

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



October 15, 2010 - November 15, 2010



TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News

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TCC trustees will soon name a new president

By Angeline J. Taylor
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Tallahassee Community College trustees have a difficult decision to make Monday.

The seven board members will choose TCC's new president from one of the five candidates vying for the top spot.

The candidates are: Randall Hanna, chairman, Bryant Miller & Olive Attorneys-at-Law; Jeanne Jacobs, president, Homestead Campus, Miami Dade College; Thomas Keegan, president, Peninsula College in Port Angeles, Wash.; Jim Murdaugh, assistant vice president, Tallahassee Community College; and Patricia Rowell, western campus president, Cuyahoga Community College in Ohio.

Hanna and Murdaugh are the two local candidates.

Local attorney Hanna in the hunt for TCC top job

By Angeline J. Taylor
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Local attorney Randy Hanna can't deny the deep sense of accomplishment he feels when he and his team scale mountains. The mountain climber and marathon runner said there's no better feeling than to know your practice has helped achieve something that feels larger than life.

But Hanna, 52, also can't deny that there's a more compelling feeling of success that awaits him in his quest to be president of Tallahassee Community College. If selected Monday as president of TCC by trustees, he believes his triumph would come in working hand-in-hand with administrators and faculty at TCC.

Hanna is one of two local candidates vying for the presidency of the college. There are three others finalists who have been interviewed throughout late September and early October. The other candidates are: Jeanne Jacobs, president, Homestead Campus, Miami Dade College; Thomas Keegan, president, Peninsula College in Port Angeles, Wash.; and Patricia Rowell, western campus president, Cuyahoga Community College in Ohio.

But Hanna, chairman of the law firm Bryant, Miller & Olive, hopes his vast experience as a college trustee for TCC and FAMU as well as board member with the Florida State Board of Community Colleges will earn him the presidency.

"Through my work in the community college system and in this community, I have seen the difference that TCC makes in the lives of students," Hanna said. "There is no position that I can think of that is more rewarding where you can impact the lives of more people."

The search committee was more impressed with Hanna's resume than any other candidate. He received more votes to be a finalist than any other candidate.

Florida A&M University's Henry Lewis III said, "Although he is an attorney, his commitment to education is unsurpassed. I think Randy is a great leader and will be an exceptional next president for TCC."

As an attorney, Hanna has been recognized as one of Florida's "Legal Elite" by Florida Trend magazine. Hanna's law firm, however, recently was sued by the city of South Miami. Hanna said he is not able to comment about the case.

Hanna said, "Every organization is open to litigation — universities, community colleges, businesses and law firms. In this litigious society, it comes with the territory. The question is how you deal with it.

"People who know Bryant, Miller & Olive know that we are regarded at the highest level in our profession."

Murdaugh hopes to climb ladder at TCC to top rung

By Angeline J. Taylor
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Jim Murdaugh revels in the unabashed look of glee on his 13-year-old son's face when they ride roller coasters. It's a pastime he enjoys away from his job as a top administrator at [Tallahassee Community College](#).

Murdaugh, 58, recently applied for a job that could lead him away from being one of TCC's assistant vice presidents. He and four others are vying to be president of TCC. Murdaugh is one of two local candidates vying for the job.

"When Bill Law left, I felt that as an internal candidate I'm better suited to continue the momentum that we have rather than to allow somebody from the outside to generally come in with new ideas and a different approach and a fair amount of change," Murdaugh said.

Murdaugh has been at TCC for 11 years. It's clear his passion rests with "transforming the college into a dynamic engine of opportunity and prosperity." That's the message he sent to the search committee and trustees in his application.

It's Murdaugh's leadership at TCC's Florida Public Safety Institute that stands out, according to Bill Bierbaum, coordinator of the program's law enforcement programs.

"He is an outstanding leader with his personnel and to the recruits out here," Bierbaum said.

