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Clues to the cure
Alabama researchers join hunt for new Alzheimer's medicine

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A tragic cluster of Alzheimer's cases in a South American family is drawing intense interest from medical researchers, including some in Alabama, and could lead to breakthroughs in fighting the mind-destroying disease. The family lives in Medellin, Colombia and surrounding villages. Many members didn't know they were distantly related, but they all share a genetic mutation. When they reach about age 45, a researcher said, "They will inevitably get Alzheimer's."

Dr. Ken Kosik of the University of California, Santa Barbara, is one of the scientists working in Colombia, and he has partnered with Huntsville's HudsonAlpha Institute of Biotechnology to broaden the investigation into Alzheimer's. "Because we know that their disease comes from this one mutation, and they get it so early, and they get it like clockwork in their 40s, they become almost like a living laboratory," Kosik said. Pharmaceutical companies are in Colombia doing research and trying drugs that might delay Alzheimer's onset.

"It's something the people living there are very pleased about — the scientific interest in their plight," Kosik said. "They have had great anxiety about this for generations, and now the world is showing some interest. They're feeling a great sense of relief and some hope."

HudsonAlpha will use its high-speed gene sequencers to read the DNA code of other Colombian families that do not have the identified gene, but also show signs of early-onset brain degeneration. That suggests another genetic cause. HudsonAlpha researcher Dr. Nicholas Cochran said, "So, by sequencing them, we're likely to discover new genetic variants associated with Alzheimer's."

"FATE ISN'T SEALED"
Finding out you are at genetic risk for Alzheimer's doesn't mean your fate is fixed, Kosik said. "Most of us carry some risk genes for Alzheimer's," he said, "but because genes interact with the environment, we have ways to beat our genes."

The more we know about genetic risk and the environment's role in the disease, Kosik said, the more likely we can decrease that risk. Kosik has written a book on the subject, "Who Will Get Alzheimer's, and So Far They've All Failed." "The reason is, the trial starts after the person has Alzheimer's. If you treat somebody after they have Alzheimer's, a lot of their brain cells have already died. What we have to do is to start to treat Alzheimer's before it strikes."

How can we know who will get Alzheimer's? The question is what makes Colombia so valuable. Scientists working there do know in this family's case, and they may know even more when HudsonAlpha's research is complete. "That's very interesting to people who do clinical trials and drug companies who can start treating them before they get the disease," he said. "And that's what's happening now. It's been going on for 2 ½ years and has another 2 ½ years before we get the results."

The goal is to delay onset or reduce symptoms in people with certain genes linked to Alzheimer's. "If the people on the drug don't get symptoms until 10 years later, we're gold," Kosik said. Kosik said he is "very enthusiastic about the collaboration we're setting up" with HudsonAlpha. "The incredible technology, skill set and personnel here are going to enhance our investigation of genes in Colombia a lot."

"This is a gold mine in terms of understanding this disease," said HudsonAlpha President and Science Director Dr. Rick Myers. "I do want to emphasize, you don't just go into a community and exploit them and take their genetic information. They may benefit before anyone else."

"I think it's remarkable how a family living in such a remote area of Colombia can help the entire world with this problem," Myers said. "There's one more bitter irony to this Alzheimer's story. The Alzheimer's gene mutation wasn't part of the family's original genetic makeup."

"We were curious about the origin of this gene," Kosik said. "We were able to figure out through some various types of genetic analysis that the gene most likely came from a Spanish conquistador. One person gave rise to this very large family. The evidence is very strong there was one individual who came over very shortly after Christopher Columbus with this gene."
Governor Ivey talks Confederate monuments, spending, prisons

Mike Cason mcason@al.com

Gov. Kay Ivey is no stranger to Alabama's political scene, but after her unexpected ascension to the governor's office on April 10, many were left wondering how she would lead a state reeling from the scandal that cost former Gov. Robert Bentley his job. After almost eight weeks in her latest role — Ivey served Alabama as treasurer before her election as lieutenant governor in 2010 — Ivey says her focus remains on "steadying the ship of state." In her first extended interview with AL.com, the state's 54th governor sat down last week to talk about the recently completed legislative session, the state's prison problems and other important issues for the state and her political future.

You signed the bill (the Alabama Memorial Preservation Act) that says cities and counties can't move statues and can't rename schools that have been in place a certain amount of time. Why wouldn't it...
IVEY
FROM A1

be best to leave those decisions to local authorities?
That bill was introduced in the Alabama Senate. It passed the Senate and went to the House. It passed the House and eventually came across my desk. And I signed it. I think it's important that we have a mechanism to protect — I think the law says anything over 40 years.

It establishes a special committee that has rule-making authority to address any other issues that need to be addressed. So, there's still plenty of opportunity for local input.

But you don't see that as an encroachment on local authorities?
The Legislature passed the bill. As far as I know, that's the will of the people. And I evaluated the bill and signed it and I think it's the right thing to do.

In an earlier interview with the Associated Press you said you think the state has a spending problem. Are there any particular areas where you think the state is spending too much money and if so, how would you reduce that?

Spending is always a challenge because everybody wants what they want. But at the same time, you can save money when people retire or choose to leave state service, you don't have to refill that with a permanent employee. You can share the work and spread it among existing workers and that helps to reduce expenses. Yes, we do have tight budgets, but I think we can all find ways to reduce expenses from time to time. Some person moves and his or her duties can be spread among the other workers there. So we've just got to keep trying to operate within our state's budgets.

So you think there's still room to continue See Next Page
“My full responsibility needs to be focused on steadying the ship of state.”

Gov. Kay Ivey

to reduce the size of the state work force?
I think people are going to continue to retire. And they leave state government for one reason or another. So, as they do, we just don’t have to replace everybody.

Do you think we can get by with fewer state workers?
I think so.. We’ve got technology and folks are very skilled at that, and that helps a lot, too.

Gov. Bentley proposed a prison plan and the Legislature proposed one and neither passed. Do you want to start from scratch on prisons or take some version of what they’ve proposed, or do you know yet?
For sure, this issue needs to be solved by Alabamians. The Department of Corrections says it can pay the debt on building new prisons by money that they would save. Do you believe that? Well, I trust Commissioner (Jeff) Dunn. If he tells me we can save money, I believe we can.

The Department of Corrections says it can pay the debt on building new prisons by money that they would save. Do you believe that?
Well, I’m sure it’s an option and I’ve been out there and it, too, is old. So I think all of that has got to be considered. But it’s just real important that Alabamians make this decision. And I think the courts can be helpful to us in giving their views on it.

There could be something on prisons that does not involve the Legislature?
There may be some initiatives that the governor can exercise, and I’m exploring all of these. And some of them may be considered.

Are you convinced the state needs new prisons? Oh, without question. The structures are old and decrepit and they’re not safe. But at the same time there are additional problems that we know with mental health and staffing and so some of those have got to be addressed as well. We may not be able to do it all in one fell swoop. But we’ve got to make a strong effort to get started and to deal with this issue.

Does a new women’s prison definitely need to be part of that, or is it just one of the options? Well, I’m sure it’s an option and I’ve been out there and it, too, is old. So I think all of that has got to be considered. But it’s just real important that Alabamians make this decision. And I think the courts can be helpful to us in giving their views on it.

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Alabama ranks at the bottom nationally on the National Assessment of Educational Progress tests. Why do you think that is and what can be done about that? Do you think that’s a major concern? I think surely Alabamians want to be assured that their students are truly getting a quality education that adequately prepares them in a first-class fashion for a career and/or for college.

We expect our public education to do that. And I’ll be probably more active than some governors in trying to work with the education leaders to find some solutions. But truly, money is not the only answer or the only need. Teachers need to be focused on students learning at high standards. And less time on paperwork and reporting and one thing and another and overreach by the federal government. So, there are things we can do, and we’ve got to continue to focus on improving student learning at high standards.

Any particular things you’re already planning to propose?
I’m developing my list as I continue to go to meetings and interview with people to find out what the situations are, not only in education but in other areas as well. And so we’ll be coming forward with some proposals in the next session for sure.

Specifically about education? Well, we’ll see.
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going on in Washington and a possibility that the feds may cut back on funding for some programs that Alabama depends on, like Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program? How concerned are you about that and what does Alabama need to do to prepare for that?

We don't know what the changes may be yet. It's all very uncertain. And that in itself is a problem. But at the same time we're staying very much in touch with the national folks that work on Medicaid and our people here in the state. So we're trying to stay abreast of all the possibilities.... We know there is a struggle to find the funds to provide the quality care that we need and also to pay for it.

What are you proudest of about being from Alabama?

Because we live among people who care about one another and who are hard-working individuals. Our people are creative, they're friendly, they're fun to be with, and they make wonderful employees, especially in our high-tech jobs, and they're dedicated.

Alabama is great. Look at our landscape. We've got every topography in the great state that the nation has. We've even got snow skiing. We don't have desert. That's the only topography we don't have. So we've got a beautiful state for recreation, sports, agriculture.

Have you made a decision about running for a full term yet?

No, I have not, but I will certainly consider that at the appropriate time. But right now my full responsibility needs to be focused on steadying the ship of state and learning about all the departments and what the possibilities for new programs might be. So I am being the governor now and not focused on campaigning, for now.
Woo-hoo! You’re a grad! Now, what?

By: Mariah Wilson

Congratulations, you’ve got your diploma. Go ahead, crack open Dr. Seuss’s “Oh, The Places You’ll Go!” and allow yourself to daydream a bit about all the great things you’ll do. If you’ve just graduated from college, woo-hoo! Even better — you’re finally done with school. The world is waiting for you. OK, now let’s come back to reality. Here’s some stuff you should keep in mind, if you’re headed to university or into the workplace.

**HOW TO ENJOY COLLEGE**

Bama grad and her fellow young professionals have some essential tips for incoming freshman

“Knowing what you know now, what is one thing you would have done differently during your college years?”

As I completed my master’s degree, I felt compelled to speak directly to college-bound high school seniors by sharing advice from young professional friends who responded to that question on Facebook. I received 190 excellent comments from college graduates representing different professions.

Not surprisingly, none of the respondents mentioned parties and socializing. Rather, they offered advice on several topics including internships, networking, academic success and scholarships. These reoccurring themes represent essential information that college students should know; unfortunately, we didn’t.

So seniors, listen carefully to young professionals’ collective wisdom, informed by retrospection and maturation:

**Participate in internships because experience counts.**

“Internships! Huge in corporate America. Internships help with networking because finding opportunities is about who you know more than what you know.” — Anthony, a banker “Take interning and networking seriously. I interned because it was a requirement, not that I felt it was a need. Getting degrees without experience and relationships makes job hunting extremely difficult.” — Oniska, a senior university administrative coordinator

“If I would’ve taken interning seriously my freshman/sophomore, the stress level would’ve been lower going into my junior/senior year. Employers want experience in the field.” — Patrick, an accounts manager

**Network, join discipline-specific organizations, and form professional relationships.**

“I would have been more involved in organizations that were specific to my major and formed stronger pharmacy networks.” — Annalise, a pharmacist “I would have attended more conferences and shadowed professionals who work in different parts of the communications field so that I would have been exposed to the different career paths.” — Christina, a state chamber of commerce external affairs coordinator “I would have networked more. The cliche, ‘It’s not what you know, it’s whom you know,’ is true.” — Jessica, a university athletic trainer “Go to summer school because you have smaller classes which allows for closer relationships with professors and more engaged classes.” — Akya, an attorney “I would have made connections with my
professors, which would have helped me with references and networking. I would have been involved in conducting more research and presenting in student competitions so that I would have had more experience going into grad school.” — Dierdre, a Ph.D. candidate “I would have asked for help from my professors instead of thinking I could do everything by myself.” — Joe, a university football strength assistant coach

**Research your major, study, manage your academic time and ask for help.**

“Research your major to know what jobs are specific to your degree and what you need in order to make a living.” — Ja’Lyn, a rehabilitation technician “Research career options. I changed majors three times and settled with something because I was so ready to graduate. This cost me lots of money and stress.” Zerika, a member services representative “At the end of each week, review your class notes. When test time comes, it aids in helping what you’re studying stick.” — Erica, a federal government employee “Use flash cards. They helped me retain information better than any other studying method.” — Kanise, a public relations specialist “I never had a legit habit of studying. When the freedom of college came, I had a hard time managing my time and creating a suitable environment for studying. It wasn’t until my junior year that I figured out that I had to go to the top floor of the library in the middle of the day to study.” — Jason, a NASA timeline exchange officer “Take classes seriously, and not just be in class physically but mentally too. It’s a shame we don’t take advantage of the knowledge sitting right in class.” — Kimberly, a teacher

**Apply for scholarships and manage student loans wisely. Many of us are still dealing with the results of poor financial decisions.**

“Research the student loan process. Every semester, I was getting the max. SMH.” — Martina, a teacher “Look at how much your classes, dorm life, meal plan, etc. are costing and think twice about not going to class or simply failing. That stuff adds up fast.” — Jarius, a medical facility equipment specialist “Focus on financial aid. There’s nothing worse than graduating with debt and struggling to get a job.” — Nandi, a graduate student “I didn’t understand what school actually costs. Take the time to learn about FASFA.” — Tamira, a facility buyer for international paper company “Save money from your refund checks. There are so many college kids getting credit cards and can’t pay the acquired debt.” — Karla, a federal government employee Vanessa, an engineer, sums up our advice, “Never take student loans when it’s not necessary. Apply for scholarships. Keep your GPA above 3.0. Focus on your grades instead of socializing. Apply for good internships, and don’t wait (to the) last minute to plan. Study abroad if you can.”

