he said last summer, of five other NCAA championships won by UA athletics during his tenure as AD: three by the gymnastics program and, in 2012, the school's first NCAA titles in softball and women's golf.

He was most noted, though, for his November 2006 decision to replace Mike Shula as Alabama's head football coach and - after a sometimes agonizing monthlong search - the hiring of Saban, who has gone on to build a dynasty at UA, winning three of the last four Bowl Championship Series national titles.

"I was in Miami and had visited with Coach Saban and was sitting in a cab outside his house waiting for an answer," Moore said in an interview last January in south Florida as Alabama was preparing for the BCS title game. "I told the driver that if Coach Saban said 'yes,' we would be going back up to the house. He said, 'What if he says 'no,' and I said 'Can you take this cab to Cuba?'"
Moore was married for 41 years to the former Charlotte Davis before her death in 2010. She had battled Alzheimer's for 20 years and, in 2012, Caring Days, a Tuscaloosa program for adults with memory disorders, honored the Moores by naming its new 11,000-square-foot facility the Mal and Charlotte Moore Center.

In 2007, as a permanent tribute to his lifelong contribution to the University of Alabama, the UA board of trustees officially dedicated the facility formerly known as the Football Building as the Mal M. Moore Athletic Building.

In 2011, Moore was elected to the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame for his accomplishments as a coach and an administrator. After the completion of the 2011-12 academic and athletic seasons, Moore was named the winner of the John L. Toner Award, given to the nation's best athletic director.

Moore was involved in the selection of his successor, his former college teammate Bill Battle, as UA athletic director, who was appointed March 22, two days after Moore stepped down.

"The University of Alabama and the world of intercollegiate athletics have lost a legend, and I have lost a dear friend," Battle said. "My heart goes out to his family and close friends in this time of sadness. After a time of grieving, we can begin to celebrate Mal's life, as his legacy will last for generations."

During Moore's tenure, Alabama produced national championship teams in football, gymnastics, softball and women's golf as well as Southeastern Conference championships in football, basketball, baseball, gymnastics, men's and women's golf, men's cross country and softball.

Alabama athletes earned some of the highest honors the SEC and NCAA have to offer, including SEC Athlete of the Year, SEC Scholar-Athlete of the Year, NCAA Top VIII awards, which recognize athletes for success on the field, in the classroom and in the community, NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships and NCAA Sportsperson of the Year.

In addition to making his mark on Alabama, Moore also had a national impact as a key member of several prestigious NCAA and college football committees. He served on the NCAA Division I Football Issues Committee, the SEC Athletic Directors Bowl Advisory Committee and the Big Six Conferences Minority Coaches Forum.

He is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Steve (Heather) Cook of Scottsdale, Ariz., a granddaughter, Anna Lee, and a grandson, Charles Cannon. Funeral arrangements are pending.
Alabama ex-AD Mal Moore dies, but his influence will remain

Andrew Gribble
agribble@al.com

Former Alabama Athletics Director Mal Moore, whose connection with the Crimson Tide athletics department as a player, coach and administrator spanned six decades, died Saturday at the Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C.

Moore, who stepped down from his post March 20 in the midst of a battle with pulmonary problems, was 73. He is survived by his daughter, Heather Cook, granddaughter Anna Lee, and grandson Charles Cannon.

"People look at Mal as a coach and a colleague and a boss. To me, he was just a friend," said Steve Townsend, a special assistant and close friend of Moore's who visited him on Thursday. "It's a sad day for all of us, especially Alabama people and people in college athletics and everybody lucky enough to know him."

Funeral arrangements are pending.

INSIDE
Reaction to the death of Mal Moore. Page 4B

Two days after Moore stepped down as athletics director, former teammate and close friend Bill Battle was named as his replacement. Battle visited with Moore on the day of his retirement and joked that it looked as if Moore had "gone through the worst two-a-day practice that he's ever gone through," but Moore was healthy enough to explain to Battle all that needed to be accomplished at Alabama.

Speaking on WJOX 94.5 FM in Birmingham on Tuesday, Battle said Moore needed a lung transplant.

"The University of Alabama and the world of intercollegiate athletics have lost a legend, and I have lost a dear friend."

Mal Moore with Alabama football coach Nick Saban. (Courtesy)

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friend,” Battle said in a university statement. “My heart goes out to his family and close friends in this time of sadness. After a time of grieving, we can begin to celebrate Mal’s life, as his legacy will last for generations.”

During Moore’s tenure as Alabama’s athletics director, which began in 1999, the Crimson Tide won eight national championships and 19 SEC titles. More than $220 million was raised for the construction or maintenance of athletics facilities under Moore’s watch.

“When Mal came in, it was just a horrible time for Alabama,” said former Alabama quarterback Richard Todd, whom Moore coached during the 1970s. “One legacy Mal had was building up the facilities like he did. That’s one of his legacies for sure.”

Moore played football at Alabama from 1950 to 1962 and served as an assistant coach for Paul “Bear” Bryant from 1964 to 1982. He also served as the Tide’s offensive coordinator under Gene Stallings before moving into an administrative role within the athletics department.

Moore made that transition in 1994, one year after his wife, Charlotte, was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease. After several years in a nursing home, she died in 2010. In an emotional 2009 interview, Moore revealed that she had not said his name in 10 years.

“He’s the one that when my dad was ill, drove me to the nursing home and helped me get my father...it was the same nursing home Charlotte was in,” longtime Alabama gymnastics coach Sarah Patterson recalled.

In 1999, Moore took over as the program’s athletics director, replacing Bob Bechard. He took over a department with a $36 million annual budget. That budget now exceeds $100 million.

His crowning achievement as athletics director came in early 2007, when he hired away Nick Saban from the NFL’s Miami Dolphins. Saban revived the program with three of the past four BCS titles.

As a player, coach and athletics director, Moore combined to win 10 football national championships.

Starting in 2012, Tide athletics collected five national titles in 14 months, as the gymnastics, softball and women’s golf programs also won it all.

“You don’t get to be No. 1 in softball and women’s golf and the other sports without having something to do with it,” said Tommy Brooker, a former teammate of Moore’s.

Always a champion

In August, Moore was hospitalized at DCH Regional Medical Center in Tuscaloosa with an irregular heartbeat. He was released after two days. Moore’s most recent public speaking appearance was in January at Alabama’s BCS title celebration.

“You have earned the right to be called champions,” Moore said on Jan. 19. “No matter where you go in your personal life and career, you will always be a champion and a representative of your university. Your teammates and coaches and I encourage you to never forget what you have achieved, not as individuals, but as a team. I’m so very proud.”

Moore was transferred from Brookwood Medical Center in Homewood to Duke University on March 13. One week later, he stepped down as athletics director and was set to assume a role as special assistant to UA President Judy Bonner.

“I cannot adequately express what the university means to me,” Moore said in a March 20 university statement.

“It has been a part of my life for more than 50 years, and I feel honored to have served the Crimson Tide as a player, coach and administrator. I am so appreciative of the university administration, coaches, staff, student-athletes and fans who have made my tenure as director so very meaningful, memorable and special.”

Al.com reporter Don Kaufler Jr. contributed to this report.
More than anything, Mal Moore's love story stands out

By: Don Kausler Jr.


This was moving but not surprising for a young reporter in 1982.

It was unexpected in 2009.

When Ray Perkins was introduced as Paul "Bear" Bryant's successor as Alabama's head football coach, Moore and other offensive assistants were fired. This reporter discovered the news by walking into Moore's office upstairs in Coleman Coliseum on that fateful day. Seeing his red eyes watering, no questions were necessary. Moore had been an Alabama assistant coach for 19 seasons and had hoped to succeed Bryant as the head coach.

Moore and many others were in tears a few weeks later after Alabama defeated Illinois in the 1982 Liberty Bowl on a frigid night in Memphis, as the Crimson Tide sent Bryant out triumphantly.

Sadly, Bryant died 32 days after announcing his retirement.

More sadly, Moore passed away Saturday, 10 days after announcing he was stepping down as Alabama's athletics director. An avid hunter, a recreational golfer, a proud father and grandfather never had time to enjoy retirement.

As he should, Moore will be remembered for 10 national championship rings that he earned in football: one as a player, six as an assistant coach and three as the athletics director.

I will remember him for his other ring, the one with its most meaning. This one was placed on his left ring finger in 1968, the day he married Charlotte Davis of Tuscaloosa, in his fourth year as an assistant coach at his alma mater.

This was one of the most touching love stories you'll hear.

For 25 years, they were living happily ever after, despite moves to South Bend, Ind., St. Louis, Mo., and Phoenix, Ariz., before they returned to Tuscaloosa in 1990 when new Alabama coach Gene Stallings brought Moore back as Alabama's offensive coordinator.

During the 1993 season, Moore's busy days sometimes were interrupted by calls to come home. As the season went along, interruptions came more frequently, almost hourly. By the time Alabama played North Carolina in the Gator Bowl, other wives quietly were telling Moore that something seemed amiss with Charlotte.

She was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, and Moore made a difficult decision to leave Stallings' staff so he could take more time to care for his ailing wife. Moore accepted a position

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as an associate athletics director. Five years later, he was promoted to athletics director, and the rest is glorious history.

Eventually, Charlotte became a resident of La Rocca Nursing Home in Tuscaloosa. Moore visited her every day he was in town. Every day.

He said little about this cross he was bearing until a 2009 interview, when he reflected on his first 10 years as Alabama's athletics director.

When the subject of Charlotte came up, Moore opened up, and as he shared details, his eyes watered.

"She's not said my name in 10 years," Moore said as his voice started to break.

Journalists are trained to detach themselves from the people they cover, but it was hard not to cry with him.

Charlotte died in January 2010. Calvary Baptist Church in Tuscaloosa, one block from Bryant-Denny Stadium, was packed for her visitation and funeral service. No telling how many people will come to say goodbye to Moore himself.

