



ALUMNI HONORED

Ms. Pamela Cook '14 and Ms. Casi Ferguson '12 have been named among This is Alabama's 2020 "Women Who Shape the State." This is Alabama described the women selected for this prestigious honor as fearless, strong, determined, and intelligent. Ms. Cook serves as director of multicultural marketing and community affairs for Coca-Cola Bottling Company UNITED. Ms. Ferguson is the UNCF area director for Birmingham, AL.



Debt-Free Scholar

Headlines are often filled with stories about college graduates who cannot afford to repay their student loans. Business administration major Shakayah Midgette was determined never to be in that situation.

"My mother came to the U.S. from Haiti to attend college. That's how she met my father," said Shakayah. "She is one of the only members of my family who graduated from college."

Shakayah hoped to build on his mother's legacy by earning a college degree, but the cost was beyond anything his family could afford. He feared that loans might be his only option.

Fortunately, Talladega College gave him an academic scholarship that covered most of his expenses. To avoid acquiring loans to fill the gap between what he received and what he needed to finance his education, Shakayah sought and found a UNCF scholarship.

He will graduate debt free this spring.

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GCAC Champions

Talladega College claimed the 2020-2021 Gulf Coast Athletic Conference (GCAC) Men's Basketball Regular Season Championship after defeating Dillard University 80 to 72 in the final conference game of the regular season. The Tornadoes have earned national tournament bids six of the past seven years. They are now 20-2 overall and 6-0 in the GCAC.

"I'm extremely proud of our players and coaching staff. They have battled a tremendous amount of adversity and to win the conference undefeated is an incredible accomplishment. Talladega College is about excellence and this team represents our institution very well," said Head Men's Basketball Coach Chris Wright.

TALLADEGA COLLEGE

COVID-19

Origin and Current Management
VIRTUAL OPENING/
Black History Month Convocation



SPEAKER: WILLIAM L. CODY, M.D.
February 9, 2021 • 11 a.m.
[JOIN THE MEETING](#)

Children Interview Dr. Hawkins



Tuskegee Public School students kicked off Black History Month with a virtual interview with Talladega College President Dr. Billy C. Hawkins. The event was hosted by Tuskegee Public School Green Screen

Coordinator Ferris Moore, who stated, “When I saw Dr. Hawkins on TV, I thought, ‘I have to do something to let the kids know what this man has done in his lifetime.’”

Student reporters asked Dr. Hawkins about the challenges of being a college president; the factors that shaped his destiny; famous Talladegans; the Amistad Murals; new buildings on campus; and more. Dr. Hawkins inspired the students to dream big, work hard, and be excellent.

DR. HAWKINS COMPLETES COVID-19 VACCINATION

Talladega College President Dr. Billy C. Hawkins recently received his second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.



Studies indicate that African Americans are more likely to die of COVID-19 and may be less willing to receive the new vaccine. By being vaccinated early, Dr. Hawkins hopes to help change these troubling statistics.

“Thus far, social distancing, masks, and frequent hand washing have been our greatest defense against this deadly virus. While these three measures remain critical, it is important that people also protect themselves by being vaccinated,” said Dr. Hawkins, who was selected for early vaccination due to an underlying health condition. “By being inoculated against COVID-19, I am guarding my health, protecting others, and helping to promote the importance of being vaccinated.”

After hospitals and clinics have administered the vaccine to individuals in Phase 1a — health care workers and long-term care staff and residents — there are often extra doses remaining that must be used quickly. To support the nationwide immunization effort, these extra doses are made available to individuals outside the Phase 1a category.

Dr. Hawkins received the call to be vaccinated after filling out an inoculation interest form on Main Street Family Care’s website. He believes that he was selected due to preexisting conditions.

While criteria for receiving the vaccination may vary from community to community, Dr. Hawkins hopes that news of his vaccination will encourage others to either take advantage of opportunities they may have to be inoculated early or commit to being inoculated once the vaccine is readily available to all.

[Give Today!](#)

Applications for the annual Pay it Forward Internship program with Coca-Cola UNITED are due by April 30, 2021. Two students from Talladega will spend a week with Coca-Cola, gain valuable career experience, and receive \$1,000. For more information, visit CocaColaUnited.com/Pay-it-Forward or contact msood@talladega.edu.



Pay it FORWARD

Tell Us Your Story for a Chance **TO WIN \$1,000** AND AN INTERNSHIP AT **COCA-COLA UNITED**

FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT: CocaColaUnited.com/Pay-it-Forward

Entries accepted February 1, 2021 - April 30, 2021

DR. COLEMAN'S URBAN TURTLE

“Urban Turtle Project: Using Citizen Science to Document Freshwater Turtle Communities and Populations in Birmingham, Alabama, with Focus on Alabama Map Turtles (*Graptemys pulchra*),” an article by Assistant Professor of Biology Dr. Andrew Coleman, was published in the December 2020 issue of *Chelonian Conservation and Biology*. Dr. Coleman’s research was also featured in Southern Exposure Film Fellowship’s film on the turtles of Alabama, [From the Mountains to the Ocean: Turtles of Alabama](#).