Former TCC President Bill Law said, "I'm not surprised Jim's name is in the list of finalists. Jim was a valuable part of my team. He is a strong and gifted administrator."

Before coming to TCC in 1999, Murdaugh worked with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. He also served as a bureau chief with the Florida Attorney General's Crime Prevention Program and was a U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel.

Murdaugh said he is most proud of TCC's dual enrollment program with the Gadsden County School Board, which enables students to get the training to work in law enforcement. He said one of his greatest achievements came when Gadsden Superintendent Reginald James described the impact Murdaugh's program had on one young woman.

"He said we moved her into the middle class overnight. I don't know of anything that has made more proud. It was a very emotional thing for me," Murdaugh said.

But there have also been disappointing moments. He said he always hates to dismiss a student who's failed academically.

"It never feels good when I have to let a student go," he said.

Manufacturing incentives encourage growth

By Beth Kirkland

GUEST COLUMNIST

Having a well-defined target audience is important for any business or organization, and the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County is no exception. Although in our case, we have six. While we seek out and follow up with all opportunities to enhance local business and attract innovative companies to our area, there are a half-dozen specific industry sectors that match up particularly well with our community goals and resources.

These sectors are Health Sciences & Human Performance Enhancement, Information Technology, Renewable Energy and the Environment, Aviation and Aerospace, Transportation & Logistics, and Engineering & Research (which includes manufacturing).

Over the years, the EDC has been leading the charge in developing opportunities associated with these sectors by creating industry roundtables for each area and aligning our efforts with state and national advocacy groups for information and sector-dependent resources. Several roundtables have either evolved into an independent organization or become a chapter of a larger group.

Such is the case with the Capital Region Manufacturers Roundtable, a member of the Manufacturers Association of Florida, an advocacy organization that serves to improve the business climate for manufacturers in the state.

MAF Executive Director Nancy Stephens addressed the Capital Region Manufacturers Roundtable earlier this month and reminded attendees that manufacturers of all sizes will play a significant role in getting us through the remnants of the recession.

"The public is depending on manufacturers to pull us out of this down economy," she told the gathering at the Advanced Manufacturing Training Center at [Tallahassee Community College](#).

To help make that happen, Capital Region Manufacturers and MAF supported the passage of a new incentive program that encourages capital investment and job creation in manufacturing (as well as spaceport activities) in Florida.

The program, which was passed in this year's legislative session, provides a tax refund of up to \$50,000 on the state sales and use tax paid for eligible equipment purchases. Applications are being accepted through June 30, 2012, so there is plenty of time for manufacturing companies already in our community, as well as those considering a move here, to take advantage of the tax break.

Of course, there are restrictions, but simply put, if a company manufactures, processes, compounds or produces items for sale that are of tangible personal property and the purchase cost exceeds the business' total expenditures on eligible equipment purchased and placed into service in this state during the 2008 tax year, then they are eligible for the refund.

Incentives like this are great, but are too often underutilized. Every year, the EDC helps area businesses take advantage of thousands of dollars in tax refunds and credits, training grants and Enterprise Zone incentives. But there is more out there.

This is no time to leave money on the table. Call us and let our staff research the possibilities for you. You may be pleasantly surprised.

TCC candidate for president withdraws from process two days before trustees vote

By Angeline J. Taylor
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

[Tallahassee Community College](#) trustees were expecting to meet Monday to select a new president for the institution from a list of five finalists.

Trustees will still be meeting Monday at 2:30 p.m. at the college's Hinson Administration Building. But they no longer have five applicants vying for the presidency of TCC.

Applicant Thomas Keegan, president of Peninsula College in Port Angeles, Wash., withdrew his name Saturday after going through the two-day interview process.

"His e-mail said he appreciated the opportunity. He appreciated the warm hospitality. But it was time he withdrew his name," Karen Moore, chairwoman of the presidential search committee said.