"He suffered tremendously with his wife and the condition she was in for so many years," said Tommy Brooker, one of Moore's teammates on Alabama's 1961 national championship team, the first of six titles that Bryant won with Moore's help.

"She was the jewel of his life."

These won't be my only memories of Moore. I'll remember sitting in his office in 1982, questioning him about Walter Lewis. The junior quarterback was playing well.

"He's doing all right," said Moore, the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach.

All right? Was that the best quote Moore could provide?

"You don't understand," Moore said. "If I say more than that, Coach Bryant will get all over me."

As athletics director, Moore gave me a personal tour of the South End Zone, the latest expansion to Bryant-Denny Stadium, before it opened in 2010. What once was a nondescript arena now dominates the campus landscape.

"Now you drive down University Boulevard, and there stands a magnificent stadium," Moore said. "Everybody on this campus, every professor, every student is very proud of the appearance of the facility."
Carpet had been selected but not yet installed for one floor of the eight-story addition. It was tasteful in its color and design. I wondered who had made the fine choice. Moore said he chose it himself and seemed to question why I would question that.

My last interview with Moore came in January. He reflected on the days that led to his hiring of Nick Saban as Alabama’s head football coach, one of the greatest of many legacies. When we were finished, I asked Moore about his future. He scolded me for asking. I explained that we were hearing rumors. He insisted he had no plans to retire.

"What would I do?" he asked.

I accepted his word but told him I might have to ask again. If only I could now.

If only anybody could ask him more about his love story.

If anybody appreciated that story, it was Jack Rutledge. He played and coached with Moore at Alabama.

"The way he handled his wife was unreal," Rutledge said only minutes after learning that Moore had died.

"He was my friend. Charlotte was a special person, too. She was real close to my wife. I was real close to Charlotte, too. They lived ... on my way home. Charlotte had to have everything just right. I could go knock on the back door, and I could just go in. It was like I was her brother.

"What Mal would do to take care of her over a long period of time, it is unreal how he handled it. He handled that like a champion, too."

After Charlotte’s death, Moore accepted speaking engagements to support groups for people dealing with loved ones who were battling Alzheimer’s disease.

"That was his expertise," Rutledge said. "I think he learned a lot about that from Coach Bryant. Mal got into a position where he could help people. He helped a lot of people that no one will ever know about."
Moore remembered for dedication, charm

By: Aaron Suttles

Less than a month ago, Tommy Brooker walked past Mal Moore in Buddy's Rib & Steak in Northport and didn't spot his old teammate until he got close enough to recognize that familiar face.

"He had his hat pulled down low and he was dressed down," Brooker said. "I stopped and said, 'You trying to go incognito?' He chuckled and said, 'Yeah.'"

"I ate breakfast with my wife there this morning. It's hard to believe I won't see him there anymore."

There are many more stories just like that told by former teammates, players and employees of Moore, who died Saturday at the age of 73. They are stories that reveal a gentleness and charm. Those close with Moore knew he was always quick with a joke, too.

After Moore retired from coaching, then-Alabama Athletics Director Hootie Ingram brought him aboard as an associate athletic director.

"Mal had a great sense of humor," Ingram said. "He was one of the best at telling Coach (Paul) Bryant stories I've ever heard.

"He always told one about preparing all week to run a reverse. They'd worked on it all week. During the game Coach Bryant walks by Mal and says, 'What about the reverse, Mal?' He came back a little while later and said 'What about the reverse?' Finally Coach Bryant said 'I want you to run the reverse.' They ran the reverse and lost nine yards, and Coach Bryant said, 'You ran it the wrong way.'"

"Mal was really good at telling that story."

The stories vary but the constant is the way Moore treated others. Friends called him kind-hearted.

"A great man. A great Alabama man," former UA coach Ray Perkins said. "I don't know if I have enough words to adequately describe how I feel about him. He was loyal. He loved the school, and he loved the people. I think his essence will be felt for a long time.

"He's always treated me with dignity and respect that was unparalleled. We had a strong bond. People like Mal don't come down the pike every day. He's done so much for that university. He's a true legend in my book. I loved him. I miss him, and we'll all miss him."

Moore had a reputation for being a gentleman. Those closest to him say it was genuine.

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"Mal was an even-tempered guy," Ingram said. "He was a true Southern gentleman. He was raised that way. There was nothing fake about it. He was truly sincere. That's what made him such a special guy. He didn't have a big ego and didn't put on any kind of show. He was just Mal."

Clemson head coach Dabo Swinney played at Alabama as a receiver under Moore and got his coaching start as a graduate assistant while Moore was coaching UA's offense.

"It took the wind out of my sails," Swinney said of the news. "He was a great man and it's a great loss for Alabama and a great loss for all of us."

Woody McCorvey coached alongside Moore at Alabama on Gene Stallings' staff, and later became UA's offensive coordinator after Moore retired from coaching to take care of his wife, Charlotte, who was suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

"It's sad for me because not only a colleague, but Mal was a friend," McCorvey said. "When I came to Alabama, Mal was the guy who picked me up at the airport in Birmingham and he and I stopped at the Bright Star in Bessemer. That was one of his favorite spots. That tells you how far we go back at Alabama. He was Alabama through and through until the day he left us.

"We were close with him being the offensive coordinator and coaching the quarterbacks and me coaching the wide receivers and tight ends, so we worked together a lot in the passing game. Even after he got out (of coaching), we stayed close. He was my sounding board when I took the (offensive coordinator) position, and he was really supportive of me." McCorvey also had high praise for Moore as a man.

"I never heard Mal say a bad word about anybody," McCorvey said. "It showed when Charlotte was sick, how he stuck by her and took care of her. He didn't want somebody else to do it, he wanted to do it himself. When you think about people getting married and taking their wedding vows, you can think about Mal Moore."

Robert Higginbotham played at Alabama from 1969-71 before embarking on a career as one of the most successful high school coaches in state history. Moore was his position coach for a season.

"He was all about attention to detail," Higginbotham said. "He really expected a lot out of his players. He was a guy that really pushed you hard and taught you how to play the position.

"The thing I liked the most about Mal is I could go back down there and even with all the players that he coached over the years you'd think he'd forget your name. It wasn't like that with Coach Moore. I'd see him and he'd say, 'Hey Robert' and just made me feel at home. I always really appreciated that. Even when he got to be athletic director he made me feel at home."

Friends of Moore are quick to point out everything he did for the university, things well documented in his 13 years as athletic director. They also tell of things he did away from the spotlight.

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"There are so many things he helped with that went unnoticed," Brooker said. "He did things people will never know about.
"Today is a sad day."
A good soul, a kind and decent man

Mal Moore admired for who he was off the field as much as on

By Stephanie Taylor
Staff Writer

Hannah Trammell was 13 and at one of her first University of Alabama football games when she met Mal Moore. "He drove up on this Alabama golf cart and said 'I have two 80-yard-line tickets here, you go enjoy the game,'" said Trammell, now a 22-year-old UA senior from Hayden. "I had no idea who he was, but I could tell he was somebody important. He was so distinguished."

Trammell's father Scott Trammell knew exactly who the athletic director was. "It didn't surprise me a bit that Mal Moore would do something like that," he said. "Alabama football and people surrounding it are great folks."

The Trammells were among the legions of UA fans saddened by the death of the former UA athletic director, who died at the age of 73 on Saturday at Duke University Medical Center in North Carolina from pulmonary problems.

Hannah Trammell had the chance to tell Moore of their first meeting when she met him again in January. She was working as an intern for Caring Days, a day program for adults with memory disorders and went to Moore's office with director Vicki Kerr. Moore learned Trammell was a football fan, and took time to show her photos he had taken during the 2012 football season.

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MOORE

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"I'm sure he was busy, but he took the time to talk to us," she said. "He put on his coat, and buttoned it up just to take a picture with me."

Kerr, who has known Moore for many years, said she wasn't surprised to hear Trammell's story about the football tickets.

"He told me that he always liked to go out and give tickets to people who had kids," Kerr said. "He was a genuinely nice guy. For all the awards and recognition he received, he was still totally humble."

Kerr said that Moore was always a supporter of Caring Days. The organization's new building that opened in 2012 was named the Mal and Charlotte Moore Caring Days Center, in honor of Moore and his wife.

Charlotte Moore was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 1990 and died in January 2010 at 71.

Moore would visit her at least once a day, sometimes twice, when she lived in LaRocca Nursing Home in Alberta, said former director Lyman Hardy.

"He'd show up at 10 after 12 every day or right at 5. He'd have lunch with the nurses, he was just like one of us," said Hardy, now director of Morning Pointe, an assisted living facility in Tuscaloosa. "Someone asked why he would visit every day if she didn't know who he was. He answered 'But I know who she is.' That's just the perfect example of what you should see in a marriage. He was such a good soul, a kind and decent man."

Kerr spoke at a conference with Moore and learned that they had the same way of preparing for a public speech—by not writing the speech ahead of time.

"He said 'I never prepare what I'm going to say, I just get up and talk,'" she said. "But he spoke from his heart. Everything he said, he spoke from his heart."

She recalled hearing Moore tell the story of when he realized how serious his wife's condition was. He was the quarterback coach at the time and was at an away game in Mississippi, Kerr said. He called several times to check on Charlotte, but couldn't get her. Finally, a neighbor who had no luck

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ing the doorbell walked to the rear of the home and saw her through the window, looking at the phone as if she didn't know what to do. "He told that story, and he told about how he would see his neighbors and friends, husbands and wives, going out to eat dinner. He hadn't been able to do that for years," Kerr said. "I admire people who, when they say 'in sickness and in health,' they mean it. That was him."

Moore was a source of inspiration for other caregivers of Alzheimer's patients, Kerr said. "He would have men call him, who knew that he had a demanding life. They would call and ask 'how do you do it?,'" she said. "He would be encouraging to all of them, try to help them and let them know that they could do it."