So seniors, use our reflections to develop college plans and be informed, responsible and mature.

Do not misunderstand our message, because we thoroughly enjoyed our college experiences. But now that we are a few years removed from college, we understand how we could have made our experiences even more fulfilling.
Local business changes hands

Investment firm buys Randall-Reilly

By Stephen Dethrage
Staff Writer

A Los Angeles-based private equity investment firm has purchased Randall-Reilly, LLC, a Tuscaloosa-based data and digital media services company.

Founded as Randall Publishing in 1934, the company has been a longtime publisher of trade journals for the trucking and construction industries. In recent years, though, Randall-Reilly's focus has shifted to include data and data-driven services offered to industrial end markets.

Julie Arsenault, Randall-Reilly's vice president of marketing, said this is not the first time ownership of the company has changed hands. Investcorp, a global manager of alternative investment products, purchased Randall-Reilly in 2009 and has held onto it since, waiting for the right buyer to come along, she said.

Randall-Reilly CEO Brent Reilly said Los Angeles-based Aurora Capital Partners is the buyer they've been waiting for.

"Aurora's operating resources and experience with companies in the software and information services sector make them an ideal partner for Randall-Reilly as we continue to evolve our business model and add new capabilities for our clients," Reilly said.

See CHANGE, A7
said in a Monday news release. "We are tremendously proud of our team's track record of innovation and believe the company is at the cutting edge of data and data-driven marketing services in our industries. We look forward to working with Aurora to invest further in technology, talent and processes to generate best-in-class insights and outcomes for our clients."

Arsenault said the acquisition is a good thing for Randall-Reilly.

"We're going to accelerate growth into new areas and further penetrate into existing ones," Arsenault said.

Reilly and other key company leadership will remain in their respective roles, according to the announcement from Aurora.

"We're not changing the core of who we are," Arsenault said. "We're just going to be bigger, better and faster."

Randall-Reilly employs more than 365 people both remotely and in offices in Tuscaloosa and Anniston, along with Charlotte, North Carolina and New Berlin, Wisconsin.

Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Reach Stephen Dethrage at stephen.dethrage@tuscaloosanews.com or 722-0227.
UrbanMain expected to give Alabama a boost

Marion selected for Main Street Alabama revitalization, but another city will launch new program

William Thornton  wthornton@al.com

Main Street Alabama has been an economic engine for the state since 2009, revitalizing downtown districts throughout the state. It has just selected Marion, seat of Perry County, as its newest Designated Main Street community for commercial revitalization of its historic district.

Marion earned the Main Street designation after a five-month application process.

Mary Helmer, president and state coordinator of Main Street Alabama, said the program will begin providing Marion city officials with board development and training for work goals, market analysis, economic development strategies and technical assistance to get downtown development started.

Marion, with a population of more than 3,600, is home to Judson College and the Marion Military Institute, and the birthplace of Coretta Scott King. The city has several historic districts and numerous historic buildings.

Helmer said the program’s interview panel was impressed with the “heartfelt community presentation” they heard, as well as a love of Marion “coupled with a vision.”

Main Street Alabama will hold a kickoff event in Marion sometime in July, with a resource meeting in August.

Marion joins Alexander City, Anniston, Athens, Birmingham, Columbiana, Decatur, Dothan, Elba, Eufaula, Florence, Fort Payne, Gadsden, Heflin, Monroeville, Montevallo, Jasper, Opelika, Oxford, Selma and Wetumpka in the Main Street program.

Since 2014, 20 communities have reported 373 net new businesses, 2,774 net new jobs, and 45,213 volunteer hours in their districts.

This summer, the statewide downtown revitalization program will launch a new concept, UrbanMain, in partnership with the National Main Street Center. That program will target an urban district somewhere in the state.

The location is set to be announced later.

UrbanMain could mean economic activity, attention and revitalization to one of the state’s urban centers, using a model that has worked in some of the nation’s biggest cities.

Dionne Baux, director of urban programs for the National Main Street Center, said UrbanMain is a compliment to existing Main Street America programs. Alabama will be the second national site of the pilot program; the first was Salt Lake City.

Where the Main Street program has dealt with small towns and rural areas, Baux said, it has involved creating resources for revitalization. In urban areas, that infrastructure already exists, in the form of chambers of commerce, neighborhood organizations, business improvement districts and other organizations.

"By using extensive community engagement, market analysis, and really focusing on data, we can make sure we are hearing the desires of the community," Baux said. "By bridging the on-the-ground assets, as well as their relationship with stakeholders on the ground, we can make it easier for property owners, businesses and residents to engage in economic planning."
‘Bloody Tuesday’ shaped city’s civil rights movement

Marchers sought to remove discriminatory signs from courthouse

By Ken Roberts
City Editor

Friday marks the 53rd year since a pivotal moment in Tuscaloosa’s journey toward racial equality.

Here’s a synopsis of the June 9, 1964, event that has come to be known as “Bloody Tuesday”:

The leader:
The Rev. T.Y. Rogers Jr., a Sumter County native recommended by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. to lead First African Baptist Church, organized the march.

The cause:
Marchers sought to remove whites-only signs at restrooms and drinking fountains in the new Tuscaloosa County Courthouse. Marchers gathered at First African Baptist Church, with the intent to march to the courthouse. Instead, shortly after beginning to walk, the marchers were beaten and tear-gassed by law enforcement authorities.

The outcome:
Thirty-three men, women and children were hospitalized and 94 people were arrested. On June 25, a federal judge ordered Tuscaloosa County to remove the whites-only signs.

The context:
“Bloody Tuesday” happened almost a year after then-Gov. George Wallace’s “Stand in the Schoolhouse Door” to prevent integration at the University of Alabama. In July, the United States Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlawed segregation and discrimination based on race.

The future:
The Tuscaloosa Civil Rights Task Force is working to create a trail in Tuscaloosa to commemorate “Bloody Tuesday,” the “Stand in the Schoolhouse Door” and other civil rights events.

Quote:
“We shall never forget our history. If we don’t teach our history, if we don’t teach our children, then nobody else will teach our children. There is a tomorrow, there is a future, there is hope for Tuscaloosa.” — the Rev. Roy Ferguson, pastor of St. John Baptist Church, during the 50th anniversary of “Bloody Tuesday” in 2014.
Group pushes for removal of Confederate statue

GoFundMe campaign started to pay $25,000 fine set by law

A north Alabama grassroots organization is seeking to pressure Madison County officials to defy a new state law and remove a Civil War statue from the courthouse grounds in downtown Huntsville.

Under the bill signed into law last month by Gov. Kay Ivey, entities that remove historical statues or memorials without permission face a fine of $25,000.

So the Tennessee Valley Progressive Alliance is seeking to raise the money to cover the fine that would be incurred by the Madison County Commission for removing the statue.

"We read the fine print of the law and the law just says the state will fine localities up to $25,000 for removing monuments," said David Odom, organizer for the alliance. "And we said, 'Well, shoot, we ought to be able to put that together. Let's just see what happens — what do we have to lose?'

"We thought crowdfunding might be an option."

The group started a GoFundMe page to solicit donations and, as of Wednesday afternoon, had raised just more than $500 as of Thursday.

The Tennessee Valley Progressive Alliance, along with other organizations, had started a petition calling for the removal of the statue last month before Ivey enacted the new law. That petition, as of Thursday, had more than 600 signatures.

The law went into effect immediately upon Ivey's signing. It blocks any local government from moving historical monuments on public property that have been in place for 40 years or more.

Government entities must receive a waiver to relocate a statue.

Odom said he believed government leaders could be convinced to break the law — particularly if the money is raised for the fine.

"With sufficient public pressure, any politician can be persuaded to do the right thing," he said. "We view it as our job to generate that public pressure. I think Huntsville is in a unique position to lead Alabama on this issue. Huntsville is kind of a melting pot and likes to think of itself as a progressive city. We've got two (Historically Black Universities), the federal government presence, all of that makes this symbol of white supremacy even more abhorrent when it's in the center of downtown Huntsville.

"We're optimistic in the long run. We think we can continue to build pressure around this issue and educate folks about what this means. The inscription on the monuments talks about the principles that gave birth to the confederate cause. Well, those principles were slavery and white supremacy. It's just a plain matter of right and wrong."

The group said that if enough money was not raised to cover the fine, the funds would be redirected to a public memorial for lynching victims in Madison County.
Alabama wins 2017 Silver Shovel award

William Thornton  wthornton@al.com

Alabama has once again earned a shovel award from Area Development magazine for a slate of economic development projects in 2016.

The publication, which focuses on economic development, awarded Alabama a Silver Shovel along with four other states with a population of three to five million. The other states are Utah, South Carolina and Iowa.

The publication cited automotive and aerospace manufacturing as continuing "to drive healthy economic activity," noting the award wasn't so much for one big announcement as much as several smaller size accomplishments. It specifically listed five automotive projects that add up to the promise of about 1,400 jobs.

"It's almost like a stuck record in Alabama, but it's playing beautiful music that economic development officials will never tire of hearing," the publication stated.

Alabama has been recognized for more than a decade by Area Development, winning an award every year since 2006.

"This award confirms once again that Alabama is one of the most attractive locations in the U.S. for business expansion and job-creating investment," Governor Kay Ivey said in a statement. "It's a priority of my administration to position Alabama for the kind of sustained economic growth that opens new opportunities for our hard-working citizens and declares to the world that Alabama is open for business."

The 10 economic announcements in 2016 that Area Development cited were:

- Lear Corp., $27.7 million investment, 355 jobs.
- Boeing, $78 million, 470 jobs.
- UTC Aerospace, $20.4 million, 260 jobs.
- Gerhardi Kunststofftechnik, $37.9 million, 235 jobs.
- MollerTech, $46.3 million, 222 jobs.
- CarTech, $71.8 million, 200 jobs.
- Elssmann Automotive, $14.5 million, 200 jobs.
- Yullsta Management, $13.5 million, 200 jobs.
- Kronospan, $362 million, 160 jobs.
- CAE USA, $75 million, 100 jobs.
SIDE HUSTLES

Nick Saban’s income doesn’t stop at the $11 million he’ll be paid by Alabama in 2017

By: Michael Casagrande

The subject of Nick Saban’s paycheck has been news lately. Last month’s contract extension will pay Alabama’s football coach north of $11 million in 2017. The deal calls for him to coach through the 2024 season, but it’s not his only source of income. According to paperwork filed annually with the Alabama Ethics Commission, Saban made at least $712,000 through various investments, commissions and salaries. The form is required for public employees who profit from sources outside the state employment. Most of the entries were standard from the previous years’ filings. One, however, stood out:

$50,000-$150,000
Baltimore Ravens There’s a payment from the Baltimore Ravens Limited Partnership in the 2017 form submitted by Saban. What could that possibly be? Saban’s age and previous employment should have been a clue. He turned 65 in October, triggering a retirement payout from his former employer — then known as the Cleveland Browns. Saban was the defensive coordinator for four seasons under Bill Belichick in Cleveland from 1991-1994. The franchise left for Baltimore after the following season.

$150,000-$250,000
Sideline, Inc. A Birmingham-based company registered with the Alabama Secretary of State. Formed in 2009, the nature of business listed with the state is “authorship of books/publication with respect to Nick L. Saban.” Saban is listed as the president and secretary on the 2016 annual report.

$10,000-$50,000
Hamner Real Estate Tuscaloosa-based company paid Saban a commission, as it has for the previous two years.

$1,000-$10,000
Capstone Bank Paid to Saban as a director fee — an entry that gains/interest appears on every ethics form filed since at least 2013.

More than $250,000
Interest & dividends from brokerage and checking accounts

More than $250,000
“Rent income and other services” from a lengthy list of companies in which Saban owns at least a 5 percent stake.

HOW OTHERS STACK UP

The degree of non-coaching business done by Saban sets himself apart from peers in the state:
Gus Malzahn
Less than $1,000: Rental property and football camps.
$1,000-$10,000: Interest from Morgan Stanley investments.
$1,000-$10,000: Commission from book publisher Coaches Choice.

Bruce Pearl
$50,000-$150,000: Rental property.
$10,000-$50,000: Basketball camps.
$10,000-$50,000: Speaking fees.
$10,000-$50,000: Dividends/capital

Avery Johnson
No outside income reported in 2016
The recruiter

Everyone who was worked with new Alabama baseball coach Brad Bohannon says he's one of the best recruiters in the country

By Aaron Suttles
Sports Writer

No one wanted Jonah Todd. With one exception. Brad Bohannon did.

Bohannon, the new University of Alabama baseball coach, was the only coach who believed Todd, the former Marion Military Institute standout, could cut it against major college competition.

Todd made good on Bohannon's faith, leading Auburn this season in average (.381), runs (52), hits (88), triples (5), total bases (111), slugging percentage (.481) and on-base percentage (.462). Todd was also named to the All-SEC second team and SEC All-Defensive team.

It seems like an easy decision now, but, at the time, no one believed Todd could play in the SEC.

Alabama coaches were contacted to gauge their interest. MMI was playing a game at Shelton State, but UA coaches decided against going to watch him play.

His coach at MMI, former Alabama standout and Major Leaguer Matt Downs, called Bohannon at Auburn to pitch his star player. Bohannon hit the road to watch him play.

"I saw something in him and thought he could play at the next level," said Downs, who also played at Bibb County High School. "I start calling everybody and they all told me he's not good enough. I called Bohannon and he said, 'If you think he's good enough, I'll give him a chance.' Brad came and watched him play, he had a pretty good day that day."

The rest is history.

