

NEWSLETTER FOR TSUD FACULTY AND STAFF

April 2001

# Lt. Governor supports TSUD building campaign

TSUD recently received a generous, \$30,000 donation from Lt. Governor Steve Windom. Upon receiving the donation from Lt. Governor Windom, TSUD President Michael Malone applauded him for his friendship to the Wiregrass and for his continued leadership, "If we have a potential student who needs something from this institution, we will find a way to get it. The Lt. Governor's support will be instrumental in meeting these needs." The Lt. Governor recognized the impact the soon-to-be



Dr. Michael Malone, left, accepts donation to TSUD's Library/ Technology Building from Lt. Governor Steve Windom, right.

completed TSUD Library/Technology Building will have on Alabama, "I am proud that we were able to make this contribution. This new building will be a great asset, not just to the Wiregrass community but to the entire state."

# Seagle tapped for counselor position

Mr. Tony Whetstone, director of student and community services, announced that Mr. Keith Seagle has been chosen as the director of counseling and career services effective May 1, 2001. In his announcement, Mr. Whetstone cited Seagle's broad experience as a key reason for his selection, "Keith brings a wealth of experience and knowledge from past employment and from his position as counselor for TSUD's Student Support Services Program."

Seagle joined TSUD in 1997 as counselor for Student Support Services, where he has worked to better utilize technology, improve the efficiency of the program's key services, and to make the program's assessment process more "student friendly."



In his new position, Seagle will work directly with TSUD students on their academic progress as well as offer assistance in employment placement upon graduation. He will also be responsible for the coordination of TSUD's ADA compliance and workforce assistance programs. "I thrive on new challenges and enjoyed taking SSS to the next level. I look forward to the opportunity of doing the same in Counseling and Career Services," says Seagle.

Seagle, TSUD's 2000 Outstanding Alumnus, earned his M.S. in Counseling and Psychology in 1994 and is a Licensed Professional Counselor. Prior to coming to TSUD, he served as a counselor with SpectraCare in Dothan.

Seagle replaces Dr. Pamela Williamson who retired from the TSUD position in March 2001.

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#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### The New Face of Higher Education in Alabama

President Kennedy once wrote, "Only in winter can you tell which trees are green. Only when the winds of adversity blow can you tell whether an individual or a country has courage and stead-fastness." Contrast this statement with a remark I heard Dr. Paul Hubbert make during our recent "negotiations" concerning the prorated 2000-01 education budget: "What's wrong with you people (university presidents), this is not about principle, it's about money!"

The higher education community in Alabama now has a new face, a face created out of adversity. The new face is a strong one, a united one, one that speaks with one voice. Our voices still extol the importance of K-12 and higher education acting as close partners for the good of the state.

In the past, 'the senior universities had a history of making a loud noise at the beginning of a budget or policy fight, then falling back when attrition had run its course. The miscalculation Governor Siegelman and Paul Hubbert made during the Special Session, and as recently as last week, related to our historic "caving in" behavior. When adversity became too great and when sufficient money was tossed about to "buy off" some or all universities, we traditionally caved in.

So what brought about this newfound unity and steadfastness? I submit that there were two new variables operating this year. First, the Higher Education Partnership with Mr. Gordon Stone's leadership has given us a singular voice, always on the ready in Montgomery. The maturation of the HEP allowed us to have a logical and numerical point of contact to anticipate and react to issues and crises as they occurred. I further submit that the second reason for our newfound strength revolved around the leadership of our own Chancellor Hawkins.

As president of the Alabama Council of College and University Presidents, Dr. Hawkins has shown immense courage and civility during this tumultuous period since proration was announced in February. Dr. Hawkins, supported by the HEP and ACHE staff's, organized a diverse and highly ego-driven council of individual presidents into an informed, unified, and action-oriented team.

During the Special Session, the presidents had numerous strategy sessions with our lobbyists and legislative friends. At these sessions we would get the latest information on AEA's anticipated strategies and how these strategies would be played out through the Governor. For once (at least in my tenure) we were acting



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Publisher/Editor	FarrowBurks
Activities of the President	Cindy Halcomb
Courtesy Committee	Cindy Halcomb
Continuing Education	Ann Wells

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proactively, opposed to reactively. And more importantly once we agreed upon our strategy, i.e., equal treatment for all aspects of education during proration, we would pledge solidarity not to "cave in" once the adversity heated up. And heat up it did!

Threats, buy-offs, and misinformation campaigns intensified throughout the session (and still do!). Through Dr. Hawkins' and Mr. Stone's leadership, we stayed together during the Special Session. Thanks to the Republican leadership, especially in the Senate, higher education found its only allies. The only bill to pass in the Senate was a bill calling for 6.2% proration for all of education. Unfortunately, the House adjourned before the bill could move to the next level and unfortunately one of our Wiregrass senators voted against us! Also, an ill-conceived bond issue was offered to higher education, and for the right reasons this ill-conceived fix was rejected.