Amy Bryan Baggett worked as an assistant to Moore and his assistant Judy Tanner between 2000 and 2004. "Coach Moore was funny, charming, generous and most of all, real," she said. "He had a welcoming personality and handled many tough situations with grace. The love he had for his wife, Charlotte, was, to say the least, inspiring. He will be missed by many ... not only because of what he did for the University of Alabama, but because he was just a great person to know and love."

Former UA Athletic Director Cecil "Hootie" Ingram hired Moore as associate athletic director. "He got things going in a positive direction," Ingram said. "He didn't panic, he was always cool. Calling plays for Coach Bryant can put a lot of ice water in your veins."

Moore had a good sense of humor, he said, and was well-liked by players and staff. "Mal didn't have a big ego. He was always a team player. If things went good, he didn't feel like he needed to take credit," Ingram said. "He was just a regular guy. He liked people, he liked to be around them and he liked to help people out. He was a good man."

Funeral announcements for Moore were pending Sunday night.

Reach Stephanie Taylor at stephanie.taylor@tuscaloosa news.com or 205-722-0210.
Crimson Tide fans say Mal Moore’s calmness, leadership will be missed

By Jason Morton
Staff Writer

TUSCALOOSA | Alabama fans reacted Saturday to the death of Mal Moore, describing him as a man of good spirit who always represented the university with class.

Moore, 73, died Saturday morning at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C., where he had been hospitalized for approximately three weeks due to a pulmonary condition.

"It was just shocking," said Raymond Latham of Greensboro. "He was a good (athletic director), and we really hated to hear the bad news."

Latham, 63, a lifelong Alabama fan, had come to Brookwood in his Crimson Tide polo shirt to watch his 5-year-old grandson, Bryson, play baseball.

Asked what he would miss most about Moore, Latham did not hesitate.

"His good spirit," he said.

Jerry Woods, 45, of Tuscaloosa, spoke as he was shopping for Alabama gear at Alumni Hall with his son, 13-year-old Clayton. He said "he would miss "that calm, but strong, face of the university."

"(Moore was) a quiet leader behind the scenes," Woods said. "Really, he represented the whole university with class."

Testaments to Moore were not confined to Alabama fans.

"I love Notre Dame," said Bobby Sprung, 36, who also was shopping at Alumni Hall in Midtown Village with UA student Morgan Crumpton, 23. "But at the same time, if you're going to give respect where it's due, Mal Moore deserves it."

Sprung said that even during the early years of Moore's tenure, when fans were none too pleased, he found a way to enhance the athletic facilities. And then he hired Nick Saban.

"That took moxie," Sprung said. "I don't know how you replace that. ... (Moore) always did keep the tradition of Alabama first."

Dining at Wings U in Midtown Village with his wife, June, Rolfe Singleton of Demopolis described himself as a lifelong Alabama fan. Singleton compared Moore and his demeanor to the most iconic name in Alabama football history.

"He's just like 'Bear' Bryant was," Singleton said and referenced the numerous championships that Moore was part of as either a player, coach or athletic director.

"Who else has been there through all that?" Singleton asked.

Alabama fan Donald Butts, 32, agreed with Singleton's assessment.

"He set (such) precedents that it's going to be hard for anyone to fill his shoes," said Butts, who was at Wings U with his brother, Corey Butts, 25.

He found it tragic that Moore died so soon after the Crimson Tide football team won its 15th national championship and less than two weeks after stepping down as athletic director.

"He has established a legacy," Butts said. "He will be greatly missed."
Moore was a winner and a gentleman, and not in that order

You knew this day was coming and far too soon.
You knew it the moment you discovered that Mal Moore was in a hospital in Durham, N.C., and would be stepping down as the Alabama athletics director.
You knew it in your head and in your heart, beyond the private comments shared by his friends.
You knew and feared that, if Mal Moore weren't physically healthy enough to continue in the job that he loved, he might not be strong enough to go on.

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Your fears became reality Saturday morning in that hospital in North Carolina. It took but 10 days for him to draw his final breath.

In that way, as it should be, Moore will be linked forever with Paul Bryant in death as they were in life. It’s been said for the past 30 years, since they laid him to rest at Elmwood Cemetery on Jan. 26, 1983, that Bryant couldn’t live without coaching football, but that bit of conventional wisdom is too limiting.

It’s true that 28 days after his final game — a victory, naturally — Bryant died, but it couldn’t have been just coaching that he missed more than his heart could take.

It also had to be coaching at his old school, at his alma mater, at the University of Alabama. The place defined him as much as the profession, as much as he defined both.

As much as Alabama meant to Bryant, if such a thing’s even possible, it may have meant a little bit more to Mal Moore. It may have been too much to live without.

The terrible inevitability of Moore’s passing doesn’t soften the blow. It’s hard to imagine that you can go to an Alabama football game next fall and not shake his hand in the press box or share a word with him on the sideline.

The place won’t be the same without him. Maybe it was fitting that the last time we spoke was on the field in Sun Life Stadium in south Florida as confetti fell and the speakers played “Sweet Home Alabama” and his football team celebrated another national title. It was the 10th in that sport that included his fingerprints, the fifth for the school in four different sports in the previous year.

He’d earned the right to soak it all in, but the genuine affection for Moore keeps rolling in for reasons that go beyond championships. His school, his state and his profession will miss him on a gut level because he had a personal touch that’s too often missing in major college athletics today.

Gene Marsh, who worked with Moore for years as Alabama’s faculty athletics rep, may have said it best Saturday.

“Above all else, Mal was a kind man,” Marsh said. “Good heart. No malice.”

Ponder that for a moment. The man had no malice in a state too often poisoned by it.

One of the most telling tributes came from a coach Moore fired at Alabama, the kind of thing the AD never did comfortably. Despite that, Mark Gottfried, now the basketball coach at North Carolina State, visited Moore in the hospital last week.

“One of the best people I’ve known,” Gottfried tweeted. “Loved him as a person and a boss.”

It was a class act inspired by a class act.

Where does Alabama go from here? It’s not easy saying goodbye to a legend. For the longest time, Alabama couldn’t live without Bryant because his professional legacy — the wins and championship — needed his personal touch. His personal legacy — the players he coached and the men they became — could do only so much to continue the tradition.

There was only one Bear. Moore’s legacy may be more lasting than Bryant’s because of the brick and mortar and people he put in place and leaves behind. He gave Alabama so much of what it needs to keep winning on and off the field.

Mal Moore goes to his rest as one of the biggest winners any of us has ever known. Everything he touched didn’t turn to gold jewelry. It just felt that way, but you can’t measure his life by just his rings.

He loved and cared for his wife when Alzheimer’s robbed her of the ability to speak his name.

He loved and cared for his school no matter how many times he was passed over there.

If you knew him, you couldn’t help but respect him, and no matter how you knew him, you’ll find yourself missing him.

There, into that good night, goes a winner and a gentleman, and not in that order.

Rest in peace, Coach. Rest in peace.
Mal M. Moore

TUSCALOOSA | Mal M. Moore, former Alabama athletic director and long-time football coach, passed away March 30 at the Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C., from a pulmonary illness.

Mal Moore, who played and coached under Paul Bryant and restored the football program to a national power with the hiring of Nick Saban, was 73 years old.

While Coach Moore was most prominently known for his achievements as an athlete, coach and administrator, his depth as a person truly personified his life and career. Mal was a loving husband, father and grandfather whose family always came first. His devotion to his family and friends, his loyalty to the University, his dedication to his employees as well as to all the student-athletes, and his respect for his opponents embodied the life of a true gentleman who never forgot his small town roots in Crenshaw County, Alabama.

In his final correspondence announcing his retirement he told his athletic department staff, “I cannot put into words what this institution that I have been a part of for over 50 years means to me. It is where I arrived when I first left my home in Dozier, Alabama, it is where I was educated, where I met and married my wife and where my daughter was born and grew up.

“It is the place I have called home and with people I identified as my family for over 50 years. I cannot adequately express what this institution and the people that have made it great means to me and my family and what it means to have a truly Crimson heart.”

The sixth of seven children born to Dempsey and Fannie Moore, Coach Moore experienced a love of family and sports, and a passion for the outdoors that defined his life. An avid bird hunter, Moore loved to spend time participating in all outdoor activities especially with his dearest friends and family members. Since becoming a grandfather, “Daddy Moore” relished his time at the beach with his daughter and grandchildren every summer. He had a personal fondness for reading and reciting poetry, listening to music and working in the yard.

His remarkable career in athletics, which included being part of ten national championships in football, helped earn him enshrinement into the State of Alabama Sports Hall of Fame. This past December, he reached the pinnacle as an administrator when he was honored at the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame as the nation’s top Director of Athletics. In 2007, the University of Alabama honored Coach Moore by naming the football complex and administrative building the Mal M. Moore Athletic Facility in great appreciation for all of his years of outstanding service.

Coach Moore was also active in community affairs, tirelessly working in the aftermath of the devastating tornado in 2011. He chaired the committee to raise funds to build the Caring Days Facility in Tuscaloosa that assists patients afflicted with Alzheimer

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and other illnesses associated with traumatic memory losses. In 2012 the facility honored him and his late wife Charlotte by naming the new complex in their honor.

Annually, he helped raise money for the Boys’ and Girls’ Club of Tuscaloosa by hosting a golf tournament and he spent endless hours traveling across the state at functions to help local organizations raise money for charitable endeavors.

Coach Moore was predeceased by his wife Charlotte, his parents Dempsey and Fannie, and brother Douglas and his wife Margaret, and brother-in-law Carlton Mason. He is survived by his daughter Mrs. Heather (Steve) Cook and her husband Steve of Scottsdale, Ariz., and his two grandchildren Anna Lee and Charles Cannon.