The relationships Bohannon has built around the Southeast, including in the state of Alabama are what helped the 42-year-old land the job. He's earned the reputation as an ace recruiter.

"He's a very personable guy," Downs said. "I think he knows how to talk to different people. If you're going to be a good recruiter you have to be able to strike up a conversation with different personalities and different egos. I think he knows how to relate to every different kind of kid."

"I think he's proven his self as a recruiter. When you've done it in multiple places it proves it.

Bohannon is scheduled to be

See BASEBALL, C4
Obviously I think Greg Byrne made a great choice. I think he will do well.

"What's amazing is when I hired him at the University of Kentucky, upon the recommendation of my assistant Gary Henderson, who is now at Mississippi State, he was literally working at a cubicle at Intel in Portland, Oregon. That’s how bright this guy is. He was making a really nice salary, was a very young man in his 20s making a nice salary and said ‘You know what? I’m going to give all of this up to come work for nothing at the University of Kentucky.’ He was pretty exceptional. It was pretty apparent to me quickly that this guy was special. He had vision and he just thought about it at a different level."

His skill set will be called upon quickly in Tuscaloosa. In fact, his calling card as an excellent recruiter is his ability.

"It’s no secret the talent level at UA has slipped, leading, at least in part, to one of the worst seasons in the program’s history in 2017. A quick look at Bohannon’s track record reveals the cupboard will eventually be re-stocked in Tuscaloosa. It likely won’t happen in his first or even second season (Alabama’s current scholarship situation is a mess), but those who know Bohannon have faith he’ll succeed."

That opinion is especially held by the man who hired him, UA Director of Athletics Greg Byrne.

"Well, he’s got one of the best track records of anyone in the country from a recruiting standpoint," Byrne said. "Obviously there’s great coaching throughout the SEC and obviously you want to make sure you have the best ability to have a high level of recruiting."

"When we sat down with him he just had a really solid plan and incredible both within the state of Alabama, throughout the southeast and around the country and even into Canada. To me, that made a lot of sense to have him be a primary target for us."

His former boss at Kentucky, Gary Henderson, said being a good recruiter comes down to two things. "One is knowing what you’re looking for," he said. "Two, work ethic. And probably reverse the order of those two things. It’s the willingness to work hard and having a really good idea of what you’re looking for. Brad does a good job in those areas."

Cohen, who won shared the SEC title with Alabama in 2006 and led Mississippi State to the NCAA championship series in 2013, said Bohannon is a natural.

"Great recruiters are relentless. They’re constantly looking and constantly evaluating," he said. "They’re evaluating kids on the phone. They have tremendous ties in the junior college world, in the high school coaches world. He’s one of those guys. There aren’t a lot of them. There’s a really small group that can recruit at his level. It’s not just recruiting; recruiting is about talking somebody into coming to your school. Evaluating is deciding what kids you want to recruit. He is exceptional at both."

Downs saw those skills, when literally no one believed him about Todd. "I’m glad to know (the Alabama program) in his hands."

Ben Jones contributed to this report.

Reach Aaron Suttles at aaron@tidesports.com or at 205-722-0229.
Building a knowledge base

CollegeFirst preps students for advanced classes

By Drew Taylor
Staff Writer

As a longtime chemistry teacher, Stephen Hobbs knows the reputation the field carries with it.

Hobbs, a teacher at Spain Park High School who has been an educator for 35 years, said Wednesday that he hopes students in a summer program at the University of Alabama can learn that chemistry doesn't have to be difficult or unenjoyable.

"Chemistry has that stigma attached to it, so this program is where they feel they can do this and there's no pressure to be right," Hobbs said. "It builds an excitement and lowers that intimidation factor."

Hobbs was discussing his work at the CollegeFirst Advanced Placement Summer Institute, where more than 50 rising sophomore and junior students from both the Tuscaloosa city and county schools have been taking classes to better prepare themselves for Advanced Placement classes.

The program began Monday and will continue over the next three weeks.

See COLLEGE, A7

ONLINE

For more photos and video of students participating in the CollegeFirst program, go to www.tuscaloosanews.com

Shequasia Threatt, 16, a rising junior at Hillcrest, lights a bunsen burner as she participates in the CollegeFirst advanced placement chemistry lab held at the University of Alabama on Wednesday. Students worked with UA college mentors as they measured copper sulfate and magnesium sulfate solids and heated and separated the solid from water to find the molar mass of each solid. [ERIN NELSON/STAFF PHOTO]
College First is sponsored by the University of Alabama's Center of Ethics and Social Responsibility and operates on the UA campus and at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Through the program, fields such as chemistry, biology, pre-calculus, computer science and English are taught to prepare students for the challenges of college-level AP courses.

AP courses are offered at different high schools and are taught with the rigor of a first-year college course. Those who complete AP tests can potentially receive college credit for the exam.

Brooke Richardson, an AmeriCorps member of Impact Alabama, a partner in the program, College First has been ongoing since 2010 and has been growing every year.

"Last year, we only had about 100 kids on both campuses," Richardson said. "This summer, we have 150 in both locations."

On Wednesday, Hobbs and a handful of UA students led workshops teaching students about different aspects of chemistry, ranging from basic concepts to best lab practices.

"The biggest goal for me is to give a kid some confidence going into their science class, some enjoyment about science in general and introducing to some basic chemistry concepts to get all these things," Hobbs said.

"The important thing is that it is helping us with whatever we have to do at Central," Erika Street said. "It’s keeping our brain fresh during the summer, as opposed to forgetting everything before the end."

The Center for Ethics & Social Responsibility’s website at www.cesr.ua.edu.

Reach Drew Taylor at drew.taylor@tuscaloosanews.com or 205-722-0204.
A pilot who earned his master's degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Alabama is among 12 new astronauts chosen Wednesday by NASA.

Bob Hines of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, earned his master's degree in 2010 at UA. Hines earned a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering from Boston University. He is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School, where he earned a master's degree in flight test engineering. He now lives in Houston, where he serves as a NASA research pilot at the Johnson Space Center.

NASA chose the new astronauts Wednesday from its biggest pool of applicants ever, hand-picking seven men and five women who could one day fly aboard the nation's next generation of spacecraft.

The astronaut class of 2017 includes doctors, scientists, engineers, pilots and military officers from Anchorage to Miami and points in between. They've worked in submarines, emergency rooms, university lecture halls, jet cockpits and battleships. They range in age from 29 to 42, and they typically have led the pack.

"It makes me personally feel very inadequate when you read what these folks have done," said NASA's acting administrator, Robert Lightfoot.

Vice President Mike Pence welcomed the group during a televised ceremony at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston. He offered President Donald Trump's congratulations and noted that the president is "firmly committed to NASA's noble mission, leading America in space."

Pence assured the crowd that NASA will have the resources and support necessary to continue to make history. He said he would lead a resurrected National Space Council to help set the direction of the program.

See HINES, B4
HINES
Continued from B1

Under Trump, “America will lead in space once again, and the world will marvel,” Pence said.

More than 18,300 people threw their hats into the space ring during a brief application period 1 1/2 years ago. That’s more than double the previous record of 8,000 set in 1978, when the space shuttles were close to launching.

The 12 selected Wednesday will join 44 astronauts already in the NASA corps. U.S. astronauts have not launched from home soil since 2011, when the space shuttles were retired, thus the low head count.

Americans have been hitching rides aboard Russian spacecraft in the meantime, but that could change next year.

After two years of training, the newbies may end up riding commercial rockets to the International Space Station or flying beyond the moon in NASA’s Orion spacecraft. Their ultimate destination could be Mars.

SpaceX and Boeing are building capsules capable of carrying astronauts to the space station and back as soon as next year. A launch engineer and senior manager for SpaceX, Robb Kulin, is among the new astronauts. He’s also worked as an ice driller in Antarctica and a commercial fisherman in Alaska.

“Heartily, one day, I actually fly on a vehicle that I got to design,” Kulin said.

Kulin and his classmates may be in for a long wait. Some members of the class of 2009 have yet to launch.

Dr. Jonny Kim, a former Navy SEAL and specialist in emergency medicine, told reporters it “may be a little unclear” what the future holds, at least regarding what spacecraft he and his fellow astronauts might fly.

“We’re just happy to be here,” he added.

Jack Fischer, who was in the 2009 group, just got to the space station in April, but he said he couldn’t be happier as he showed the latest hires their “new office” in a video.

“It’s a little bit cramped. The desk is kind of small. But the view. Oh, the view.”

Geologist Jessica Watkins already has experienced space — vicariously — as part of the team working with NASA’s Curiosity rover on Mars.

“We intend to send her to Mars one day, folks,” NASA Flight Operations Director Brian Kelly said in introducing Watkins.

She gave a thumbs-up.

This is NASA’s 22nd group of astronauts. The first group, the original Mercury 7 astronauts, was chosen in 1959.

Altogether, 350 Americans have now been selected to become astronauts. Requirements include U.S. citizenship; degrees in science, technology, engineering or math; and at least three years of experience or 1,000 hours of piloting jets.

A brief look at the rest of the elite 12:

• Navy Lt. Kayla Barron of Richland, Washington, a submarine-warfare officer and nuclear engineer who was among the first class of women commissioned into the submarine service and now works at the U.S. Naval Academy.

• Zena Cardman of Williamsburg, Virginia, a graduate research fellow at the National Science Foundation with a specialty in microorganisms in subsurface environments such as caves.


• Warren “Woody” Hoburg of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, assistant professor of aeronautics and astronautics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

• Dr. Jonny Kim of Los Angeles, a Navy lieutenant who trained as a SEAL and is completing his residency in emergency medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

• Robb Kulin of Anchorage, Alaska, who leads the launch chief engineering group for SpaceX at Hawthorne, California.


• Loral O’Hara of Sugar Land, Texas, a research engineer at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts.

• Dr. Francisco “Frank” Rubio of Miami, an Army major who is serving as a surgeon in Fort Carson, Colorado.

• Jessica Watkins of Lafayette, Colorado, a postdoctoral fellow at California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California.
Right man for the job

Experience guided AD Greg Byrne through first major decision at Bama

Rainer Sabin  rsabin@al.com

When he explained his decision to fire Greg Goff late last month, Alabama athletic director Greg Byrne said it wasn't a move he relished making.

"I'm not very excited at all," he said.

But Goff's removal presented an opportunity for Byrne to make his mark. The eventual appointment of the baseball coach's successor, Brad Bohannon, was Byrne's first major hire since he began his new job March 1 and perhaps the only one he'd make for the foreseeable future.

Nick Saban, one of the titans of college football, is entrenched at the Capstone after recently signing a contract extension that runs through 2024. Next door at Coleman Coliseum, Avery Johnson has the basketball program headed in the right direction as he's begun to assemble an attractive roster with elite recruits.

Saban and Johnson appear to be going nowhere fast. If Byrne were to leave his fingerprints on university athletics, baseball provided the avenue for that pursuit. It was a sport Byrne knew much about, having overseen successful programs at Mississippi State and Arizona. At both schools, he brought in coaches — John Cohen at Mississippi State and Jay Johnson at Arizona — who guided their teams to the College World Series.

"I think [Byrne] has a great feel for it," said Kendall Rogers, an editor at D1baseball.com "I thought when he took that job, he was great for Alabama baseball. He's been at some places that really embrace college baseball and I think it's a great thing for Alabama as a whole and Alabama baseball to have a guy like him because I do feel Greg knows what it takes to hire a championship coach and win a championship."

About 85 miles from Starkville, in cowbell country, Byrne had no choice but to become fully indoctrinated in a sport that presents a unique set of challenges for coaches and administrators. Mississippi State is a baseball hotbed, after all. The Bulldogs have been to the College World Series nine times and a slew of their former players — most notably Rafael Palmeiro and Will Clark — were selected in the first round of the MLB draft.

"I think Greg has incredible knowledge of the game," said Cohen, the Tuscaloosa native who is now Mississippi State's athletic director. "College baseball is a different game. It's just a separate world and you have to understand it because of NCAA rules and the recruiting process ... He is so knowledgeable in those areas."

When Byrne lured Cohen, a Mississippi State alum, back to Starkville in 2008, he bucked the establishment. Retiring coach Ron Polk objected to the appointment of Cohen after endorsing his assistant, Tommy Raffo. Controversy rocked a program in transition. But Byrne stuck to his guns and Cohen held up his end of the bargain by eventually guiding the Bull-
dogs to Omaha and a 50-win season back in 2013.

"Greg was willing to look beyond a faction of people who didn't think I was the right person," Cohen said. "I will always be indebted to him with that. He's not afraid to do what he believes is right, which I think is important. I think that's kind of his compass — doing what's right instead of what's popular. And I think because of that he makes good decisions."

Not surprisingly, Cohen believes Bohannon, his former assistant at Kentucky, was the right guy for the Alabama job. He called Bohannon a "tremendous choice."

"There is no doubt in my mind he is going to be successful for several reasons: He is not going to be outworked, he's not going to get out-coached and he's definitely not going to get out-recruited," Cohen explained.

Byrne invested a considerable amount of time and effort in the search process as he zeroed in on Bohannon. He had one of his staffers reach out to the coach's former players. He did his own research, trying to identify the common thread that tied together Alabama's most successful baseball teams from yesteryear.

"I think you had a pretty good idea that Greg Byrne was going to get it right given his history and his affinity for the college game," ESPN analyst Kyle Peterson said.

Because of his recruiting prowess, Bohannon seemed a particularly good fit at Alabama — a program in need of better talent but unable to supplement its 11.7-scholarship allotment with the lottery-based academic grants available at SEC schools in other states.