The new face of Alabama's higher education community was never more evident than in the past two weeks. A "negotiating" team made up of Finance Director, Dr. Henry Mabry, Dr. Hubbert, Dr. Ed Richardson, Democratic leadership in the House and Senate, Dr. Gainous, Postsecondary, and several of the university presidents were called together in the Governor's office. At our insistence, representatives from the Republican caucus were also present.

I use the term "negotiating" team carefully. Usually in negotiations, sides examine several options available to address a problem. One and only one option was presented to us. The option was take a \$90 million bond issue and 11.8% proration, then go home and tell your people you saved them!

Just like the Special Session "buy off" we said, NO. First, NO to a \$70 million bond issue, then NO to a \$90 million bond issue!

We all must be clear on what we rejected, not just once, but three times. First, the Governor is continuing to stand behind an Attorney General opinion that expands (our judgment) a 1995 statute implying that K-12 salaries cannot be prorated. On at least five occasions we restated our position to the Governor and AEA, i.e., 6.2% proration for everyone. The Governor continues to say his hands are tied by the AG opinion, thus he has no choice but call for differential proration (as he officially did April 20.) Proration for the time being is disproportionately distributed, 11.1% for higher education and 3.7% for K-12.

A bond issue of whatever magnitude still leaves us at 11.1% and K-12 at 3.7%. A bond issue of whatever magnitude cannot be used for operating expenses. A bond issue of whatever magnitude would not get to the campuses for at least six months, and possibly a year. A bond issue of whatever magnitude once accepted locks us in for future prorations at differential rates. And finally, a bond issue of whatever magnitude is just plain bad public and fiscal policy. It's like taking out a second mortgage to buy groceries!

We are presenting our case to the Alabama Supreme Court. To date they have stayed a Montgomery judge's order (twice) and hopefully the Court will rule against what we think is a poor interpretation of the 1995 salary Statute. Stay tuned.

Alabama's universities have a new face and the face has been molded from adversity. The face is tired and battle-scarred. But the face is proud and radiates strength and unity through partner-ships!

Michael E. Malone President

## **Activities of the President** March 2001

- Participated in many meetings in Montgomery with Council of College & University Presidents, the Governor, and State Legislators concerning educa tion budget;
- Participated in Higher Education Day Rally in Montgomery;
- Attended TSUD TRIO Day Celebration;
- Participated in Leadership Alabama "Economic Development" Program in Mobile;
- Participated in House of Ruth Board of Directors meeting:
- Attended Auburn University's Dothan Area Engineering Alumni and Friends reception in Dothan;
- Welcomed the Human Resource Forum at TSUD Continuing Education Center:
- Participated in State Articulation and General Studies Committee meeting in Montgomery;
- Participated in Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce Legislative Affairs Committee meeting;
- Participated in TSU System Executive Committee meetings in Troy;
- Guest speaker at Ozark Rotary Club lunch meeting;
- Participated in Alabama Humanities Foundation Development Committee meeting;
- Participated in several meetings in Troy regarding The TSU System MIS reorganization.

# Bass joins ExEL program



Ms. Nancy Ludlum, director of the ExEL Program, is pleased to announce the addition of a new counselor, Carolyn Bass. According to Ms. Bass, her primary role is one of support for students in the program. "We deal with any problems that they encounter while in the program--academic, personal, vocational, etc. It is our goal to have 100% of our students earn their degree

and become employed in a local school.'

Carolyn recently retired from Dothan City Schools where she served as counselor at Northview High School from 1980-2000 Prior to that she worked at Troy State University Dothan, Alabama Aviation and Technical College, Dauphin Jr. High School in Enterprise, and Pryor Jr. High School in Ft. Walton Beach, FL. She received her B.S. in Secondary Education from Troy State University, Troy. She completed her Master's and Sixth Year Program in School Counseling at Troy State University Dothan. Carolyn is married to Donald Bass, a local C.P.A. She has two children, Wade and Marsha, and one grandson, Dalton.

# CONTINUING EDUCATION

**TSUD** Continuing Education conducts ninth auctioneer school

TSUD Continuing Education conducted its ninth Auctioneer School on February 16-25. The Auctioneer School is approved in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi. During the ten days, students participated in classroom lectures, attended actual auctions, and conducted their own auction. Upon their graduation, they were qualified to sit for the state auctioneer's exam. The next school will be held July 27 - August 5, 2001.

Ms. Christine Evans, coordinator for personal development and recent graduate of the TSUD Auctioneer School, conducted her first charity auction on Thursday, April 5, 2001, at Dothan National Golf Course and Spa. The Second Annual Five Star Credit Union Ladies Golf Classic and Art Auction was held to raise money for the Wiregrass Area Food Bank. Seventeen teams of golfers played and Ms. Ann Varnum, WTVY, was hostess for the awards portion of the afternoon.