Also surviving Coach Moore are special friend Mary Reynaer, his brother Frank (Tina); his four sisters Donna Mason, Jean (Bruce) Long, Martha (Buck) Morris, and Amber (Allen) Yoe; 22 nephews and nieces; and 42 grand-nephews and nieces.

A public service commemorating his life will be held at Coleman Coliseum on Thursday, April 4th beginning at 3 p.m.

A private church service will be held Thursday morning and burial will be at 11:00 a.m. Friday at the Good Hope Cemetery in Dozier. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Crimson Tide Foundation, Box 870343, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487; or the Mal and Charlotte Moore Caring Days Center in Tuscaloosa, C/O Vicki Kerr, P.O. Box 3049, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403.

No matter how you knew Mal, he was a true champion of the human heart. His loving touch and well thought-out words embodied a man who had only known love and compassion from the day he was born. He truly made a lasting impression on all who knew him. No one could tell a story like Mal, but it was his warm smile, the twinkle in his sparkling blue eyes as he squeezed your hand, that will be missed by everyone that loved him so. It is without question, the Good Lord broke the mold after he made Mal Moore.

Heritage Chapel Funeral Home & Cremations, a Dignity Memorial Provider, is in charge of arrangements. Condolences may be offered at www.heritagechapel tuscaloosa.com.
UAB names new business school dean

Eric Jack joined staff in 2001; also served in Air Force

Evan Belanger
ebelanger@al.com

The University of Alabama at Birmingham announced Tuesday that Eric Jack has been named dean of its School of Business following a national search.

Jack has served as the business school's interim dean since October 2012. He joined UAB in 2001 as the associate dean for faculty development and research.

A naturalized U.S. citizen, Jack was born on the island of Trinidad and Tobago and served in the U.S. Air Force for 21 years before beginning his academic career, according to UAB.

"The UAB School of Business has been consistently recognized for achievement, and I am honored that UAB has confidence in my leadership and vision," Jack said in a prepared statement.

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ABOUT ERIC JACK

Birthplace: Trinidad and Tobago

Education: Doctorate in operations management, University of Cincinnati; master's in business, Wright State University; bachelor's in industrial engineering, Georgia Tech.

At UAB: Interim dean of business since October; associate dean for faculty development and research, beginning in 2001.

Research Interests: Operations strategy, health care management, service operations, quality management and supply-chain management.

JACK

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The business school is one of only 170 schools separately accredited since 1973 for both business and accounting by the Association of Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

It claims roughly 1,800 undergraduate students and about 400 graduate students. Jack said he hopes to increase those numbers through "experimental learning, faculty scholarship and industry partnership."

The business school has approximately 100 full-time faculty and staff members.

"Eric Jack's passion for student success, commitment to accountability and love of UAB make him the preeminent choice as the next dean in what is a pivotal time for the UAB School of Business," said Provost Linda Lucas in a statement.
Is ketamine a breakthrough drug for suicide prevention?

Mike Oliver
moliver@al.com

Ketamine, introduced as an anesthetic in the 1970s and abused on the street as Special K, is showing promise as an effective treatment for depression in suicidal patients coming into the emergency room, University of Alabama at Birmingham researchers report.

In a one-of-a-kind study, suicidal patients entering the UAB Hospital emergency department are being treated with ketamine, and it is relieving severe depression in a short time, said Dr. Richard Shelton, professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurobiology.

Shelton said he hopes ketamine would significantly reduce hospitalizations.

UAB Hospital sees about five suicidal patients a day, 150 per month. Half of those are hospitalized, which is expensive.

"With the fact that we are moving toward accountable care, one of the things we are trying to do is reduce people from having to go to the hospital," Shelton said.

Nationwide, half a million people come to the emergency department every year, he said.

"The advantage of ketamine is that it is so rapidly effective in so many people," Shelton said.

The depression-easing effects of ketamine can occur within 15 minutes.

Traditional antidepressants can take two to three weeks for effectiveness, and even then nearly two-thirds of the patients don't get completely well.

"The disadvantage of ketamine is that its effect lasts only five to seven days and you have to use IV to administer it." A second study sponsored by Janssen Research & Development will involve treating people with severe depression and suicidal thoughts in an outpatient setting to determine how often it needs to be administered to keep its depression-lifting effects, Shelton said.
'Dance for Downs' combines fun, fundraising

Amy Rodrigues

A dance held last week at Samford University offered attendees an unusual opportunity to learn something—underneath the glow of a disco ball.

"The 2nd Annual Dance for Downs at the Rainbow Field House had two goals," said Patty Twombly, one of the organizers. "Two years ago, the family of community member Hundreds, who has Down syndrome, approached the University of Alabama at Birmingham's new Children's Hospital about the need for a fundraiser to support the clinic."

In her own experience with her 26-year-old brother, who has Down syndrome, Twombly said that people with Down syndrome can be "the most incrediblebly accepting people you'll ever meet."

"I've seen people with Down syndrome do things they can't do," she said. "I've seen them do things they can't do, but they do them with grace."

This year's event was "more elaborate, with more time, planning and support," said Twombly. "Everyone has been so helpful. We've all worked together and helped out."

"I think the dancers have really enjoyed it," she said. "And we've had a lot of support from the community."
Atkins vs. China Study

Mike Oliver
moliver@al.com

One word: Constipation.
Before that was brought up, the 250 people packed Wednesday into the UAB Alumni House to hear a debate on diets were edging a bit.
The arguments were being made: low carbohydrate versus low protein.
There were lots of study citations, bar charts and line graphs, and erudite explications of complex theories on nutrition's effects on human health.
For the longest time it was the picture of decorum in this debate between two scholarly experts.
Then T. Colin Campbell, the 78-year-old professor emeritus from Cornell University and author of a best-selling book on nutrition, "The China Study," mentioned it.
Constipation.
"Here's what happens to people," Campbell said, pointing to his very last slide entitled "Atkins outcomes v. regular eaters."
"Look at constipation compared to the average eater."
Giggles rippled through the audience.
The chart showed that Atkins eaters reported higher levels of, not just constipation, but halitosis, headaches, muscle cramps and diarrhea.
And as if to rub salt in the wounds, Campbell said these outcomes were from a 2004 study paid for by the Atkins Diet company.
Campbell directed his attention at his opponent, Eric Westman, a physician and Duke University assistant professor, who had been up until then, making a calm, measured case for the Atkins concept of a low carbohydrate and high protein diet.
Now the gloves were off.
Using that slide was not fair, Westman charged back.
"If somebody's diabetes is gone and they need some milk of magnesia for constipation, I think they would be happy to do so," Westman said.
Westman, co-author of "New Atkins for a New You," then pointed out that studies are starting to knock down some of the vaunted claims of "ultra-low fat diets" such as promoted by Campbell.
"There's been a dramatic reduction in faith in the low-fat diet," Westman said.
Westman earlier had talked about how he uses a low carbohydrate diet to treat his patients for obesity and diabetes.
He pointed to what he said are promising studies that low carbohydrate diets reduce the risk for breast cancer.
"Carbohydrate is not an essential nutrient," Westman said.
Campbell opened things up telling everyone he used to be pro-protein before he was against it. He grew up in a dairy farm, he said.
He essentially described the history of protein reverence by everyone from himself to the National Academy of Sciences.
But over time, and participation in large scale epidemiological studies, he changed his view to believe animal protein was not healthful, and that a whole food, plant-based diet is the way to go.
At some points, Westman tried to find common ground.
"I think we are against the same problem, which is the typical American diet," he said.
Westman listed areas where the two could agree, such as that obesity, diabetes and cancer are related to nutrition, and that sugar and junk food are harmful, and "real food" is healthier.
Areas he thought they disagree are: adequate protein is not harmful; epidemiology cannot be used to determine causation and animal products are not harmful.
But however much they disagree, it wasn't enough to keep them from breaking bread (or something) together. It was reported they were going to dinner together after the debate at Bottega Restaurant and Cafe, where you can bet only one will be tempted by the grilled beef tenderloin.
The debate was presented by the UAB Center for Palliative and Supportive Care and the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Centers.
2012 saw movement at Innovation Depot

The impact of Innovation Depot's expansion was clear in the Birmingham incubator's annual report for 2012. The organization added 22 new clients and had a total of 91 clients and more than 500 employees by year's end.

By comparison, in October 2011 — before a $1 million project to build out 27,000 square feet of space was completed — there were only about 80 total businesses at the incubator.

Innovation Depot admitted those 22 applicants in 2012 from a pool of 122 applicants.

Susan Matlock, the Depot's president and CEO, said the number of applicants versus those who were actually admitted shows the incubator is geared toward investing in companies with growth potential, not just renting space to small businesses.

"My job is not to rent space; it's to grow businesses," she said.

One of the new businesses to join the incubator in 2012 was Lexco Capital Partners, a Birmingham-based startup that identifies and files class action claims for businesses.

J.J. Thomas, CEO of the organization, said the tangible and intangible resources at the Depot have played a critical role in growing his business.

Thomas' company will be looking to follow in the footsteps of several companies that successfully graduated from the incubator in 2012.

That list includes Motus Motorcycles, which is now located in Lakeview, and Motion Mobs, which moved downtown, as we previously reported.

A total of 12 companies graduated from the incubator last year.

According to the organization's annual report, the incubator's companies generated $119 million in gross revenue earned from investments, grants and sales last year.

The earnings impact, or the impact of wages each company pays, was $64 million.

The sales impact, or impact of all revenues in the community, was $237 million.

Fluctuations in gross revenue and sales and earnings impact are typical, Laney said.

That trend, he said, is, in part, due to a combination of different numbers of companies graduating each year.

"It's very consistent," he said. "You're not going to see something that's not going to fit that pattern."

Over the past four years, the organization's total economic impact is about $1 billion, according to the report.