Bohannon found a way to help secure a Top 25 class at Auburn in each of the two seasons he was there, and to Byrne that meant something.

"Greg really understands how important recruiting is," Cohen said. "And I think that's where it always starts with him. Can the leader of this program recruit?"

Bohannon has the track record that suggests he can. His mission is to make Alabama a destination for top talent.

Byrne, meanwhile, wants Alabama to become a cradle for outstanding coaches.

"I really believe people come to Alabama, they're going to stay at Alabama," Byrne proclaimed.

If that's the case, then Byrne's next major hire may be years down the road, which would be just fine with him.
Saban will coach ‘as long as I feel healthy’

By Aaron Suttles
Sports Writer

The questions were bound to come. As soon as Oklahoma football coach Bob Stoops retired Wednesday afternoon, the questions were coming for Alabama coach Nick Saban.

Saban, who is nearly nine years older than Stoops, said he’ll coach as long as his health holds. Saban spoke with reporters at his annual Nick’s Kids charity golf tournament at Old Overton on Thursday.

“As long as I feel good, I love doing it,” Saban said. “I’ve said this before. I’ve been a part of a team since I was 9 years old, and it scares me to death to figure what it’s going to be like after this.”

See SABAN, C4
SABAN

Continued from C1

to be like when I’m not a part of a team.

“As long as I feel healthy and I can do it, we certainly have every intention of trying to do it. If I felt like I couldn’t do it to the standard that I want to do it then I think that would be time not to do it. But I certainly don’t feel like that’s any time soon.”

Fresh off a new contract extension that runs through the 2024 season (made official in May), Saban shows no signs of slowing down.

“I don’t think that anybody can not have those thoughts,” Saban said. “But my thought it that I want to do it as long as I feel like I can do it. I really enjoy being around the players. I really enjoy trying to create value for them and their future whether it’s their personal development, seeing them graduate, seeing them develop as football players and have opportunities in life.

“I think we do it as well at Alabama because of the team that we have as any place, and I’m really proud of that.”

Thompson with team

Reserve safety Deionte Thompson is in Tuscaloosa and remains with the team, Saban said.

Thompson was excused for a portion of spring practice as he dealt with the personal issues stemming from an incident March 18 in which he accused of participating in the beating of a Texas man. The alleged incident took place in Crystal Beach, Texas, and a felony aggravated arrest warrant was issued in Texas for Thompson during spring practice.

Saban said Thompson has yet to be charged with a crime.

“As far as I know, there’s never been any charges and nothing’s really ever happened,” Saban said. “It seems like a lot of nothing from everything we can find out.”

Thompson, a redshirt sophomore, is competing for a role in the secondary. He played in 14 games in 2016 mainly on special teams.
Go Preds go

It's odd for Saban to be seen out in public. Even rarer still is an image of the veteran head coach sporting the colors of another team.

However, last week Saban wore an NHL Nashville Predators sweater to game 3 of the Stanley Cup Finals in Nashville. The image quickly went viral.

Saban, who grew up in West Virginia, says his pals back home have ribbed him for it, too.

"...that's tough on me because where I'm from, everybody's a (Pittsburgh) Penguins fan," Saban said. "So they're killing me.

"I actually got the fever. I do watch, when I can, most of the Stanley Cup playoff games. So I started watching them. I really kind of took a liking to the way their team competes and all that.

"It's really great to see a city embrace a team like Nashville has the Predators. The atmosphere in the stadium was fantastic."

The experience was a little jarring for Saban, who is used to roaming a sideline during athletic events, not sitting in a seat.

"One of the things I found out when I sat down to watch the game — Terry's doing her towel and all this — I'm sitting there like 'I don't really know what to do,'" Saban said. "It's been like five years that I've been to a game that's not our game, and I'm never sitting in the stands when it's our game.

"I had to get used to sitting in the stands again all of a sudden. But it was a great night."

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A reason for long-term optimism in Bham

Even with all of the good things happening in Birmingham these days, there are a few statistics that can sober up even the most optimistic Magic City proponents.

The two biggest ones are directly connected to the future of the economy and the region: job growth and population growth.

No matter how you slice the numbers, we're being vastly outpaced by a number of Southeastern metros, as well as Huntsville.

That's nothing new. If you've read the Birmingham Business Journal regularly over the years, you know we've been pounding the drum to reverse those trends for a while.

We also realize it will be hard. And we know there's no magic bullet.

But, over the past few weeks, I've been fortunate enough to sit in a couple rooms that gave me confidence we're closer to turning the corner than we have been in some time.

One of the events was a panel discussion, hosted by the Alabama CIO Leadership Association. The panel focused on innovation in Birmingham, with topics ranging from the Innovate Birmingham technology training program to the Innovation District and the wider perception of Birmingham's technology and entrepreneurial scene.

Following the panel, UAB President Ray Watts spoke about some of the latest innovation and tech-centric developments at his school, which happens to be Birmingham's economic engine.

It was hard to come away from that event without a greater degree of optimism for Birmingham's future.

In large part, that optimism stems from the fact that so much of what's happening at UAB, in the proposed innovation district and the local entrepreneurial ecosystem, can address many of Birmingham's long-time challenges.

Initiatives like Innovate Birmingham can help break the cycle of poverty and unemployment in the area.

New medical programs at UAB, aside from creating jobs and bringing in more research funding, will likely shape the future of health care in Birmingham and beyond in the years to come.

And, based on what we've reported in recent years and the comments from the panelists, it's clear Birmingham's entrepreneurial scene has hit another gear in recent years -- and many of them are sticking around. That's a trend that should create a pipeline of new local jobs in the years to come.

That's where the other event I recently attended comes in.

While all of the above factors suggest Birmingham is on the precipice of something great, there's another necessary ingredient: a stream of entrepreneurs willing to take chances.

I found that on full display a few weeks ago at Samford University, when I served as a judge for its annual Regions New Venture Challenge -- a business plan competition that allows students to show off their entrepreneurial chops.

The upperclassman competition was won by Ashley Steiner's Ashley Ink & Paperie. Even while in school, Steiner had grown an impressive business that sells products in brick-and-mortar locations and nationally online.

In the first-year business student classification, Scribes MD -- which aims to produce an Alexa-type device for doctors to reduce the time they spent on medical records -- took first place.

Simply sitting in that room and hearing the ideas, innovation and energy possessed by local college students gives me great hope in the future of entrepreneurship in Birmingham.

If you put all those ingredients together, it's easy to see the pieces coming together for a sea of change in the Magic City.
Test center extends tour to antenna group member

By: Christy Barnett

By definition an antenna is an electrical device which converts electric power into radio waves, and vice versa. It is typically used with a radio transmitter or radio receiver.

That might be where most people’s knowledge and interest in antennas begins, and ends. But not the members of the Antenna Measurement Techniques Association, a national professional development organization whose members were in Huntsville for a regional meeting and took the opportunity to visit the Redstone Test Center.

The visit was coordinated by AMTA member and University of Alabama in Huntsville electrical and computer engineering professor Dr. Maria Pour. The visit included a detailed tour of the facilities and testing capabilities at the center’s Electromagnetic Environmental Effects Test Division commonly known as E3. In addition to the E3 antenna discussions, the special guests learned about the reverberation chamber, component EMI facilities, the anechoic chamber, lightning facilities, and the near field antenna range (separately operated by the Missile and Sensors Test Directorate).

Those attending the regional meeting of the AMTA included industry leaders in antenna test instrumentation, RF and microwave test equipment, computational electromagnetics software, antenna research and development and RF cable and adapters.

“The tour provided information on available RF facilities that may open doors for further collaboration between UAH, leading antenna companies and RTC in the near future,” Pour said.

The extended visit at E3 afforded the AMTA attendees the opportunity to spend time discussing the use of antennas developed in-house for specialized high power electromagnetic effects testing with Dr. Mark Waller and Jeff Craven, the center’s subject matter experts in environmental and electromagnetic testing.

“RTC has unique requirements when it comes to antennas,” Waller said. “In order to meet the requirements of MIL-STD-464, our antennas must be broadband in nature and able to handle significant amounts of power, which is not typical of many commercial applications.”
State Climatologist Reacts to President Donald Trump’s Decision to Withdraw From Paris Climate Agreement

By: Aaron Cantrell

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — President Donald Trump withdrew The United States from The Paris Climate Accord recently. He said in a conference he would be open to renegotiating aspects of the agreement. State Climatologist and UAH Professor John Christy said the numbers don't lie when it comes to the agreement. He said at least on the science side of the agreement.

"I think if you look at the numbers you can see a rational reason for such a decision. The calculations that we and others have done have shown that if the United States withdrawals then the effect by 2100 is less than 100th of a degree on the global temperature," Christy explained.

He said the number can't even be measured. "The fact the impact is less than 100th of a degree you can see why someone would want to withdrawal from an agreement. If it comes with the baggage of economic harm as well," Christy said.

The Paris Climate Accord is an agreement that 195 nations signed onto. "The idea is to limit the production of greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide," Christy said.

He said the idea is if you produce carbon dioxide emissions then the climate is affected. "There is evidence that the increase of carbon dioxide could have an effect on the global climate. Our research here shows the effect is going to be small if any; where others believe it could be large," Christy explained.

He said it doesn't matter if you believe humans effect the climate or not. He said under The Paris Climate Accord; his research reveals it doesn't make a difference if the United States is the agreement or not as it relates to science.

"We can not tell the difference in terms of how we measure the global temperature. We measure the temperature everyday here. The amount or the effect of the U.S. in or out of the treaty is negligible," Christy said.
Global warming "hockey stick" data founded on FRAUD... computer models "hacked" to produce warming trend from any data set

By: Mike Adams

(Natural News) “The hockey stick debate is thus about two things. At a technical level it is about flaws in methodology and erroneous results in a scientific paper. But at a political level, the debate is about whether the IPCC betrayed the trust of governments around the world.” – Professor Ross McKittrick, 2005

In late 2016, the liberal media launched a conspiracy theory narrative that claimed “the Russians stole the election from Hillary Clinton.” This was achieved, we were told without a single shred of supporting evidence, by hacking the DNC emails and publicizing the highly embarrassing messages that revealed just how corrupt and criminal the DNC has been all along. That hacking, we’ve been informed, was very real and very scary, and it’s why the entire left-wing media continues to insist to this day that the election was a fraud.

The “Russian conspiracy theory” is, of course, complete fiction. It was fabricated by the left-wing media as cover for Hillary Clinton’s dismal candidate performance and horrendous loss to a total political outsider. The Russian conspiracy narrative, in fact, wasn’t spawned until the days after Clinton’s loss, and it was just a few weeks earlier that Hillary Clinton herself had condemned Donald Trump for refusing to pre-accept the outcome of the election, even before the election took place. Clinton said she “feared for our democracy” and shuddered at the thought that someone wouldn’t agree in advance to honor the outcome of an election the lawless Left was systematically stealing through vote fraud, rigged CNN debate questions and an all-out media smear campaign to destroy the reputation of Trump.

The 2016 wasn’t hacked; it was lost by Hillary Clinton. But there is some real hacking that has been going on to steal national sovereignty and overthrow national governments. That hacking, it turns out, was conducted on a piece of software to make it produce false “hockey stick” graphs depicting global warming out of data sets that logically support no such conclusion.

Hacking the IPCC global warming data

The same left-wing media outlets that fabricated the “Russian hacking” conspiracy, curiously, have remained totally silent about a real, legitimate hacking that took place almost two decades earlier. The IPCC “global warming” software models, we now know, were “hacked” from the very beginning, programmed to falsely produce “hockey stick” visuals from almost any data set... include “random noise” data.

What follows are selected paragraphs from a fascinating book that investigated this vast political and scientific fraud: The Real Global Warming Disaster by Christopher Booker (Continuum, 2009). This book is also available as an audio book from Audible.com, so if you enjoy audio books, download a copy there.

Here’s what Booker found when he investigated the “hacking” of the temperature data computer models:

See next page
Nothing alerted us more to the curious nature of the global warming scare than the peculiar tactics used by the IPCC to promote its orthodoxy, brooking no dissent. More than once in its series of mammoth reports, the IPCC had been caught out in very serious attempts to rewrite the scientific evidence. The most notorious instance of this was the extraordinary prominence it gave in 2001 to the so-called ‘hockey stick’ graph, mysteriously produced by a relatively unknown young US scientist, which completely redrew the accepted historical record by purporting to show temperatures in the late twentieth century having shot upwards to a level far higher than had ever been known before. Although the ‘hockey stick’ was instantly made the central icon of the IPCC’s cause, it was within a few years to become one of the most comprehensively discredited artefacts in the history of science.

Similarly called into serious doubt was the reliability of some of the other temperature figures on which the IPCC based its case. Most notably these included those provided by NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS), run by Dr James Hansen, Al Gore’s closest scientific ally, which were one of the four official sources of temperature data on which the IPCC relied. These were shown to have been repeatedly ‘adjusted’, to suggest that temperatures had risen further and more steeply than was indicated by any of the other three main data-sources.

...Out of the blue in 1998 Britain’s leading science journal Nature, long supportive of the warming orthodoxy, published a new paper on global temperature changes over the previous 600 years, back to 1400. Its chief author was Michael Mann, a young physicist-turned-climate scientist at the University of Massachusetts, who had only completed his PhD two years before. In 1999 he and his colleagues published a further paper, based only on North America but extending their original findings over 1000 years.

Their computer model had enabled them to produce a new temperature graph quite unlike anything seen before. Instead of the previously familiar rises and falls, this showed the trend of average temperatures having gently declined through nine centuries, but then suddenly shooting up in the twentieth century to a level that was quite unprecedented.