As part of the auction, over 60 "art" items were donated, including prints, paintings, lamps, jewelry, designer eye glasses and cases, sculptures, tapestry, and crystal. The auction raised \$1,375, surpassing last year's proceeds of \$780.00. The entire weekend raised almost \$9,000. Continuing Education sponsors unique learning experience for retirees

TSUD Academy for Lifelong learning is a membership program for learning in retirement. It is composed of people who participate in active study groups and other learning opportunities on an organized basis. There is no formal requirement other than an interest in continued learning. Meetings are at 1:30 PM on the 1st Thursday of each month at Northside Mall. Membership dues are \$25.00 per year.

#### University mace to be carried in commencement ceremony

The upcoming

Spring Commencement will include a ceremonial addition. Dr. Larry Brown, grand marshal, will carry the University mace as part of the graduation processional.

Once a familiar weapon in medieval combat, the mace evolved over time into a symbol of rulership and became

associated with the pride of a nation and its origins. Later, the mace was adopted by universities as a symbol of the power of the academic quest for truth

and wisdom. The mace that will lead the procession represents the flame of knowledge, the global influence of The TSU System, and the vitality of TSUD's mission to adult learners. The mace is fashioned from

ash wood and was designed by Troy artist Ruth Walker.

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#### FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

Ms. Farrow Burks and Mr. Bob Willis attended the first annual Alabama Public Affairs Forum on April 9, 2001. The event was hosted by Auburn University at Montgomery and focused on two key policy areas: health care and higher education.

Mr. Bill Lipscomb judged dramatic interpretation category for the Georgia Southwest Regional High School Literary Competition held at Early County High School in Blakely, GA, on March 10, 2001. The winner of the competition was an ECHS student who went on to place 2nd in the state competition. The ECHS team placed first overall in the state literary competition for 2-A schools.

Dr. Dorinda Van Loo attended the conference of annual Association for Death Education and Counseling in Toronto, Canada, and convened a session. The conference lasted from March 28 -April 1, 2001.

#### **Consent Decree Monitoring** Committee (CDMC)

The Consent Decree Monitoring Committee (CDMC) met in Montgomery on April 25, 2001. This TSU System committee meets at least twice a year and is chaired by Dr. Cameron Martindale, president of TSUM. Members of the committee from TSUD are Dr. Barbara Alford, Ms. Janet McQueen, and Mr. Bob Willis. The Committee is charged with the 1991/1995 Federal Consent and Remedial Decrees. The committee prepares an annual court report and seeks ways to increase minority faculty and staff. Since the 1991 Court Order, The TSU System has increased the number of African American full-time faculty and staff by 160% and adjunct faculty by 200%. If you would like more information about this committee, contact Janet McQueen at extension 208 or e-mail jmcqueen@tsud.edu.



#### **COURTESY COMMITTEE REPORT**

#### March 2001

THANKS to all who contributed to our Courtesy Fund Drive - as of 4/22/01 \$451.00 was received. If you have not contributed, please remember that donations are accepted at any time. Cindy Halcomb, Chair TSUD Courtesy Committee

#### **GET WELL CARD & PLANT:** Ms. Viola Powell

**SYMPATHY CARD:** 

Mrs. Mary Davis on the death of her father, Henry Rudolph Wells

#### **RETIREMENT GIFT & CARD:** Dr. Pamela Williamson

#### THANK YOU NOTES RECEIVED:

Courtesy Committee,

Our family has received notification of your contribution to the Baptist College of Florida scholarship fund for our mother, Dixie Spivey. This is a fund that she established in our father's memory and has been expanded to include mother. This is a gift which will continue to give! Thanks again. Dixie Merle Spivey Family

TSUD Courtesy Committee,

Many thanks for your thoughtfulness. Bob and I will enjoy using the lovely crystal bowl you presented to me at my recent retirement reception. always remember my time at TSUD as "one of the happiest times of my life." Sincerely, Dr. Pamela Williamson

Dear Friends,

Thank you for extending your gift for the children and youth here in memory of Wylie Driskell. This ministry began in the hearts of Florida Methodists many years ago and has since been a blessing for many. Your thoughtful expression serves as a fitting remembrance and an appropriate investment in young lives.

Gratefully yours, Alexander C. Carmichel, IV, Florida United Methodist Children's Home

#### **BIRTHDAYS FOR** MAY

- 3 Joseph Fielding
- Demetria Boone
- 11 Lynda Salisbury
- Sandra Lee Jones 21
- 27 Michael Malone
- 29 Kenny Fondren
- 30 Michael Higgins



#### **BIRTHDAYS FOR** JUNE

- 1 Ramamohana Guttikonda
- Cynthia Lumpkin
- 3 Janet McQueen
- Ronnie Childree
- Stacey Mixon
- 6 Fred Feagin
- Rodney Beaver
- 9 Mary Noble
- 11 Taylor Barbaree
- 12 Adair Gilbert
- 13 Linda Young
- 15 Robert Saunders
- 24 Farrow Burks
- 26 Kirk Davis

"In order to be successful in any kind of undertaking, I think the main thing is for one to grow to the point where he completely forgets himself; that is, to lose himself in a great cause."

Booker T. Washington