Activities that don't impact that figure are from companies that have gone public, been bought out or have been graduated for more than five years, he said.
Personal Monitor System Could Change Healthcare

A wireless personal health monitoring system using smartphones to upload data via the Internet will revolutionize the U.S. healthcare industry, its pioneering creators say.

mHealth research at The University of Alabama in Huntsville is lead by Dr. Emil Jovanov, associate dean for graduate education and research in the College of Engineering, and Dr. Aleksandar Milenkovic, associate professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. They have recently received funding from the National Science Foundation to develop mHealth infrastructure at UAHuntsville.

mHealth capitalizes on what Dr. Jovanov calls "major revolutions" in computer informatics, smartphones, and energy-efficient and miniaturized electronics and sensors. It can provide health information to the patient directly, to the physician via the Internet, and to researchers as aggregated databases. View the mHealth website at http://portal.mhealth.uah.edu/public/index.php.

In 2000, Dr. Jovanov was the first to propose Wireless Body Area Networks (WBAN) for health monitoring as a sensor system to integrate sensors on or in bodies and communicate through the Internet. (E. Jovanov, J. Price, D. Raskovic, K. Kavi, T. Martin, R. Adhami, "Wireless Personal Area Networks in Telemedical Environment," Third IEEE EMBS Information Technology Applications in Biomedicine -- Workshop of the International Telemedical Information Society ITAB ITIS 2000, Arlington, Va., November 2000, pp. 22-27).

"When WBAN is used to monitor diabetes patients using an implanted blood glucose sensor and insulin pump, the system can determine how much insulin should be released, not only based on the blood glucose level, but based on the level of activity and condition of the whole organism," said Dr. Jovanov. "This is a fundamentally different approach made possible by the advances in technology, and we are proud that the first paper on it came from UAH."

Dr. Jovanov said the idea sprang from the Personal Area Network used in wireless computing. "We proposed creating a personal health monitoring network within 2-3 feet from your body integrating a number of sensors to monitor your vital signs and physical activity." Individual sensors are controlled by a smartphone that collects information from sensors and communicates with the rest of the system.

In collaboration with the Mayo Clinic, the researchers developed the first successful prototypes. "We were the first to demonstrate that you can create a system that is a very powerful, energy efficient and comfortable that you can wear a long time," said Dr. Jovanov.

Since then, size and weight have shrunk and sensor and communication technologies have advanced. "It is ubiquitous wireless communication anytime, anywhere that has brought tremendous change and will improve our lifestyles tremendously in the future," Dr. Jovanov said, citing two examples where mHealth could help.
"The more you exercise, the better you recover after a stroke, but you also can overdo it," he said. "The smartphone-based application can motivate users to exercise more, or warn them if they are straining themselves.

"Now in heart attack, the recovery rate also depends on exercise, but often people are worried about that because they have been through this traumatic event and they don't want to get too far away from the phone or help or they are afraid to be active again," he continued. The mHealth system alleviates fears by its ability to detect trouble and summon help. It also can advise the heart patient when he or she is at the optimal exercise level.

**Patents Pending**


First is a cardiac health monitor that records the change of heart activity every time a user stands up. A sensor in the smartphone detects when the patient gets up and a wireless heart sensor detects heart activity.

In the second, a UAHuntsville-developed program monitors activity of wheelchair users using sensors embedded in the smartphone. A magnet on the wheel allows the smartphone to detect and record the number of wheel rotations so distance, speed and duration of activity can be calculated. Moreover, the system can detect if the user propels the wheelchair or if the chair has been pushed.

"Most wheelchair users do not exercise enough," Dr. Milenkovic said. "Statistics show that they are at high risk for all physical inactivity related diseases, such as coronary disease and diabetes. We can quantify what they do and send that information to the physician."

**Nursing Stress**

In 2002, Dr. Jovanov worked with the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory to monitor stress levels of pilots training in Pensacola, Fla. Today at UAHuntsville, the researchers use mHealth to study the stress levels of nursing students.

"It is extremely hard to monitor stress," said Dr. Jovanov. That's why the UAHuntsville College of Nursing study is advantageous. The nursing lab has a patient simulator, a humanlike automated dummy that can reproduce the physiological effects of acute medical events, like heart attacks. As student nurses have stressful encounters with the simulator, the mHealth system monitors their physiology and activity.
"For us this is very interesting, because we know exactly when these crises will happen and we can control the outcome of the event through the simulator," Dr. Jovanov said. Once the stress monitoring is developed, managers could use such a system in hospitals to observe nursing stress and recommend personal relaxation techniques or short break times. As a result, the number of mistakes arising from stress will be reduced.

**Growing Need**

"We are desperately in need of changes to the whole health system. Currently, the emphasis is on reactive health care," Dr. Jovanov said. In that environment, opportunities for mHealth are increasing. As part of the Affordable Care Act, in 2012 Medicare tightened its hospital readmission rule to decrease payments to acute care hospitals with excessive readmissions. "That has created overnight a multi-billion dollar market for home monitoring and an early intervention system," Dr. Jovanov said. "Now we are devising more uses for it."

What is ultimately needed is a proactive system, said Dr. Jovanov. "You can make small changes and affect your health in a major way over time." Dr. Milenkovic calls it "a guardian angel" that could be used to improve a patient's wellbeing.

As health status deteriorates, long term records and information in the electronic health record can help in diagnosis. "Having this information will decrease the amount of needless testing done," said Dr. Jovanov. It also opens the possibility for rehabilitation use, Dr. Milenkovic said. "There is quantifiable information there that is stored and can be analyzed."

High costs have prevented this level of personalized medicine. Hospital-grade monitors typically cost from $5,000 to $15,000 each. Dr. Jovanov and Dr. Milenkovic are expecting to see an emergence of the mHealth monitors in the $50 to $500 price range.

**Research Roles**

Once mHealth monitors are widespread and generating big data streams, data mining will allow researchers access to information not identified by user, resulting in super-sized studies on topics ranging from heart disease to cancer outcomes.

"We believe that once we have widespread mHealth devices, we will create huge database of records capable of completely changing healthcare," said Dr. Jovanov. "Once you gather enough data, it will tell you how well you are doing for your genetic profile and your age and health, and what to do to improve your health status."
Supernanograting enables spectrometer sensor

By: Ashley N. Rice

Combining nanophotonics technology with traditional optical spectroscopy has yielded a new kind of optical spectrometer with sensing and spectral measurement functions. Traditional optical spectrometers measure the spectra of light; traditional optical sensors use light to detect the presence of chemicals. Now, scientists at The University of Alabama in Huntsville have combined the characteristics of both into a single nanoscale photonic device called a supernanograting, demonstrating a new kind of optical sensing apparatus called a spectrometer sensor.

A spectrometer sensor is an optical spectrometer and also a chemical sensor because it measures the optical resonance spectrum that is controlled by chemicals bonded on the nanostructure surface. This device can detect toxins or contaminants in very small quantities.

"Spectrometer sensors are best suited in applications requiring small size and weight," said Dr. Junpeng Guo. The small size and light weight of the sensors may be useful for NASA space exploration applications like measuring the chemical makeup of the surface of Mars, he said.

Two spectrometer sensors have been demonstrated recently, one with a super-nanoslit metal grating (Optics Letters) and the other with a supernanohole metal grating (Optics Express).

Optical resonances of nanostructures, a fundamental phenomenon in optics, typically are measured using optical spectrometers. By creating a supergrating pattern of nanostructures, Guo and doctoral student Haisheng Leong made superdiffraction gratings with nanograting structures. With the supernanograting, the resonance of the nanostructure can be measured with a photodetector array, eliminating the need for an optical spectrometer.

The nanostructures first were drawn with a computer and then made using electron beam lithography, which controlled the movement of the tightly focused electron beam to write nanoholes or any other nanostructure pattern in a thin layer of special polymer called e-beam resist.

The e-beam-written polymer layer is then developed so the nanostructure patterns are imprinted to the thin polymer layer. The patterned polymer layer works like a mask, and an argon ion etching process is used to transfer the pattern from the polymer layer to the thin metal film underneath it. This device was made by Leong.

The supernanogratings – a super-period nanohole array drilled in a thin gold film on a transparent glass substrate that supports collective free-electron oscillations, or surface plasmons – have rich physics that need to be investigated, said Guo, an associate professor of electrical engineering and optics. His paper, recently published in Applied Physics Letters (doi: 10.1063/1.4771992), explains the resonance mode splitting phenomenon observed in the supernanohole grating. Such mode splitting could be used to make better-sensitivity chemical sensors.

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UAHuntsville recently filed a patent to license the new technology.
Huntsville writer, actress shares 'Casablanca' like experience in one-woman show

By: Pat Ammons

Huntsville writer and actress Dorothy Weems will share stories of a real-life "Casablanca" experience as part of the University of Alabama in Huntsville Coffeehouse Writers Series on April 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the university's Louis Salmon Library Art Gallery. In the one-woman show, "Miss Wolfe's Tangier Stories," Weems portrays her mother, Ruth Wolfe Weems, who was an American Legation employee in The International Zone of Tangier during World War II.

In the stage adaptation of her mother's stories, Weems revisits her mother's wartime experiences with all their political intrigue, dangers, romance, acts of heroism as well as the keeping of secrets. Weems plays her mother as an older woman reliving the exciting moments of her youth. "Miss Wolfe's Tangier Stories" made its well-received world debut at the American Legation in Tangier in the summer of 2012 as part of an international performance conference.

The performance is sponsored by the UAH Women’s Studies Program and the library, and is free and open to the public. This will be the final program of the spring semester Coffeehouse Writers series. For more information, call Marylyn Coffey at 256-824-6114 or email coffeymt@uah.edu.
USA set to search for president

Evan Belanger
ebelanger@al.com

The University of South Alabama will begin the search for a president April 3 to replace Gordon Moulton, who will retire after 46 years with the Mobile school, according to information provided Friday.

The USA Board of Trustees announced that it would hold a special meeting at 3:45 p.m. April 3 in the university's Administration Building. University spokesman Keith Ayers said that the meeting is related to the commencement of the search for a new president.