In Mann’s graph such familiar features as the Mediaeval Warm Period and the Little Ice Age had simply vanished. All those awkward anomalies were shown as having been illusory. The only real anomaly which emerged from their studies was that sudden exponential rise appearing in the twentieth century, culminating in the ‘warmest year of the millennium’, 1998.

As would eventually emerge, there were several very odd features about Mann’s new graph, soon to be known as the ‘hockey stick’ because its shape, a long flattish line curving up sharply at the end, was reminiscent of the stick used in ice hockey. But initially none might have seemed odder than the speed with which this obscure study by a comparatively unknown young scientist came to be taken up as the new ‘orthodoxy’.

So radically did the ‘hockey stick’ rewrite all the accepted versions of climate history that initially it carried all before it, leaving knowledgeable experts stunned. It was not yet clear quite how Mann had arrived at his remarkable conclusions, precisely what data he had used or what
methods the IPCC had used to verify his findings. The sensational new graph which the IPCC made the centrepiece of its report had been sprung on the world out of left field.

... Yet when, over the years that followed, a number of experts from different fields began to subject Mann’s two papers to careful analysis, some rather serious questions came to be asked about the basis for his study.

For a start, although Mann and his colleagues had cited other evidence for their computer modelling of historical temperatures, it became apparent that they had leaned particularly heavily on ‘proxy data’ provided by a study five years earlier of tree-rings in ancient bristlecone pine trees growing on the slopes of California’s Sierra Nevada mountains. ‘Proxies’ used to calculate temperature consist of data other than direct measurement, such as tree rings, stalactites, ice cores or lake sediments.

According to the 1993 paper used by Mann, these bristlecone pines had shown significantly accelerated growth in the years after 1900. But the purpose of this original study had not been to research into past temperatures. As was made clear by its title – ‘Detecting the aerial fertilisation effect of atmospheric CO2 enrichment in tree-ring chronologies’ – it had been to measure the effect on the trees’ growth rate of the twentieth-century increase in CO2 levels.

Tree rings are a notoriously unreliable reflector of temperature changes, because they are chiefly formed during only one short period of the year, and cannot therefore give a full picture. This 1993 study of one group of trees in one untypical corner of the US seemed a remarkably flimsy basis on which to base an estimate of global temperatures going back 1000 years.

Then it transpired that, in order to show the twentieth-century section of the graph, the terrifying upward flick of temperatures at the end of the ‘hockey stick’, spliced in with the tree-ring data had been a set of twentieth-century temperature readings, as recorded by more than 2,000 weather stations across the earth’s surface. It was these which more than anything helped to confirm the most dramatic conclusion of the study, that temperatures in the closing decades of the twentieth century had been shooting up to levels unprecedented in the history of the last 1,000 years, culminating in the ‘warmest year of the millennium’, 1998.

Not only was it far from clear that, for this all-important part of the graph, two quite different sets of data had been used. Also accepted without qualification was the accuracy of these twentieth-century surface temperature readings. But the picture given by these was already being questioned by many expert scientists who pointed to evidence that readings from surface weather stations could become seriously distorted by what was known as the ‘urban heat island effect’. The majority of the thermometers in such stations were in the proximity of large and increasingly built-up population centres. It was well-established that these heated up the atmosphere around them to a significantly higher level than in more isolated locations.

Nowhere was this better illustrated than by contrasting the temperature readings taken on the earth’s surface with those which, since 1979, had been taken by NASA satellites and weather balloons, using a method developed by Dr Roy Spencer, responsible for climate studies at NASA’s Marshall Space Centre, and Dr John Christie of the University of Alabama, Huntsville.
Surprisingly, these atmospheric measurements showed that, far from warming in the last two decades of the twentieth century, global temperatures had in fact slightly cooled. As Spencer was at pains to point out, these avoided the distortions created in surface readings by the urban heat island effect. The reluctance of the IPCC to take proper account of this, he observed, confirmed the suspicion of ‘many scientists involved in the process’ that the IPCC’s stance on global warming was ‘guided more by policymakers and politicians than by scientists’.

What was also remarkable about the ‘hockey stick’, as was again widely observed, was how it contradicted all that mass of evidence which supported the generally accepted picture of temperature fluctuations in past centuries. As was pointed out, tree-rings are not the most reliable guide to assessing past temperatures. Scores of more direct sources of proxy evidence had been studied over the years, from Africa, South America, Australia, Pakistan, Antarctica, every continent and ocean of the world.

Whether evidence was taken from lake sediments or ice cores, glaciers in the Andes or boreholes in every continent (Huang et al, 1997), the results had been remarkably consistent in confirming that the familiar view was right. There had been a Little Ice Age, across the world. There had similarly been a Mediaeval Warm Period. Furthermore, a mass of data confirmed that the world had been even warmer in the Middle Ages than it was in 1998.

The first comprehensive study to review this point was published in January 2003 by Dr Willie Soon and his colleague Dr Sallie Baliunas of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. They had examined 140 expert studies of the climate history of the past 1,000 years, based on every kind of data. Some had given their findings only in a local or regional context, others had attempted to give a worldwide picture. But between them these studies had covered every continent. The question the two researchers had asked of every study was whether or not it showed a ‘discernible climate anomaly’ at the time of (1) the Little Ice Age and (2) the Mediaeval Warm Period; and (3) whether it had shown the twentieth century to be the warmest time in the Millennium.

Their conclusion was unequivocal. Only two of the studies they looked at had not found evidence for the Little Ice Age. Only seven of the 140 studies had denied the existence of a Mediaeval Warm Period, while 116 had confirmed it.

On the crucial question of whether or not the twentieth century had been the warmest of the past thousand years, only 15 studies, including that of Mann himself, had unambiguously agreed that it was. The vast majority accepted that earlier centuries had been warmer. The conclusion of Soon and Baliunas was that ‘Across the world, many records reveal that the twentieth century is probably not the warmest nor a uniquely extreme climatic period of the last millennium.’

But if Mann and his colleagues had got the picture as wrong as this survey of the literature suggested, nothing did more to expose just how this might have come about than a remarkable feat of analysis carried out later in the same year by two Canadians and published in October 2003. (S. McIntyre and R. McKitrick, 2003, ‘Corrections to the Mann et al. (1998) proxy database and northern hemispheric average temperature series’, Energy and Environment, 14, 752-771. In the analysis of McIntyre and McKitrick’s work which follows, reference will also be made to their later paper, McIntyre and McKitrick, 2005b, ‘The M & M critique of the MBH98 Northern
Hemisphere climate index, Update and applications’, Energy and Environment, 16, 69-99, and also to McKitrick (2005), ‘What is the “Hockey Stick” debate about?’, op. cit.)

Stephen McIntyre, who began their study, was a financial consultant and statistical analyst specialising in the minerals industry, and was later joined by Ross McKitrick, a professor of economics at Guelph University. Neither made any pretensions to being a climate scientist, but where they did have considerable expertise was in knowing how computers could be used to play around with statistics. They were also wearily familiar with people using hockey sticklike curves, showing an exaggerated upward rise at the end, to sell a business prospect or to ‘prove’ some tendentious point.

Intrigued by the shape of the IPCC’s now famous ‘hockey stick’ graph, in the spring of 2003 McIntyre approached Mann and his colleagues to ask for a look at their original data set. ‘After some delay’, Mann ‘arranged provision of a file which was represented as the one used’ for his paper. But it turned out not to include ‘most of the computer code used to produce their results’. This suggested to McIntyre, who was joined later that summer by McKitrick, that no one else had previously asked to examine it, as should have been required both by peer-reviewers for the paper published in Nature and, above all, by the IPCC itself. (This account of the ‘hockey stick’ saga is based on several sources, in particular Ross McKitrick’s paper already cited, ‘What is the “hockey stick” debate about?’ (2005), and his evidence to the House of Lords Committee on Economic Affairs, ‘The Economics of Climate Change’, Vol. II, Evidence, 2005. See also David Holland, ‘Bias and concealment in the IPCC Process: the “Hockey Stick” affair and its implications’ (2007), op. cit.)

When McIntyre fed the data into his own computer, he found that it did not produce the claimed results. At the heart of the problem was what is known as ‘principal component analysis’, a technique used by computer analysts to handle a large mass of data by averaging out its components, weighting them by their relative significance.

One of the first things McIntyre had discovered was that the ‘principal component analysis’ used by Mann could not be replicated. ‘In the process of looking up all the data sources and rebuilding Mann’s data set from scratch’, he discovered ‘quite a few errors concerning location labels, use of obsolete editions, unexplained truncations of various series etc.’ (for instance, data reported to be from Boston, Mass., turned out to be from Paris, France, Central England temperature data had been truncated to leave out its coldest period, and so forth).

But the real problem lay with the ‘principal component analysis’ itself. It turned out that an algorithm had been programmed into Mann’s computer model which ‘mined’ for hockey stick shapes whatever data was fed into it. As McKitrick was later to explain, ‘had the IPCC actually done the kind of rigorous review that they boast of they would have discovered that there was an error in a routine calculation step (principal component analysis) that falsely identified a hockey stick shape as the dominant pattern in the data. The flawed computer program can even pull out spurious hockey stick shapes from lists of trendless random numbers.’ (McKitrick, House of Lords evidence, op. cit.)

Using Mann’s algorithm, the two men fed a pile of random and meaningless data (‘red noise’) into the computer 10,000 times. More than 99 per cent of the time the graph which emerged bore
a ‘hockey stick’ shape. They found that their replication of Mann’s method failed ‘all basic tests of statistical significance’.

When they ran the programme again properly, however, keeping the rest of Mann’s data but removing the bristlecone pine figures on which he had so heavily relied, they found that the Medieval Warming once again unmistakably emerged. Indeed their ‘major finding’, according to McKitrick, was that Mann’s own data confirmed that the warming in the fifteenth century exceeded anything in the twentieth century.

One example of how this worked they later quoted was based on comparing two sets of data used by Mann for his second 1999 paper, confined to proxy data from North America. One was drawn from bristlecone pines in western North America, the other from a tree ring chronology in Arkansas. In their raw state, the Californian series showed a ‘hockey stick’ shape; the other, typical of most North American tree ring series, showed an irregular but basically flat line with no final upward spurt. When these were put together, however, the algorithm emphasised the twentieth-century rise by giving ‘390 times as much weight’ to the bristlecone pines as to the trees from Arkansas.

In other words, although Mann had used hundreds of tree ring proxies from all over North America, most showing a flattish line like that from Arkansas, the PCAs used to determine their relative significance had given enormously greater weight to those Californian bristlecones with their anomalous ‘hockey stick’ pattern.

Furthermore, McIntyre and McKitrick found that Mann had been well aware that by removing the bristlecone pine data the ‘hockey stick’ shape of his graph would vanish, because he had tried it himself. One of the files they obtained from him showed the results of his own attempt to do this. The file was marked ‘Censored’ and its findings were nowhere mentioned in the published study.

What, however, concerned McIntyre and McKitrick as much as anything else about this extraordinary affair was what it revealed about the methods of the IPCC itself. Why had it not subjected Mann’s study to the kind of basic professional checks which they themselves had been able to carry out, with such devastating results?

Furthermore, having failed to exercise any proper quality control, why had those at the top of the IPCC then gone out of their way to give such extraordinary prominence to ‘the hockey stick data as the canonical representation of the earth’s climate history. Due to a combination of mathematical error and a dysfunctional review process, they ended up promoting the exact wrong conclusion. How did they make such a blunder?’

Continue reading The Real Global Warming Disaster by Christopher Booker (Continuum, 2009), available at BN.com, Amazon.com and Audible.com.

**Conclusion: The global warming “hockey stick” is SCIENCE FRAUD**

What all this reveals, of course, is that the global warming “hockey stick” is fake science. As Booker documents in his book, data were truncated (cut off) and software algorithms were
altered to produce a hockey stick trend out of almost any data set, including random noise data. To call climate change “science” is to admit your own gullibility to science fraud.

The IPCC, it turns out, used science fraud to promote global warming and “climate change” narratives, hoping no one would notice that the entire software model was essentially HACKED from the very beginning, deliberately engineered to produce the alarming temperature trend the world’s bureaucrats wanted so they could terrorize the world into compliance with climate change narratives.

The Russians didn’t hack the 2016 election, in case you were wondering. But dishonest scientists really did hack the global warming modeling software to deceive the entire world and launch a whole new brand of climate change fascism that has now infected the minds of hundreds of millions of people across the planet. Everything they’ve been told about climate change, it turns, out, was all based on a software hack.
Alabama city is America's fastest-growing tech town

By: Lucy Berry

One Alabama city beat out stiff competition for the title of fastest-growing tech town in 2017.

ZipRecruiter and Payscale have named Huntsville the top tech city in the U.S. The study, which ranks cities by year-over-year tech job growth, features a few other surprises, including seven cities in the Midwest and three Ohio towns.

Huntsville's year-over-year tech job growth was 309 percent, according to the ranking. The top tech careers in Huntsville are software and systems engineers, systems and information technology specialists, and help desk support.

The report found early career median pay starts at $59,500, while mid-career median pay jumps to $96,400. ZipRecruiter, a job search website, and Payscale, an online salary, benefits and compensation information company, said median Huntsville rent is $950, while the median home price is about $152,000.