“The work I do with the Urban Turtle Project is to better understand the tremendous turtle diversity we have in Alabama, including in our urban waterways, despite the myriad of threats these species face. Another critical aspect of the project is to involve citizen scientists to help spread the message of biodiversity conservation throughout the general public,” said Dr. Coleman, who was elected co-chair of Alabama Partners for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation.



Dr. Walker Promotes Public Administration

Education majors learn how to teach. Business majors learn how to run businesses. But what do public administration majors do?



“We are the problem solvers. We keep our fingers on the pulse of what’s happening today,” states Public Administration Chair Dr. Angela Walker, whose classes are punctuated with lively debates about the issues of our time.

How does the electoral process work? How did the COVID-19 crisis get to this point? Who was Breonna Taylor? The questions addressed in public administration classes are sometimes controversial, but the only wrong answers are answers that are not supported by research, evidence, or reason.

Dr. Walker notes that a public administration degree prepares students for a vast array of jobs, including executive level positions in federal, state, and local

government. Therefore, she believes it is important to increase awareness of this rewarding field of study.

“Students may miss out on great career opportunities because they default to the familiar,” said Dr. Walker, who encourages undeclared students to learn more about the public administration major.

Dr. Walker earned a Master’s in Public Administration from Jacksonville State University (JSU) and a doctoral degree in Higher Education Administration from The University of Alabama. The former JSU Homecoming Queen is faculty representative to the Talladega College Board of Trustees and the author of [There is Lyfe After Death: Moving Forward After a Miscarriage](#).

For more information about the public administration major, please contact Dr. Walker at awalker@talladega.edu.



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HANK AARON

(February 5, 1934 – January 22, 2021)

While Hank Aaron will be remembered for his extraordinary baseball skills, his contributions to higher education were also legendary.

“Hank Aaron was not only a sports legend, but a devoted philanthropist and an advocate for higher education. His generosity made it possible for thousands of students to enroll in college and graduate. Here at Talladega College, he and his wife, Billye, established a \$500,000 endowed scholarship that has had a tremendous impact,” said Talladega College President Dr. Hawkins.

“Hank was a personal friend of mine and he was very receptive when I approached him about helping Talladega College students. I am so grateful for the support that he and Mrs. Aaron have provided for our students and for students throughout the nation.”

Hank and Billye Aaron were both conferred with honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees from Talladega College in 2013, when they presented the college with a \$104,000 check (pictured below).

“I first met Hank when I served as president at Texas College, his wife’s alma mater. I was immediately inspired by their profound generosity and the impact they were having on the lives of students. While the world will definitely remember him for his amazing athletic skills, thousands of college students will remember Hank Aaron for his remarkable generosity,” Dr. Hawkins added.

“On behalf of the Talladega College family, I extend my sincere condolences to Mrs. Aaron and the entire Aaron family.”



Former Talladega College Board Chairman Dr. Harry Coaxum, Talladega College President Dr. Billy C. Hawkins, Billye Aaron, and Henry “Hank” Aaron in 2013.



U.S. Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock (D-GA) has named Attorney Meredith Y. Lilly to his senior leadership team. The dynamic Talladega College graduate most recently served as senior advisor to the Warnock for Georgia campaign and, prior to that, she served as the director of external affairs for DeKalb County, Georgia.

She distinguished herself in 2007 as regional political director of the Obama for America Campaign by leading and mobilizing campaign employees and volunteers in states won by President Obama in the 2008 presidential election.

Multitalented Attorney Lilly is also the co-owner of AdaChic Designs, a socially conscious handbag company located in Lagos, Nigeria.

A study by Talladega College’s Dean of the Division of Business Administration, Dr. Jonathan U. Elimimian, and Tracey E. Elimimian, a graduate of Talladega’s Master of Science in Computer Information Systems program, has been accepted for publication in *Management and Economics Research Journal*.

The father-daughter research team titled their paper “Analysis of Cybersecurity Functions: Issues of Integrity, Targeting Wal-Mart as a Global Supply Chains Organization.”

While numerous journal articles have explored global supply chains over the last three decades, this is among the first to review the foundational frameworks and content of Wal-Mart’s global supply organization.

An exhibition of works by Susan Robertson, an art instructor in Talladega College’s Department of Humanities and Fine Arts, is on display in the Goodnow Fine Arts Center through February 21, 2021.

Robertson’s work explores the historical as well as contemporary cultural expectations assigned to the female body and consciousness.

Her prints are montages of images sourced from art history and contemporary open-source digital photography.

The exhibition features 10 large-scale prints and a screen-based motion graphic. The exhibit may also be viewed online at goodnow.gallery.

Gallery guests must wear masks.

**Submit story suggestions to:
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