Moulton, who is recovering from cancer, announced March 8 he will step down as president on July 1.

The longtime president had a malignant brain tumor removed in October and returned to work within a week.

In February, however, trustees granted him a 90-day leave of absence to allow him more time to recover from the surgery.

The university plans to hold a tribute to Moulton and his wife, Geri, during USA's 50th birthday celebration on May 3.

Moulton started teaching business classes at USA in 1966, only three years after the west Mobile university was founded, and has been president since 1998.

John W. Smith, vice president for student affairs and special assistant to the president, has been serving as acting president.

Moulton is a former Mobilian of the Year.

With his wife, Moulton has contributed $7 million in gifts towards projects such as the USA Mitchell Cancer Institute, Moulton Tower and Alumni Plaza, Geri Moulton Children's Park at the USA Children's and Women's Hospital, scholarships, athletics and others.

In his time as president, USA's enrollment has soared, climbing past 15,000.
Evan Belanger
ebelanger@al.com

Alabama State University will go it alone in its hunt for a new president to lead the college that has a more than $900 million impact on the state's economy.

Voting unanimously last week, the 15-member presidential search committee decided against tapping a professional search firm.

The decision comes after last year's selection of former President Joseph Silver, whom the board paid $685,000 to resign after just 13 weeks on the job.

Trustee Marvin Wiggins said ASU spent more than $100,000 on a search firm when it hired Silver and has since learned the candidate the school needs may not come through formal channels — and likely won't be someone who is actively job hunting.

The decision goes against the recommendation of Gov. Robert Bentley, who serves as president of the ASU board by virtue of his elected position.
Samford University receives $170,000 grant to study neural evolution

Greg Garrison
ggarrison@al.com

Samford University’s Center for Science and Religion has received a $170,000 research grant from the John Templeton Foundation.

The Templeton grant is 1 of 10 to be awarded nationally through the foundation’s “Randomness and Divine Providence” initiative, based at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich.

The initiative promotes scholarly inquiry into questions of how God might work through intermediate processes.

Starting June 3 this year and continuing through June 30, 2015, Samford’s project — “Who Pulls the Random Strings in Neural Evolution?” — will address the question through computer-based evolutionary simulations.

Samford faculty members Steve Donaldson and Tom Woolley, and Eastern Kentucky University professor and Samford alumnus Josh Reeves, will serve as the project’s primary investigators.

Samford professors Bruce Atkinson, George Keller and Wilton Bunch will serve as consultants.

At least two Samford students per summer also will play a role.

Project leader Donaldson is a computer scientist focused on real and artificial cognition and relationships between science and religion.

He led development of the simulation system at the heart of the project.

Woolley is a statistician with a long history of engagement with the questions addressed by the center and its new project.

The 2003-2005 Templeton Fellow in Science and Religion at Oxford University specializes in the science of chance and randomness.

Woolley, Donaldson; Keller, a biologist; and Bunch, a physician, medical researcher and theologian, were all co-founders of the Center for Science and Religion.

Reeves is a theologian with an interest and publication history in the areas of science and religion.

Samford mathematics and computer science chair Atkinson, with an extensive background in probability theory, will lead the team’s search for formal mathematical relationships that characterize the empirical results.

“Constrained randomness” is a key aspect of Samford’s project, evident in shaping trees, clouds, animals and more.

For example, there is great diversity among people, but no 20 foot tall human with purple skin and fins, because the random aspects of the genetic code are constrained by chemistry and other forces.

See SAMFORD, Page 4H
The order of the universe is not a matter of "anything goes," Donaldson explained. "It's happening within boundaries."

In Samford's evolutionary simulations, researchers will explore how constrained random processes can generate artificial neural architectures with predictable functionality. "That constitutes a kind of foreknowledge for the simulations," Donaldson said, but the means to the desired end might come as a surprise. "If you were designing it by hand, you wouldn't design it the way this evolutionary simulation system is going to design it, but it works," he said.

Because the simulations last perhaps a few hours each, researchers can quickly create multiple generations of circuits and document how they develop, similar to biological evolution.

Donaldson described a very simple form of locomotion—a tail moving back and forth, operated by two neurons signaling in turn. He said the signals "that would power some slimy thing through some ooze" might be co-opted for memory and higher cognitive functions. The problem is how to move up that evolutionary ladder.

"How do you take something that already exists for one purpose and adapt it for another purpose?" he said. "That's the evolutionary story, so what we want to do is to show how that can happen in a simulation."

Beyond new scientific understanding, the researchers see possibilities for building bridges between those who claim an inherent incompatibility between randomness and providence.

"As Christians, we're saying that, ultimately, God is behind things but, as scientists, we're looking for the mechanism," Donaldson said.

The Samford researchers understand that their work might be controversial in some scientific and religious corners, but Donaldson said, "If you're not afraid of the truth then you're not afraid of exploring for it."

For more information on the Samford University Center for Science and Religion, go to www.samford.edu/scienceandreligion.
Ike transforms body, becomes leader

Drew Champlin
dchamplin@al.com

Kaycee Ike had played sparingly over his first three years at UAB, but came alive after head coach Garrick McGee and Director of Sports Enhancement (strength and conditioning coach) Dwayne Chandler arrived on the Southside.

Ike bought into the training program and earned a starting spot last year at strong tackle. This spring, the senior has moved to quick tackle, the spot vacated by NFL prospect and all-conference lineman Chris Hubbard. Suddenly, he’s being counted on to lead a now-experienced offensive line.

“He’s the strongest guy on the team,” McGee said. “He upped his bench 75 pounds or something ridiculous like that. He’s completely changed his body. He gets through all the workouts. He’s running well and he’s moving well.”

The bench press is now 400 pounds, Ike said, up from around 315 when McGee and Chandler got to UAB around 15 months ago.

“It’s a great deal of accomplishment to them that they got my bench up and I trusted their system to get up to their level,” Ike said.

Ike didn’t get introduced to football until ninth grade. The 6-foot-5, 293-pound player said one of his high school coaches, Dennis Roland, challenged him to improve his game and get it ready for the next level.

Roland coached Ike for one season and later died of cancer. Ike finished playing at Central Gwinnett High School in Lawrenceville, Ga., playing for Ed Stokes.

At first, Ike was going to play for a new program in Georgia State, but changed his mind and committed to UAB after a visit and signed with the Blazers in 2009.

He redshirted that year, didn’t play in 2010 and played sparingly in 2011 before becoming a starter last year.

“It was hard at first, but I always knew I had to keep grinding every single day and persevere, knowing that one day I would get my chance to shine and last year I was grateful for that chance,” Ike said.
UAB FOOTBALL

Blazers open spring with 4 new assistants

Drew Champlin
dchamplin@al.com

UAB began spring practice on Wednesday and head coach Garrick McGee finalized his coaching staff.

Matt Sanders is the new special teams coach and will assist secondary coach Brandon Sharp. He comes aboard after coaching linebackers at Lehigh. He was at practice Wednesday and is the fourth new hire by McGee in the off-season. McGee introduced Eric Evans (running backs), Joe Henry (tight ends) and Kevin Peoples (defensive line) to the media on Monday.

Sanders earned two degrees at Louisville and played linebacker there under current UAB defensive coordinator Reggie Johnson and was teammates with Sharp and offensive coordinator Richard Owens at Louisville. Sanders was a student and graduate assistant at Louisville as well.

"(Sanders is a) high energy, very intelligent football coach," McGee said. "He understands how to defend against the spread offense, the four-wide, fast-breaking offense in which we see in this conference."

"He really fits in to our culture that we've developed in our staff. Everybody knows everybody now. We all know each other. Our families know each other. To add him, another guy that's pretty much in our family, I'm pleased and happy about said UAB coach Garrick McGee. (Merk Almond/malmond@al.com)

"(Matt Sanders) really fits in to our culture that we've developed in our staff. Everybody knows everybody now. We all know each other. Our families know each other. To add him, another guy that's pretty much in our family, I'm pleased and happy about."

Wednesday was the start to McGee's second spring as UAB's head football coach.

The Blazers played with several true freshmen last year, and tempo moved faster during practice thanks to familiarity. McGee said. "I'm not as worried about if I forgot to do this or forgot to cover this. I was able to see more things going into your second year. It felt a lot smoother to me."

McGee also mentioned how quarterbacks Austin Brown and Jonathan Perry have improved.

"I talked to them before practice about being under control, being more poised, having their eyes open, seeing more things, having more awareness about what's going on the field, pretty much just manage themselves at a higher level," McGee said.

"It does help me being in the meeting room with them. They don't have to worry when I walk up and start coaching them and getting on them. They understand me now. There was a lot of times today when the ball could have been forced in and they didn't (force it). They took a check down. It showed me that they have developed and they are under control mentally so they can manage a team."

UAB returns to practice today and Saturday. Practices are open to the public and today's practice will start around 5:15 p.m.

Drew Champlin covers UAB athletics for The Birmingham News and Alabama Media Group.
This weekend will be sports fans' paradise

Spectators can choose among seven different sports

By Tommy Deas
Executive Sports Editor

TUSCALOOSA | Baseball, softball, gymnastics, track and field, rowing and tennis.
And yes, even football.
If it can be played, it will probably be played somewhere around Tuscaloosa in one of the year's most jam-packed sports weekends.

INSIDE

TURN TWO:
Double-play tandem helps power Crimson Tide baseball squad. | 1C

It starts tonight with the University of Alabama baseball team hosting Arkansas in the first contest of a three-game series, with first pitch set for 7:05 p.m. at Sewell-Thomas Stadium. The series will feature two nationally-ranked teams, with the Crimson Tide coming in at No. 22 in the Collegiate Baseball Top 25 and Arkansas — ranked No. 1 earlier this season — currently at No. 11.