ZipRecruiter's top 10 tech jobs and cities are as below:

1. Huntsville - 309 percent tech job growth
2. Thousand Oaks, Calif. - 200 percent
3. Phoenix - 188 percent
4. Albany, N.Y. - 161 percent
5. Kansas City - 157 percent
6. Orlando - 149 percent
7. Salt Lake City - 117 percent
8. Nashville - 114 percent
9. Jacksonville, Fla. - 111 percent
10. Baltimore - 109 percent

Cincinnati, Cleveland, Indianapolis, Columbus, Denver, Detroit, Tampa, Providence, Seattle and Chicago rounded out the list.

To find the fastest-growing U.S. tech job markets, Payscale queried ZipRecruiter's database of more than 8 million active jobs for the following information:

- Year-over-year growth in tech jobs by Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)*
- The top jobs in tech by MSA

Payscale then ranked the top MSAs by the tech job growth rate from 2016-17, and included the following:

- The top 5 tech jobs in each MSA.

See next page
• The median salaries for early and mid-career tech workers in each MSA (via PayScale)
• Median rents and home sales prices for each MSA (via Trulia).

Huntsville also recently landed at No. 7 on SmartAsset.com's top metro areas for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) professions. It was the only Alabama city -- and the only from the deep South -- to make the list.
Stillman makes financial progress

Six jobs eliminated last week

By Ed Enoch
Staff Writer

Donors helped Stillman College make payroll in May and President Cynthia Warrick sees positive signs as the small private school continues fundraising to cover expenses through August.

With the donors' help, the college has been able to cover expenses and make debt payments on a $40 million federal loan in April and May, Warrick said. Stillman owes $39 million of the 2012 federal loan through the U.S. Department of Education's Historically Black College and University (HBCU) Capital Financing Loan Program.

Warrick also confirmed she eliminated six positions at the college last week, adding that more reductions were possible before the end of the month. In earlier interviews with the Tuscaloosa News, Warrick said the college would have weekly furloughs through the college's fiscal year ending June 30. Warrick also said she was considering ways to create a leaner, more efficient management system, including leaving some positions unfilled and restructuring others.

In a March letter to alumni, Warrick sought help raising $2.8 million to cover operating expenses and debt service through August and help recruit new students, long seen as a critical step in reversing the college's financial fortunes.

The college is still working on funding to cover expenses in June, July and August, but Warrick remains optimistic, noting increased enrollment during the summer semester and the availability of Pell Grant funding along with funds from the Presbyterian Church USA and United Negro College Fund.

Stillman currently has 228 students registered for the first summer session. Stillman is also making an enrollment push for its Summer Session II, an online session from July 11-Aug. 4, she said.

"We are emphasizing to our students to take advantage of this opportunity to take at least two classes in Summer II to get ahead," Warrick said.

Warrick also planned to be at a college fair in Atlanta on Saturday with a recruiting team.

On Sunday, several churches in the Tuscaloosa area seeking donations for Stillman as part of "Stillman College Sunday." The group of churches in Tuscaloosa and central Alabama hope to raise more than $100,000 for Stillman.

"Stillman Sunday on June 4th will be very important for getting us through the summer," she said.

Reach Ed Enoch at ed.enoch@tuscaloosanews.com or 205-722-0209.
GE chooses Auburn for 3-D metal printing program

William Thornton  wthornton@al.com

Auburn University has been named as one of eight universities in the world by General Electric for its additive education program.

Because of its participation, Auburn will receive a Concept Laser MLAB 100R metal printer as part of this program, which specializes in the mode of manufacturing popularly known as 3-D printing. The printer is valued at $250,000.

Auburn was chosen by a GE advisory group of engineers and additive manufacturing specialists from more than 250 applicants.

The GE program was created to support colleges and universities educating students in additive manufacturing technologies. Through the program, GE is investing $8 million over five years to provide up to 50 metal additive machines to schools around the world.

Auburn created a new Center for Industrialized Additive Manufacturing last November. In addition, the university's newly renovated Gavin Engineering Research Laboratory opens later this year and will feature dedicated space for Auburn's additive manufacturing research.

Christopher Roberts, dean of engineering, said Auburn was chosen to produce "engineers who are well versed in additive manufacturing and prepared to lead American industry into the future."

"We are also investing millions of dollars in the latest 3-D printing technology and hiring world-class faculty to teach our students," he said.

Additive manufacturing involves fabricating parts layer-by-layer from metals, plastics or other materials based on a 3-D computer-aided design model.

This reduces waste in the manufacturing process, speeds up production and creates parts that are lighter and more durable than those made through traditional manufacturing.
UWA trustee announces resignation

Alex Saad cited medical reasons for departure

By Ed Enoch
Staff Writer

University of West Alabama trustee Alex Saad announced on Monday he was resigning from the board, citing ongoing medical issues.

"It doesn't have anything to do with what is going on on the board," Saad said.

It was time to step down, Saad said, who noted the current leadership and positive direction of UWA as signs for optimism. Saad choked up as he reflected on his 17 years on the board.

"I think we have the best board that we have ever had since I have been a part of this," Saad said.

Saad, a District 1 representative, was first appointed in 2000. His first term expired at the end of 2011 and he has been serving since that time under a board policy that allows trustees to remain until new appointments by the governor are confirmed by the Alabama Senate.

Saad said last year that his personal desire was not to serve another term.

Saad noted a degenerative eye condition that is affecting his vision and safety concerns about driving from Mobile for the meetings.

The resignation, effective immediately, came at the end of Monday's regular board meeting. Saad told the board he had already sent a letter to Gov. Kay Ivey announcing his plans to step down.

His fellow board members recognized his service on the board with a resolution on Monday.

"Alex you will be missed, and I have said this to you before: you made us better board members," Board President Jerry Smith said.

Trustee Terry Bunn called Saad, whom he met as a fellow student in 1971, a lifelong friend.

"My greatest privilege has been to serve on this board with Alex," Bunn said.

Trustee Thed Spree and UWA President Ken Tucker noted Saad's leadership and service to the board.

"Clearly, he loves this university. He has given his heart and soul," Tucker said.

After the meeting's conclusion, Saad shared hugs with fellow trustees and staff members. He replied to the well wishes with assurances he would still be around for homecoming and other occasions.

Saad's last visit to Livingston as a trustee ended in the parking lot, as he stood in the bed of this truck handing out bags of sweet corn brought up from south Alabama to share with his friends.

"It doesn't have anything to do with what is going on on the board," Saad said.

By Ed Enoch
Staff Writer
University of West Alabama approves tuition increase

By: Ed Enoch

The board of trustees for the University of West Alabama approved a 4.5 percent tuition increase for the fall to address anticipated increases in operating expenses in the upcoming fiscal year.

"It just cost more to educate people, and we are not getting increases in state funding. It is level and frankly we are thankful," said trustee Sheila Cloud, who chairs the finance committee.

The average undergraduate tuition for Alabama residents at UWA would increase annually by about $327 to $7,613 and for non-residents by $655 to $15,227. The annual rates for graduate students would increase by about $263 for residents and $454 for students from out of state.

State lawmakers approved an appropriation of $16.1 million in state funds for operations and maintenance during the regular session this spring. Last year, the board approved a 2-percent tuition increase and a 3-percent raise for employees as part of 2016-2017 operating budget.

Projected revenues before the tuition increase were $52.7 million. Operating expenses were projected at $53.1 million.

The trustees approved an operating budget of $53.1 million for the fiscal year beginning in October, which includes the tuition increase and no raises for staff and faculty other than increases as a result of promotions, longevity, or increased credentials.

The budget includes $25.8 million for salaries, $12.6 million for fixed expenses such as benefits and insurance and $14.7 for other operating expenses.

The budget was proposed during the finance committee meeting with a recommended 3.5 percent tuition increase, which would generate about $429,813 annually. The rate was targeted to cover the gap between expected revenues and expenses, UWA President Ken Tucker said.

The committee debated whether a larger increase would be more appropriate to help address expenses and provide a cushion in the budget.

Responding to a question from trustee Jerry Smith, interim Vice President of Financial Affairs Lawson Edmonds said the additional funds could be useful because not all requests from faculty and staff were met in original proposal.

The administration recommended a “bare bones” increase to balance the budget and keep the cost of tuition as low as possible, Tucker said.

Tucker said the university had trimmed expenses such as travel and had delayed hires in nonessential positions. Any surpluses as the result of conservative estimates or additional revenues would be absorbed by cuts the university had already made in its operating budget, he noted during the committee discussion.

In the committee meeting, trustee Thed Spree argued for the lower rate based on the financial burden on families, suggesting it could be a tool for recruiters meeting with families of potential students.
“We are not going to put you out of business in tuition,” Spree said.

However, Spree supported the 4.5 percent raise during the full board meeting, noting the rate was still affordable compared to UWA’s peers.

Trustee Terry Bunn advocated for a higher rate, arguing it would provide some security as a reserve in the event of unanticipated expenses or cost overruns.

“We need to adjust this tuition increase based on what is best for the school, not where we rank,” Bunn said.
New coach focuses on positive

Bohannon leaving challenges on back burner for now

By Aaron Suttles
Sports Writer

Brad Bohannon has a message to deliver, and it's one he plans to stick to in his first few months and potentially in his first couple of seasons on the job as the new head coach of the University of Alabama baseball coach.

It's all about the positives in his view, challenges, and there are plenty to be certain, remain on the back burner.

Bohannon inherits a mess of a program at the moment, one on its third coach in 12 months time, and a whale of scholarships situation through which he must sort.

But negatives be darned. During a moment he's dreamed of nearly his entire adult life, Bohannon rightfully focused on all that is good.

"I'm not going to talk about the challenges," Bohannon said. "I'm going to talk about what we have, and we have a lot. OK? We have one of the best ballparks in the country. We have one of the best college experiences in the country. We get to take kids to Alabama football games. SEC experience is second-to-none. See more photos of new Tide baseball coach Brad Bohannon as well as videos of Alabama AD Greg Byrne introducing him, and Bohannon talking about his philosophy and his baseball lineage, at www.tidesports.com and www.tuscaloosanews.com.

The scholarship situation is murky at best at the moment and, without getting into specifics, it will take some maneuvering to make work. Behind building a staff, getting the program's scholarship situation right is Bohannon's top job.

"I'll get into that stuff in the next week or two," Bohannon said. "I think the most important things are getting a staff in place and also starting to work through the roster stuff. I'll gather as much information as I can and I'll be fair and honest communicating (with players), but at the end of the day, there's NCAA rules that are above me that you have to deal with as far as numbers and we'll work through all of that."

Asked specifically about his staff, Bohannon said he would get into that after finishing his duties as an Auburn assistant coach. What he did identify was qualities he's for which he's searching.

"I'll jump on the stuff this next week and a half, and I can just assure that we'll put together an all-star coaching staff." The Rome, Ga., native exited Tuscaloosa to immediately return to Tallahassee to re-join the Tigers in the NCAA Regional championship game against Florida State. Auburn lost the regional final 6-0 to the Seminoles, freeing Bohannon to begin work immediately for the Crimson Tide.

Having conducted two press conferences since his decision to fire former UA baseball coach Greg Goff, Director of Athletics Greg Byrne continued to stress that what the program needs now more than anything else is a solid foundation.

"I told him he will have a solid foundation of that," Byrne said. "That's critical. We have to have stability in our coaching staff. I really believe, people come to Alabama, they're going to stay at Alabama. You want to be here at Alabama. I really believe with his plan, and we're going to give him time to implement it, patience will be a key component of that."

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BASEBALL

Continued from B1

and really good at coaching, and at Alabama, you can get guys who are really good at both," Bohannon said. "I'll jump on the staff stuff this next week and a half, and I can just assure that we'll put together an all-star coaching staff." The Rome, Ga., native exited Tuscaloosa to immediately return to Tallahassee to re-join the Tigers in the NCAA Regional championship game against Florida State. Auburn lost the regional final 6-0 to the Seminoles, freeing Bohannon to begin work immediately for the Crimson Tide.
Alabama welcomes new baseball coach

By Ben Jones
Sports Writer

Sometime after midnight, Brad Bohannon peeled off an orange Auburn uniform and made his way to the Tallahassee airport. There was a plane waiting to take the Auburn assistant to Tuscaloosa where he'd become the University of Alabama baseball coach in the morning.

A few hours later, he wore a crimson tie and grinned as he stepped to the podium.

"I have been waiting all week to get up here to say 'Roll Tide, baby. Roll Tide,'" Alabama's new baseball coach said.

Bohannon was introduced as Alabama's 32nd head coach at a news conference. It's Bohannon's first head coaching job after spending the last 14 years as an assistant at Kentucky and Auburn.

About a dozen current players sat in the first two rows of the press conference as Bohannon laid out his vision for Alabama.

"My goal going forward is to make Alabama the absolute best place to play college baseball in the country, and we have

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everything we need in place to make that happen," Bohannon said. "We're going to do that by being a players-first program.

Alabama director of athletics Greg Byrne moved quickly on the hire. Bohannon was named head coach on Thursday, eight days after Greg Goff was fired after one season. Byrne spoke with a handful of those around the Alabama program early on in the search, including former coach Jim Wells, Shelton State baseball coach and UA alumn Bobby Sprowl, as well as alumni like Dave Magadan, Alan Dunn and Jeff Timely.

"As we went through this we spent time looking through our past rosters of our baseball team that went to Omaha, that went to regionals," Byrne said. "Looked at the makeup of those teams. There wasn't one size that fits all, but there were a few things that had to be there. You had to recruit the state of Alabama, and Coach Bohannon hits that extremely well. You have to recruit the Southeast, and he did that as well. You have to have a solid plan for a staffing standpoint, and he had great ideas and thoughts about that as well."