Another matchup with national ramifications will take place at Rhoads Stadium, where the defending national champion Alabama softball team, ranked fourth, will host No. 6 Missouri in a three-game series starting with Marissa Gutiérrez competes on the vault for the University of Alabama during a meet against LSU on Jan. 18. The two-time defending NCAA champion Crimson Tide is the No. 1 seed in the NCAA regional that will be held in Coleman Coliseum on Saturday.

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SPORTS

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Friday's 8 p.m. game, UA will be giving away about 4,000 T-shirts as part of a "Stripe Out" promotion in which alternating sections of the stadium will wear crimson and white.

The action in town has not escaped the notice of ESPN's family of sports networks. Alabama's baseball game tonight will be televised on ESPNU, as will UA's softball games on Friday and Saturday.

The two-time defending national champion Crimson Tide gymnastics team will try to earn a spot in the NCAA Championships on Saturday, when it hosts an NCAA regional starting at 6 p.m. The two top finishers in that meet will advance to the national championship event in Los Angeles.

The Alabama rowing team will take to the Black Warrior River on Saturday starting at 9:30 a.m. for its only home regatta of the season. The UA program, in its seventh year, will host West Virginia and Central Florida. Manderson Landing, at the intersection of Jack Warner Parkway and McCorvey Drive, is a top viewing location for the free event.

The Alabama men's and women's track and field teams will host the Crimson Tide Invite, a one-day event set for Saturday, at the Sam Bailey Track and Field Stadium. Alabama men's tennis will host Texas A&M on Sunday at 1 p.m.

The sporting action is not limited to UA. Stillman College will host its annual spring football game at Stillman Stadium at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Stillman is also scheduled to host LeMoyne-Owen in a softball doubleheader starting at 1 p.m. Saturday.

An hour down the road in Livingston, the University of West Alabama will hold its spring game starting at 10 a.m. in association with a crawfish boil near the stadium. The UWA baseball and softball teams will host games at 5 p.m.

There will also be a full slate of high school action in various sports. Brookwood visits Holt in baseball on Friday, with Central, Tuscaloosa County High, American Christian High, Holy Spirit and others also hosting games. The City-County Softball Tournament will be played Friday and Saturday at Brookwood and Holy Spirit.

Reach Tommy Deas at tommy.deas@tuscaloosanews.com or at 205-722-0224.
Traina powers Tide past Aggies

Combined reports

COLLEGE STATION, Texas | University of Alabama All-American Jackie Traina allowed one run on two hits and also homered to lead the No. 4 Crimson Tide softball team to a 4-1 victory over No. 9 Texas A&M on Sunday afternoon at the Aggie Softball Complex.

Traina struck out seven and also hit a solo home run. She tossed six shutout innings before allowing a home run in the seventh. Kayla Braud paced the Crimson Tide at the plate with three hits and two RBIs.

Alabama (32-5, 8-4 in the Southeastern Conference) opened the scoring in the third inning. The Crimson Tide loaded the bases and Braud hit a bloop single down the line in left to plate Danae Hays. Kaila Hunt then hit a sacrifice-fly to deep center to score Courtney Conley and give UA a 2-0 advantage.

The Crimson Tide extended its lead to 3-0 in the fifth when Braud took advantage of a two-out walk to Haylie McCleney. Braud doubled off the wall in center to plate McCleney from first.

Traina helped her own cause on the first pitch she saw to lead off the sixth, sending a solo shot over the wall in right to give the UA a 4-0 lead. The home run was the 13th on the season.

Alabama will return home for most of April and will start its homestand against Jacksonville State on Tuesday at 6 p.m.
Turnbull tosses four-hit shutout for Alabama

Combined reports

AUBURN | Spencer Turnbull threw Alabama's first complete-game shutout in two years, leading the Crimson Tide to a 2-0 win over the Auburn Tigers in front of 3,911 fans at Plainsman Park on Saturday afternoon.

"I told the team before the game, there was more to this game," Alabama coach Mitch Gasper said. "Today was about representing Alabama and what we stand for and the great man like Coach (Mal) Moore. I'm just very proud of the way we represented the university today."

Moore, who stepped down as UA's athletic director 10 days ago, died Saturday morning at the Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C.

If pitching and defense wins games, Alabama got both Saturday. Turnbull gave up four hits with four strikeouts and got the Tigers to ground into four double plays.

With nine innings of scoreless pitching against the Tigers, Turnbull has gone 22.2 scoreless innings since allowing a run in the first inning against Tennessee on March 17.

The Crimson Tide defense did not commit an error and turned double plays in the first, third, fourth and fifth innings. The four double plays give the Crimson Tide 37 for the season and matched a season high.

Offensively, Alabama had just two hits against Auburn pitchers Will Kendall and Daniel Koger. Kendall (0-2) took the loss after throwing the first three innings, allowing an unearned run on a hit with two walks and two strikeouts. Koger

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SHUTOUT
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threw the final six innings, allowing one run on one hit with three walks and two hit batters.

Alabama opened the game with a single by Georgie Salem, then didn't get another hit until the seventh when Chance Vincent singled through on a hit and run. Vincent was 1-for-2 with a walk and a run scored.

For the third time this weekend, Alabama took a 1-0 lead, scoring an unearned run in the top of the third. After Vincent walked to lead off the inning, a sacrifice bunt by Andrew Miller moved him into scoring position. A hard hit ground ball off the bat of Kenny Roberts went off the glove of Auburn third baseman Daneck Tomasch and went in to left field allowing Vincent to score from second.

The Crimson Tide manufactured a run in the seventh to extend its lead to 2-0. After Mikey White was hit by a pitch with one out, Vincent executed a perfect hit and run and singled through the right side to move White to third. Miller then had a successful sacrifice safety squeeze to allow White to score from third.

After playing seven straight games on the road, Alabama (18-11, 7-2 in the SEC) returns to Sewell-Thomas Stadium on Tuesday night when it hosts Southeastern Louisiana at 6:05 p.m.
Battle's vision

UA's new athletic director to evaluate programs, chart a course for continued improvement

By Cecil Hurt
Sports Editor

TUSCALOOSA | New University of Alabama athletic director Bill Battle met with The Tuscaloosa News on Tuesday and answered several questions about his vision for UA athletics and how he plans to implement that vision.

Q: What do you see as the first step in your role as athletic director?
A: I've got a steep learning curve ahead to familiarize myself with all the moving parts here. I know I've really got a good staff here, both in the coaching positions and in the support staff. I know we have great leadership at the top of the university. I know the progress Mal (Moore) had made and was continuing to make, because it was ongoing. I am going to take the next six weeks to two months to see what we need to do, to not do and form my opinions on that. What I want to know is what we are doing well, what we are doing not so well and how we can do those things better. But I am going to take a close look before I decide anything.

We have great momentum here. This is an enormous responsibility, and I do not take that responsibility lightly. I carefully considered the decision to come back. I would not have come back if I could not have committed all of myself to this task. This is not a caretaker's job. It is like a business. You don't just stand still. You either get better or get worse, and I intend for us to get better.

Q: You mentioned Mal Moore, who passed away Saturday. How will his absence, in an advisory capacity, affect you and the department?
A: We all miss Mal. He was a great friend to me, one I knew for such a long time. I was hoping that, even after his health took a downturn, that he would be able to come back and enjoy the fruits of his labors. He would have been a great advisor and resource for me, and I will miss that very much. My goal is to continue what he has done and build on it. But if we come to a place where we need to take a different direction on something, I plan to take us where we need to go.

Q: You come to UA after a long and successful career in the licensing business, particularly collegiate licensing. How will that experience translate into your new position?
A: Everywhere I have been, the contacts that I have made have had a positive impact. I have dealt with many colleges and universities in the licensing business, kept up with the developments in college athletics through a different window, so to speak. But it has let me stay in close contact, let me make a lot of friends and, hopefully, those relationships will be beneficial.

Q: In your coaching tenure at Tennessee (1970-76), you posted a 59-22-2 record over seven seasons but never sought another head coaching position. Why?
A: We had some really good teams at Tennessee and a few that weren't that good. I decided well before my time there ended that I didn't want to be a 65-year-old coach. Now, I didn't want to get out when I did. But my kids were growing older and I wanted to have time with them, and I wanted to try the business end of athletics. I didn't know if I would be out of it for a year and want to get back in. I had some friends in coaching who were that way, who were miserable when they weren't coaching.

I had some chances to get back in, especially in that first year after I finished at Tennessee. But I had a great opportunities with Larry Striplin. I enjoyed what we were trying to build. Larry was a dynamic man, a smart man, and we experienced great

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growth. It was a great experience for me and I decided to stay with that to stay out of coaching. Managing a business is a lot different than coaching, but there are parallels. You've got to get great talent; you've got to work hard, you've got to stay ahead of the competition. So I loved business. But I do want to say I had a wonderful experience at Tennessee, wouldn't take anything for it.

Q: Does your experience as a coach give you a different view of the hiring/firing process when it comes to coaches?
A: I have the same perspective on hiring and firing coaches as I would have in business. You want to recruit the right people to do the job and then help them in any way you can. I think Mal approached it that way, and that is exactly what I would have done, and will do. But it is ultimately about the student-athletes and giving them a chance to compete at the highest levels.

Firing someone, a coach or anyone else, is never an easy job, and there are a lot of factors involved. But you do have to make those decisions sometimes, and at the end of the day, it is as much about how you go about doing it as it is about what you have to do.

Q: Do you anticipate having to make any coaching changes in the immediate future?
A: We will take the blueprint we have in place, we will meet with the executive staff members who have the responsibility for each sport and we will see what we are doing well and what we need to improve. And if there are issues, or opportunities that we are missing, we will deal with those things. Over the next few months, we will do a lot of that.

Q: Have you had a chance to evaluate the head football coach yet?
A: (laughing) I have, and I like him.

Reach Cecil Hurt at cecil@tidesports.com or at 205-722-0225.
Online report levels charges at AU football

By Aaron Brenner
Columbus (Ga.) Ledger-Enquirer

AUBURN | A report published Wednesday by Selena Roberts, a former Sports Illustrated and New York Times reporter, delves into charges toward the Auburn football program including academic fraud and pay-for-play incentives and positive drug testing.

"Auburn's Tainted Title: Victims, Violations and Vendettas" was published on the website Roofstogo.com.

The report focuses on former Auburn safety Mike McNeil, who faces robbery charges stemming from a March 2011 arrest, two months after Auburn won the BCS national championship.

McNeil's family presents its description of the circumstances involving McNeil's role in the incident, including an account of Auburn University's and then-head coach Gene Chizik's handling of the matter.

Former Auburn players Neiko Thorpe, Daren Bates, Mike Blant, Darvin Adams and Antoine Carter are quoted in the story, and former defensive coordinator Will Muschamp (now Florida's head coach) is reported to have offered McNeil $400 cash after a 2007 practice.

At least two of those players publicly condemned the report.

An Auburn spokesperson stated to the Columbus (Ga.) Ledger-Enquirer on behalf of the athletic department, "We will not have a comment regarding the claims in the story."

Chizik, Auburn University and Auburn police all declined to comment.

In the opening segment, Roberts, an Auburn graduate, details a timeline presented by McNeil's mother and grandfather the afternoon of March 11, 2011, when Chizik kicked McNeil and three teammates off the team for robbery charges. McNeil has maintained his innocence.

Roberts makes other allegations leading up to the 2010 season, including:

■ Three players were told before the BCS championship victory over Oregon that up to nine teammates would be ruled academically ineligible, including star running back Michael Dyer, before unnamed school counselors fixed transcripts to keep them on the field.

■ Adams said he was offered an undisclosed amount of "financial incentives," and McNeil said he was given $500 to "entertain blue-chip (recruit) Dre Kirkpatrick," Kirkpatrick signed and played for Alabama.

■ A trailer home on Wire Road was a frequent source of synthetic marijuana distributed to players, the scene of the crime scene involving McNeil, Antonio Goodwin (since found guilty and sentenced to 15 years), Dakota Mosley and Shaun Kitchens. The article stated "more than 40 players tested positive for recreational drugs after the national championship."
NCAA battles former players' suit over revenues

By Paul Elias
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO | Former UCLA standout Ed O'Bannon is watching the NCAA men's basketball tournament with mixed emotions.

There's the love for the game and the tournament itself — he led his UCLA Bruins to the 1995 championship with 30 points and 17 rebounds and earned the most outstanding player award. But then there's the commercial side of things.

"Everybody's getting paid except for the players," O'Bannon said in a phone interview from Las Vegas recently. "It's not fair, and it needs to change."

Four years ago, O'Bannon filed a lawsuit against the NCAA and the video game maker EA Sports seeking compensation after recognizing an avatar in the company's March Madness game that he says was created in his image. Since then, the lawsuit has blossomed into one of the biggest legal threats the NCAA has ever faced over the issue of paying student athletes who attract billions of dollars in revenue annually, and the latest court filing from the NCAA weeks ago highlights how much is at stake.

O'Bannon and every other athlete who plays collegiate sports at a high level sign documents agreeing to play without compensation and giving the NCAA and its member schools exclusive commercial control of their images and likenesses.

He and other former student athletes who filed the lawsuit are seeking to require the NCAA to share in the skyrocketing revenues earned from television deals, video games, marketing schemes and other money-generating ventures using their images and likenesses.

If they succeed, it would force the NCAA to essentially pay student athletes for the first time in its 107-year history. The lawsuit proposes that former players receive direct payments while current athletes could tap a trust fund once their playing days are done.

Specifically, the lawsuit alleges the NCAA and its member schools have unfairly and illegally fixed the value of every player's commercial rights at zero. The lawsuit claims the NCAA and colleges do this by requiring every student athlete to sign forms agreeing to play without compensation and giving all commercial rights to the NCAA.

"I filed the lawsuit because the system isn't working," said O'Bannon, who is a manager of a Toyota car dealership in Las Vegas.

So far, the judge has turned down every NCAA attempt to toss out the case, including earlier this year.

For its part, the NCAA is steadfast in its position that student-athletes are prohibited from receiving payment for participating in sports. The NCAA argues that whatever revenues it earns are used for the benefit of its member schools and students, including those who have filed the lawsuit.

It argues that paying players would sound the death knell of amateur athletics.

"The NCAA is not exploiting current or former student-athletes but instead provides enormous benefit to them and to the public," said Donald Remy, the NCAA's top lawyer. "This case has always been wrong — wrong on the facts and wrong on the law."

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The Tuscaloosa News
Tuesday, April 2, 2013
Hatch said Wake may drop out of the NCAA's top football division if forced to share revenues with players.

"Instituting a pay-for-play model, even if the payments are deferred until after graduation, would change the nature of the relationship Wake Forest has with its football and men's basketball student-athletes," Hatch said in a statement submitted to the judge. "It would, essentially, turn those teams into professional squads. That would not be acceptable to Wake Forest."

U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken has scheduled a hearing in June to consider the class action request.

The former players have also included the NCAA's marketing arm, called the Collegiate Licensing Company, and video game maker EA Sports in the lawsuit. The Redwood City-based EA pays the NCAA an undisclosed amount for the rights to make and sell a college football video game. EA in the past also sold a college basketball game, which it discontinued a few years ago.

The lawsuit alleges the avatars in the games are based on real players. Though the players' names aren't used, many of their unique attributes and skills match up with individual avatars in the game. They argue that the similarities are so striking that the avatars have to be based on them.

The NCAA and EA deny the avatars are anything but generic figures.

The debate over compensating college players is almost as old as the NCAA, founded in 1906. Amateurs have long been expected to compete for free and the love of sport — or at least the cost of a scholarship. But with NCAA athletic revenues soaring to an estimated $4 billion a year, players are starting to clamor for compensation.

The NCAA's amateur athletics rules have been challenged in court a few times over the years with little success. But legal experts say players are making steady progress with the pending lawsuit, racking up preliminary victories.

"This has the potential to fundamentally alter the NCAA's business model in a dramatic way," said University of New Hampshire law professor Michael McCann, a sports law expert. "This is the most significant legal threat the NCAA is facing."

The judge has schedule trial for June 2014.
Student loan rate fix not part of plans in Congress

Incoming college freshmen could play more in interest

By Philip Elliott
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON | Incoming college freshmen could end up paying $5,000 more for the same student loans their older siblings have if Congress doesn't stop interest rates from doubling.

Sound familiar? The same warnings came last year. But now the presidential election is over and mandatory budget cuts are taking place, making a deal to avert a doubling of interest rates much more elusive before a July 1 deadline.

"What is definitely clear, this time around, there doesn't seem to be as much outcry," said Justin Draeger, president of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

"We're advising our members to tell students that the interest rates are going to double on new student loans, to 6.8 percent."

That rate increase only hits students taking out new subsidized loans. Students with outstanding subsidized loans are not expected to see their loan, rates increase unless they take out a new subsidized Stafford loan. Students' non-subsidized loans are not expected to change, nor are loans taken from commercial lenders.

The difference between 3.4 percent and 6.8 percent interest rates is a $6 billion tab for taxpayers — set against a backdrop of budget

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negotiations that have pitted the two parties in a standoff. President Barack Obama is expected to release his budget proposal in the coming weeks, adding another perspective to the debate.

Last year, with the presidential and congressional elections looming, students got a one-year reprieve on the doubling of interest rates. That expires July 1.

Neither party’s budget proposal in Congress has money specifically set aside to keep student loans at their current rate. House Republicans’ budget would double the interest rates on newly issued subsidized loans to help balance the federal budget in a decade. Senate Democrats say they want to keep the interest rates at their current levels, but the budget they passed last week does not set aside money to keep the rates low.

In any event, neither side is likely to get what it wants. And that could lead to confusion for students as they receive their college admission letters and financial aid packages.

“Two ideas ... have been introduced so far — neither of which is likely to go very far,” said Terry Hartle, the top lobbyist for colleges at the American Council on Education.

House Republicans, led by Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, have outlined a spending plan that would shift the interest rates back to their pre-2008 levels. Congress in 2007 lowered the rate to 6 percent for new loans started during the 2008 academic year, then down to 5.6 percent in 2009, down to 4.5 percent in 2010 and then to the current 3.4 percent a year later.

Some two-thirds of students are graduating with loans exceeding $25,000; one in 10 borrowers owes more than $54,000 in loans. And student loan debt now tops $1 trillion. For those students, the rates make significant differences in how much they have to pay back each month.

For some, the rates seem arbitrary and have little to do with interest rates available for other purchases such as homes or cars.

“Burdening students with 6.8 percent loans when interest rates in the economy are at historic lows makes no sense,” said Lauren Asher, president of the Institute for College Access and Success, a nonprofit organization.

House Education Committee Chairman John Kline of Minnesota and his Democratic counterpart, Rep. George Miller of California, prefer to keep rates at their current levels but have not outlined how they might accomplish that goal.

Rep. Karen Bass, a California Democrat, last week introduced a proposal that would permanently cap the interest rate at 3.4 percent.

Senate Democrats say their budget proposal would permanently keep the student rates low. But their budget document doesn’t explicitly cover the $6 billion annual cost. Instead, its committee report included a window for the Senate Health Education and Pension Committee to pass a student loan rate fix down the road.

But so far, the money isn’t there. And if the committee wants to keep the rates where they are, they will have to find a way to pay for them, either through cuts to programs in the budget or by adding new taxes.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that of the almost $113 billion in new student loans the government made this year, more than $38 billion will be lost to defaults, even after Washington collects what it can through wage garnishments.

The net cost to taxpayers after most students pay back their loans with interest is $6.7 billion. If the rate increases, Washington will be collecting more interest from new students’ loans.