He had a lengthy list at the start of the search was whittled to five or six names quickly. Bohannon interviewed at Byrne's home last Monday, one week before he was introduced. One other candidate was interviewed in person.

But Bohannon arrived with a presentation on his plan for the program. A one-hour meeting stretched into three-and-a-half as Bohannon laid out his thoughts on recruiting, staffing, compliance, academics, community involvement and more.

"He walked out of my house and I thought, 'We can make this thing work if everything goes well,'" Byrne said.

He also had Alabama staff members involved in the search reach out to players who had been with Bohannon. Some were stars, some starters and others scarcely played. All said the same thing.

"The last question you ask is: 'If you had to do it all over again, would you want to play for Coach Bohannon?'" Byrne said. "And without a doubt, 100 percent of the young men that he talked to said, 'I'd absolutely play for Coach Bohannon again.'"

Bohannon returned to Tallahassee in the afternoon for his 119th and final game with Auburn. The Tigers' season ended last night with a 6-0 loss to Florida State in the finals of an NCAA regional. He'll be back in Tuscaloosa soon to begin his new duties this week. He has spent the past 20 months on the other side of the state. That experience gives him a head start on recruiting within the state and a basic understanding of the landscape laid out before him. The experience in Alabama was a "bonus" for Byrne, who knew he needed a recruiter with a national profile. Bohannon checks that box.

"We're going to recruit from the inside out," Bohannon said. "I would love to have a team full of Alabama kids, I would love that. But, you know what, we have a national brand. We have an amazing place, we can get kids from anywhere and we'll do that. There's a lot of work to be done. We know that, and there are no shortcuts. I don't have any magic dust, but I can't wait to roll the sleeves up and get to work."

There's work to be done, repairing a program that went 10-34-1 last season while finishing last place in the SEC with a 5-24-1 record. He's the third coach in as many seasons in Tuscaloosa.

"I told him he will have a lot of patience from us," Byrne said. "That's critical. We have to have stability in our coaching staff. I really believe people come to Alabama, they're going to stay at Alabama."

Bohannon said he'd begun speaking with other coaches that may become part of his staff but wasn't ready to announce any additions yet. He'll have to handle that quickly, then work on constructing a roster of holdovers from the 2017 team and an incoming recruiting class with many players already signed.

He thanked his wife, Kim, and the coaches who gave him opportunities that led to Tuscaloosa. Then, with his new team sitting in front of him, he made his first recruiting pitch.

"Most of all, I'm just so thankful to all of my former players, I mean everybody that I've ever recruited and coached," Bohannon said. "In the 14 years that I've been in the league, I've not gotten a hit, I haven't made a pitch. It's all about the kids, they're the ones making the plays. I'm just thankful to each and every one of them for buying into me and what I was selling at the time and for giving me everything they had while playing for me."

Reach Ben Jones at ben@tidesports.com or 205-722-0196.
A NEW ERA

Why Alabama's new baseball coach is nothing like its old one

Rainer Sabin rsabin@al.com

Greg Goff wasn’t seen. His name was never mentioned Monday. But his presence loomed inside the Naylor Stone media room at the Mal Moore Athletic Facility. That was especially true when Brad Bohannon, his successor as Alabama’s baseball coach, delivered his opening comments at his introductory news conference.

“My goal going forward is to make Alabama the absolute best place to play college baseball in the country, and we have everything we need in place to make that happen,” Bohannon said Monday. “We’re going to do that by being a players-first program.”

It was a telling comment sandwiched between a series of remarks that coalesced into a renunciation of Goff and his methods. In short order, Bohannon presented himself as the antithesis of Goff — his predecessor who was fired May 24 following his inaugural season, in part, because of his heavy-handed approach and his intractability. As the Crimson Tide was sliding into the abyss on way to finishing dead last in the Southeastern Conference and posting the lowest win total at Alabama since 1980, Goff tried to impose his aggressive style on a team that was reluctant to embrace him, while at the same time failing to curry favor with a fan base that always approached him with a measure of skepticism.

Don’t expect that to happen under Bohannon.

“Early on, we’re going to coach to our personnel,” he said. “I think it’s important initially for me and our coaching staff to adjust to our players. Over time we’re going to strive to be balanced.”

Bohannon sold his vision to Greg Byrne last Monday at the Alabama athletic director’s home. The former Wake Forest MBA student and senior financial analyst at Intel Corporation used a PowerPoint presentation to illustrate his plan for resuscitating a program that has fallen on hard times. In doing so, he clearly demonstrated he wasn’t anything like Goff.

“He hit it all: academic, compliance, coaching, recruiting, alums, community, everything,” Byrne recalled. “All the bases. He hit a grand slam, to use a baseball analogy.”

Before bringing Bohannon aboard, Byrne did his own reconnaissance. He wanted to find out more about the longtime assistant who has spent 14 years in the Southeastern Conference — having worked the first 12 at Kentucky and the last two at Auburn. So, Byrne resorted to a bit of guile, instructing Alabama’s associate athletic director for compliance, Matt Self, to use a blocked number and call players whom Bohannon had previously coached. Byrne was eager to hear from a wide variety of Bohannon’s pupils — the stars, the reserves and even the guys who never saw any action. The wide array of perspectives would create an accurate summation of the man Byrne was looking to hire. Self immediately took on the roll of pollster and went to work on his survey — asking the pool of subjects how Bohannon had treated them and whether they thought he played by the rules and supported their efforts in the classroom.

“On top of that, the last question...is: ‘If you had to do it all over again, would you want to play for Coach Bohannon?’” Byrne said. “And without a doubt, 100 percent of the young men that he talked to said, ‘I’d absolutely play for Coach Bohannon again.’

“And I knew with that, that was the kind of coach we wanted here at the University of Alabama.”

Byrne viewed Bohannon’s ability to build relationships with all kinds of people — from high school prospects and alumni to his wife, Kim — as a desirable quality. And for Bohannon, it may be his greatest asset, because in the college baseball world he is known as an ace recruiter — having landed Top 25 classes the last nine seasons.

“Good players make good coaches,” Bohannon said. “Kids want to play for coaches that they think can help them develop as people and players, and people they have a connection with. And if you really want to connect with people, you have to communicate.”

It became clear that Goff struggled — or was often unwilling — to do just that. He wanted it his way, and in the most draconian sense, he demanded absolute fealty to his system. The more mild-mannered Bohannon is going to tackle the same job in a different way.

“You have to care,” he said. “I really do want to get to know the kids because this job is all about getting the right people on the front end.”

Seconds later, Bohannon’s first news conference as Alabama’s baseball coach ended. The page had officially been turned from the Goff Era. And it was welcomed. After all, Bohannon represents a clean break from a tumultuous period Byrne and Co. would just as soon forget.
Deep field

Crimson Tide carries high expectations into track and field NCAA Outdoor Championships

By Ehsan Kassim
Special to The Tuscaloosa News

Quaniesha Burks is one of the most decorated athletes in University of Alabama history, but her recruitment was an obstacle for head coach Dan Waters.

Waters remembers calling Burks one or two times to recruit her and overhearing, “May I take your order please?”

Burks, a senior from Hartselle, was attending high school as a senior, going to track practice in the afternoon and then working at a McDonald’s at night. She would often have to request her boss for a small break, to speak to Waters.

All that made recruitment a challenge, but Waters saw potential in Burks to take a chance on her.

“Quite frankly, coming out...
of high school, her marks were not SEC full scholarship material," Waters said. "We decided we are just going to take a risk on this girl, a girl that’s working hard and she’s not jumping and running full-time like some of the other athletes have been in the SEC. This is going to be a very special person. It sure turned true. She’s been everything we could have asked for. We’re super proud of her.”

Burks won the 2015 NCAA outdoor long jump title and is making her fourth appearance at the NCAA meet. She will compete in three events, the long jump, 100 meters and the 4x100 relay.

Looking back, Burks never expected the success she had at Alabama. “These four years at the University of Alabama have been the best ever,” Burks said. “I could never imagine doing all the things I have done since my freshman year. Honestly, my freshman year in my mind, I was supposed to be engaged by now. I had this whole plan of what I was going to do by my freshman year and track was there, but it was kind of, jumping 20 feet high and I thought I had the best career ever. But a lot of things changed, I never thought I’d make U.S.A teams, win national titles and win SEC titles, at all. So just being able to be in the right position and to accomplish so much that I did not even know about is just amazing.”

Burks will be one of 19 Crimson Tide athletes participating in the NCAA Outdoor Championships in Eugene, Ore., which starts Wednesday and concludes Saturday.

With athletes qualifying in sprints, hurdles, distance, jumps, throws and pole vault for this year’s NCAA meet, Alabama has one of the deepest rosters at the championships.

Waters is excited for more athletes to represent Alabama at the NCAA’s, because that will mean more opportunities to score points and a chance for a higher finish.

Alabama is coming off a third place-finish in the women’s indoor championships in College Station, Texas.

Senior Lakan Taylor, from Forth Worth, Texas, has already won the national championship for pole vault indoors and is looking to repeat in outdoors.

“That’s what I wanted to do in my college career, to win national championship and I got it done,” Taylor said. “So hopefully going to Eugene I could do a repeat and just compete to the best of my ability.”

Port Fortin, Trinidad & Tobago native Jereem Richards is looking forward to proving Alabama is more than just a football school.

“It means a lot to me because I like this school, Alabama,” he said. “The people here are very friendly, just to go out there to represent Alabama, I feel a lot of school pride. We are good at football, but we want to show the world we are good at track and field also. I feel really good representing Alabama and showing everyone that we do have talent outside of football.”

Richards, a junior, will be competing in three events; the 200 meters, 4x100 relay and the 4x400 relay.
One heck of a year

Former Crimson Tide Allen named state’s top amateur athlete

By Aaron Suttles
Sports Writer

It was quite the year for Jonathan Allen. After opting to return for his senior season at the University of Alabama, the talented defensive lineman won just about every major national defensive award in the country. He followed that up by proposing to his girlfriend and then a few days later became a first-round NFL Draft pick of the Washington Redskins.

For a season that will go down in the Crimson Tide history books, Allen was named the Amateur Athlete of the Year by the Alabama Sports Writers Association. The award will formally be given Sunday evening at the ASWA convention.

“It’s a blessing,” Allen said. “To win an award like that, it definitely means a lot. I’m just really humbled and appreciative of having the opportunity to do what God has blessed me with.”

About the only thing that didn’t go right for Allen during his senior season was the way it ended, falling one second

See ALLEN, C4
short of a second consecutive national title. But Allen kept it all in perspective. He led a nasty defensive unit, one widely considered the best in the country. The snapshot of his season came on his iconic sack of Texas A&M quarterback Trevor Knight, which has since been nicknamed "The Superman" sack. Allen beat his offensive lineman at the snap and dove over a running back who came into the play to cut him. Allen knew what was coming and dove over the back to sack Knight. Allen won the Chuck Bednarik and Bronco Nagurski awards as the nation's top defender. He recorded 69 tackles, including 16 for loss, and was tops on the team with 10.5 sacks. He was a first-team All-SEC player, too. "It's really hard to put into words what the last year has meant," Allen said. "So much has happened in so little time you just take it and run with it. Take each day day by day and handle it to the best of your abilities. "Looking back on it I'll probably enjoy it more later in life, but right now I'm just so focused on what I have to do right now with everything I've got going on. It's hard to sit back and enjoy it, but it's been a fun ride the whole time." Allen signed his rookie contract with the Redskins, which was worth $11.6 million, including a $6.6 million signing bonus. He is joined in Washington by his defensive teammate Ryan Anderson. Allen expressed his thanks to the Alabama sportswriters for putting him beside such illustrious athletes in the state's history. "It means a lot just to have your name in the same category as some of those guys," Allen said. "It's pretty remarkable within itself. Like I said before it's definitely a blessing." Reach Aaron Suttles at aaron@tidesports.com or at 205-722-0229.
WHAT'S NEXT

DO YOU NEED A DEGREE?

The future of college might be online classes, but no degree

Associated Press

Connor Mitchell's university classes take place online, he doesn't have any exams and he studies in a different country every year. Is he looking into the future or taking a gambler?

With college costs rising steadily and with more courses available online for free, some observers are beginning to question the need for a traditional college education that include lecturers on Greek philosophy but burden students with massive debt.

Education startups are offering alternatives — from boot camps, to one- or two-year tracks, to accredited degree programs — and their founders say these options will give students a more relevant education in today's job market, and at a lower price.

But some experts caution against betting on a narrow, practical education geared toward a specific field that is in demand today but could leave them unprepared for the jobs of tomorrow. They also say most applicants still need a college degree from an established institution to get a good job.

Minerva, an accredited four-year university named after the Greek goddess of wisdom, wants to revolutionize four-year liberal arts education by teaching critical thinking as opposed to "regurgitating information," founder Ben Nelson said.

"You cannot teach yourself how to think critically, you actually have to go through a structured process," he said. Nelson, an energetic, fast-talking 43-year-old, who previously served as president of the photo printing website Snapsfish. "What is true is that wisdom is wasted on the old. Wisdom should be the goal for the young."

All of Minerva's classes take place online. The interactive platform is designed to keep students engaged and allow professors to call on them. Minerva students start school in San Francisco and then spend time in Berlin, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Taipei, Taiwan, and other global hubs, continuing to take online classes and completing hands-on assignments at local companies and organizations.

Cost is $25,000 per year for tuition plus more and board, compared with an average of $20,000 for an in-state public college and $63,000 at Harvard, with which Minerva says it wants to compete. This year, Minerva boasted an acceptance rate of 1.9 percent, compared with 5.2 percent at Harvard. The nationwide average in 2014 was 66 percent, according to the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

The first class launched in 2014, so it is too early to evaluate graduation and employment rates. Nelson said every first-year student who chose to work last summer was placed in an internship. Currently, there are more than 270 people enrolled in the school.

Mitchell, 21, who transferred to Minerva from the University of Southern California, says the online class experience was stressful at first, but he was impressed by the level of discussion and preparation for the classes. At USC, he said, he studied "so much less." When asked to compare the two, he turned to a metaphor.

"At USC, it was like there was a door, but there was no leadership. The task actually wasn't prepared very well," Mitchell said. "At Minerva, the tasks that I am paying for are well prepared." He said he's impressed by Minerva's ability to teach science without labs or text tubes and believes that academic research requires the space and environment afforded by traditional universities.

Peter Cappelli, a professor at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania who studies the U.S. labor market, believes that students may be taking a big risk by signing up for a still relatively unknown program.

"It's not what you learn, it's what you can persuade other people what you've learned," Cappelli said. "It's bad to overcome that risk until the schools build up a brand on the market."

But some innovators say a college degree may be obsolete.

MissionU, which began accepting its first applications last month, offers a one-year nondegree program in data analytics and business intelligence without an upfront tuition. As part of an income-sharing agreement, MissionU students will give back 15 percent of their salary for three years after graduation if they earn at least $40,000 per year. So far, the school received more than 3,000 applications.

Students will be taking online courses taught by industry practitioners and completing real-life projects and assignments for various companies. Partner firms such as Spotify, Lyft, WayBye and others are advising MissionU on its curriculum and have agreed to consider its students for jobs without a college degree. The first group of students will be based in San Francisco. A high-school diploma will not be required for admission.

"Just because you can prepare well for a test doesn't mean that you will necessarily thrive as a contributor to a great company," said MissionU founder Adam Braun.

Braun, 33, decided to create MissionU after seeing his wife's struggle to pay off more than $30,000 in student debt.

"I came to the firm belief that our college system is fundamentally broken and it's not working for the majority of young people who are going to college to build a better life and careers," said Braun. "I've previously founded Pencils of Promise, a nonprofit that builds schools in the developing world. Some employees agree that traditional university education may not be as relevant in today's economy as it once was. Google has dropped college education from its hiring requirements, and a company official said in a 2013 interview with The New York Times that up to 14 percent of employees on some of its teams had never gone to college. The British Office of Strat & Young has also dropped requiring college diplomas. But will other companies follow suit?

Anthony Carnevale, director of the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, is not so sure.

"You're not to have something that proves to the people that are going to hire you that you can do the job," Carnevale said. "Given the fluidity of the job market, it's strangers talking to strangers, so you got to have a piece of paper. It's a signal, it's a proof."
Leather Numbers

Leather Years

Fewer students and less tuition are eroding the finances of higher education. It is casting about for solutions.

By Jon Marcus

With an important source of revenue down and the flow of customers flattening out, one of the biggest business—its public university system—is turning to a strategy of consolidations and mergers to improve efficiency and cut costs.

The system has shrunk from 35 campuses to 28, helping compensate for a nearly 20 percent cut in state funding from 2008 to 2015 and an enrollment that this spring rose only two-tenths of a percent over last year's spring semester. More consolidations are underway, reducing four of the remaining campuses to two.

The universities are putting some of the resulting $44 million in savings into efforts to reduce the number of dropouts. That bodes up the bottom line, too: It's cheaper to help a student stay in school than to recruit a new one.

Dramatic changes like those are essential, Chancellor Steve Wrigley told his Board of Regents in April. "We inherited a systemlargely conceived in the 1960s," Mr. Wrigley said. "But times, society and students have all changed dramatically."

That is not only true in Georgia. Other colleges and universities across the country are also responding (albeit sometimes slowly) to challenges threatening their traditional role in society if not their survival.

Because of a dip in the number of 18- to 24-year-olds, among other reasons, for example, enrollment has been dropping for five years, meaning that there are about 300,000 fewer undergraduates to divvy up among America's campuses than there used to be.

Changes to immigration policies, and resulting recruitment pressures, threaten the crucial supply of international students, which the consulting firm Deloitte predicts could cost universities in the United States a quarter of a billion dollars in the upcoming academic year.

To fill seats, colleges are engaged in an arms race of discounts that they increasingly cannot afford — discounts as deep that, while their sticker prices appear to be rising ahead of the inflation, the schools are actually seeing their net tuition revenue decline. Many small, private non-profit colleges are giving away a record 51 percent of their tuition income in the form of discounts, according to new figures from the National Association of College and University Business Officers.

While public funding for higher education is rising again in some states, it is still an inflation-adjusted $9 billion behind where it was before deep cuts were imposed during the last recession, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities reported.

One reason is that many states face large pension obligations for public employees, including those who work at universities; for some universities, the impact is becoming more immediate, as states shift this burden directly onto them. More than half of the $4.4 billion allocated for state universities and colleges in Illinois, for instance, now goes not to teaching or research, but to pay pension costs, the Illinois Policy Institute says.

"There's always been a kind of a wishful thinking that when the economy gets back to normal, things will get better. And that is not happening anymore," said James A. Hylton, associate director of the Center for Studies in Higher Education and former vice chancellor for budget and finance at the University of California, Berkeley.

On top of that, public universities face political pressure to keep tuition flat. And the Moody's bond-rating agency calculates that long-term returns from private university endowments are falling for short of what they need. A Department of Education list of financially troubled institutions now has more than 50 universities and colleges.

"All of these pressures mean something has to give, and that includes upping College and universities face a combined shortfall of $30 billion for needed repairs and renovations, according to the APPA, formerly the Association of Physical Plant Administrators.

But in another bid to attract students, they keep building more, spending $3.4 billion last year on new construction, the private firm Dodge Data and Analytics says. That is adding not only more space the university will have to maintain, but billions of dollars in debt on which someone will have to pay the interest.

"Meanwhile, universities' monopoly on credentials is being threatened by alternative forms of education like software coding academies. Some employers are questioning whether going to college is even necessary: 14 percent of them as Google have no college degree, according to the company's senior human resources officer. Nearly half of Americans surveyed last year by Public Agenda—a nonpartisan policy organization that focuses on education and other topics—said a higher education is no longer necessarily a good investment. And about the same proportion of graduates in a Gallup poll released last year said they were less than certain their degrees were worth the money.

"There's a fundamental lack of understanding about the scrutiny that higher education is under," said Susan Fitzgerald, who tracks them as a senior vice president at Moody's.

James Soto Anthony, a professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education who focuses on education leadership, said that people imagine that all universities look like the one where he works. "They see this $9 billion endowment and the manicured lawns and they imagine that onto all colleges and universities," Mr. Anthony said. "And most of them are not like that. They are dramatically struggling for enrollment."

Fifty-eight percent of colleges and universities surveyed by the business officers association said their number of students has declined. The problem is worst for small private, non-profit and second-tier public institutions in the Midwest and Northeast, where the college-age population has fallen faster. The ides is based by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education to continue through at least 2023. This has sped up the practice of offering discounts to fill seats. "I don't think universities have a choice not to," said Luke Bevans, dean of students at Simpson College in Indiana, Iowa. He presented a sobering paper about the trend in April at the American Council on Education's annual meeting. "The discount rate is a symptom of the larger things they're facing," Mr. Bevans said. "The margins these institutions are operating at are much thinner than the public understands."

Here's how thin: Thanks to rising discounts, small colleges reported an average revenue increase per freshman of just two-tenths of a percent last year, which means they lost ground when inflation is accounted for.

The University of California, Berkeley, is seeing the schemes dealing with a budget deficit.

An arms race of deep discounts that cannot be sustained.
Into the Unknown

Schools have programs giving guidance to students who are the first in their family to go to college.

By EILENE ZIMMERMAN

Dennis Di Lorenzo’s parents never went to college. They were blue-collar people who believed in hard work but did not necessarily the hard work of higher education. “They didn’t see the value in it,” said Mr. Di Lorenzo, now dean of New York University’s School of Professional Studies. Neither of his siblings finished high school, opting to work instead.

Although Mr. Di Lorenzo was a high-achieving student who scored well on standardized tests, his parents didn’t consider college a necessary part of his future. “If not for my own motivation to go to college, I would not have been able to carve out a traditional experience for myself,” he said. “I walked into Fordham University as a freshman and didn’t even know what the word ‘philosophy’ meant. I didn’t know what it meant to be college-ready.”

He managed to finish school in four years. But he said it is supremely difficult for first-generation college students to do what he did. “I know that the school systems I came out of were better than the New York City public school system today,” he said. “I had greater opportunities and pathways of advancement.”

First-generation students most often come from low- to middle-income families, are disproportionately Hispanic and African-American and have little, if any, information about their higher education options. As a result, they often have misconceptions and anxiety about attending college.

College counselors can help these students deal with the complexity of the college preparation and application process. Yet few public high schools serving significant numbers of low-income and first-generation students have any counselors near enough counselors.

According to the 2012 State of College Admissions report from the National Association for College Admission Counseling, counselors at public high schools are, on average, each responsible for 426 students, and those counselors spend only 12 percent of their time on pre-college counseling.

Enter Aspire, a program Mr. Di Lorenzo created two years ago. It was influenced by a study of 20 public schools in New York City’s lower-income neighborhoods that found graduation rates suffering and a huge variance in college-readiness programs. Aspire aims to give students information about higher education, the application process and financial aid, and prepare them academically for the transition to college.

The free, two-year program serves 40 high school juniors, who attend a wedded program each summer at N.Y.U. There are also classes and workshops throughout the school year that offer leadership training, advanced math instruction, assistance with college essay preparation, and discussions about careers, scholarships and college resources. In addition, students are connected to a group of college student mentors.

Jesse Pella, a senior at Alfred E. Smith high school in the Bronx, was among the first cohort of students in Aspire. During his first wedded summer program, Mr. Pella stayed on the 23rd floor of a new N.Y.U. dormitory. It was the first time he had seen a college dorm, he had slept away from home or had a roommate. “The rooms were amazing, the view was amazing,” he said. “But that first night, I couldn’t sleep. It was such a new environment, and there was this stranger in my room. It was overwhelming.”

Mr. Pella still makes it to class the next day. The program, he said, had a profound effect on him, and one instructor in particular was crucial. “He told us, ‘You can’t fly with the eagles if you’re walking around with the turkeys,”’ Mr. Pella said. “That stuck with me after that, I started really paying attention.” This fall Mr. Pella will attend Lehman College in the Bronx.

About one-third of undergraduates in colleges in the United States are first-generation students, according to the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce and the United States Department of Education. Only 27 percent earn a college degree in four years, compared with 42 percent of students with parents who went to college, according to a report from the Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Without a college degree, children of lower-income parents are likely to be low-income adults, and their earning potential will only get worse over time. An analyst by the Georgetown center predicted that by 2020, 65 percent of all jobs in the United States would require postsecondary education and training.

Rutgers University offers one of the few programs for first-generation, low-income students that support them all the way through college. The Rutgers Future Scholars program also works harder than most: seventh grade. In May, 15 students from the program’s first group of 300 selected in 2008 graduated from college. Of that group, 103 enrolled in college after high school, and 80 percent have either graduated or remain enrolled in some form of higher education.

The Future Scholars program works with students from Newark, New Brunswick, Piscataway and Camden school districts in New Jersey who are considered “promising,” said Aramis Gutierrez, the program’s director. “We look for the ‘if only’ students, those who are on the cusp of doing remarkable things but need that additional support system in their life,” he said. Students are chosen based on academic performance and, just as important, involvement in their community and their school.

The students receive academic support and enrichment, and mentoring from Future Scholars who are now in college. They attend classes after school, on weekends and during the summer. No student is ever expelled from the program for poor grades or lack of attendance.

Some advice: “You can’t fly with the eagles if you’re walking around with the turkeys.”

“We wanted to do something different, especially for young people living in communities that don’t give second chances,” Mr. Gutierrez said. If a student doesn’t show up on Saturday or an after-school session, or their grades have dropped precipitously, the faculty tries to address the cause of the problem and get them back on track. Ninety-seven percent of students in the Future Scholars program graduate from high school.

More than half enroll at four-year institutions, the majority attending Rutgers, which offers them free tuition. About 20 percent head to community college. A significant number of undocumented students are also in the scholar program, their college tuition is supported by private donors.

First-generation students who graduate from high school but haven’t prepared for (or enrolled in) college can sit in an N.Y.U. bridge program known as Access, which prepares them for college by providing academic remediation, tutoring and help with career development and job search skills. Students also earn 34 college credits that will transfer to a four-year institution.

The Access program began in the fall of 2008 with eight students; half will be attending college this fall. Unlike Aspire, Access is set free, Mr. Di Lorenzo said, but costs $50,000 for the year. (All scholarships are available.)

Access, Aspire and Rutgers Future Scholars are among a relatively small number of programs nationwide that target low-income, first-generation students. Some others are part of the federal government’s TRIO programs, which offer services in different programs (like Upward Bound and Educational Opportunity Centers) that are open to disabled students.

While the programs may be beneficial to the students they can accommodate, they do not meet the demand nationwide. The total of all first-generation students in the nation’s schools today “is not a small number,” said Andrew Nichols, director of higher education research at the Education Trust, a nonprofit education advocacy organization in Washington. “And those programs are certainly not going to meet all their needs.”

The college preparation, application and admittance process can be intimidating for any student, Mr. Nichols said, “but when you’re the first one in your family to ever step foot on a college campus, it’s even tougher.”

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