Trustees will now vote on finalists: Attorney Randy Hanna, chairman of Bryant, Miller & Olive; Jim Murdaugh, assistant vice president at [Tallahassee Community College](#); Jeanne Jacobs, president, Homestead Campus of Miami Dade College; and Patricia Rowell, western campus president of Cuyahoga Community College in Ohio.

FSVIEW - October 17, 2010

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Update: Murdaugh has been selected TCC president

By Angeline J. Taylor

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

3:18 p.m.

Jim Murdaugh has been selected by TCC trustees as the new president of the two-year college.

Murdaugh received the selection to be president by a 4-3 vote. Then trustees agreed to take another vote making the last a unanimous decision.

Return to Tallahassee.com for more details.

2:55 p.m. update

[Tallahassee Community College](#) trustees have voted and narrowed down their decision to two candidates -- Randy Hanna and Jim Murdaugh.

They are now holding discussion. Each trustee is sharing who they believe should be the president.

Trustee Frank Messersmith believes Jim Murdaugh should be the new president.

Karen Moore said she believes Randy Hanna should be the new president.

Other trustees are sharing who has their vote.

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2:42 p.m. update

Scores of people have shown up to find out who the next president of [Tallahassee Community College](#) will be. There are only a handful of seats left in the board meeting room at TCC's Hinson Administration building.

Trustees are waiting on one of their fellow board members -- who is running a little late for the meeting. Trustees have planned to vote on their top candidates until a winner is selected.

None of the local candidates vying for the presidency appear to be in the meeting room.

Return to Tallahassee.com for more details.

[Tallahassee Community College](#) trustees have waited nearly six months for today, when they will select the institution's eighth president.

What the seven trustees didn't expect was one of the most qualified finalists bowing out. Thomas Keegan, president of Peninsula College in Port Angeles, Wash., e-mailed trustees Saturday.

"As I mentioned at the board interview, I appreciate the

hospitality extended by the campus community," Keegan said in an e-mail sent to search consultant Jeff Hockaday and TCC's Human Resources Director Renae Tolson.

He thanked the search coordinator and TCC's interim president Barbara Sloan for being "wonderful hosts." He offered no reason for withdrawing.

Trustee Karen Moore, the presidential search committee chairwoman, said the trustees will make a decision based on the four remaining candidates. Those finalists are: Attorney Randy Hanna, chairman of Bryant, Miller & Olive; Jim Murdaugh, assistant vice president at [Tallahassee Community College](#); Jeanne Jacobs, president Homestead Campus of Miami Dade College; and Patricia Rowell, western campus president of Cuyahoga Community College in Ohio.

"We have four outstanding candidates," Moore said. "We wish the very best to President Keegan. We are moving forward exactly as planned."

Trustees will vote for the top two or three, Moore said. Then, they will have a discussion and another round of voting. Today's meeting starts at 2:30 p.m. at TCC's Hinson Administration Building.

Keegan, however, was a top contender for the job.

He also went head-to-head against former TCC President Bill Law in vying for the St. Petersburg College presidency. Law started his new job leading that college in June.

Fifty-nine people originally applied for the job as TCC president. The search committee narrowed down the list to 10 and then to five before Keegan's withdrawal.

Moore believes the process in getting to this point has been great. She said trustees have "gotten some of the best candidates in the nation."

Moore said the group will review the strengths of the candidates and align that with whom trustees would like to see in the top spot at president.

"Ultimately, all of us want who is going to be the best candidate for the next five-10 years," Moore said.

Former TCC President Bill Law agrees. He was also pleased with how well the search went.

He said, "I'm most proud they ended up with 15 sitting presidents vying for that position," Law said.

TCC trustees to vote on new president today

By Angeline J. Taylor
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

[Tallahassee Community College](#) trustees have a hard decision to make during their 2:30 p.m. meeting today at the institution's Hinson Administration Building.

The seven-member board will vote on who the eighth president of TCC will be after a six-month search process. There are four remaining finalists vying for president. .

The finalists are: attorney Randy Hanna, chairman of Bryant, Miller & Olive; Jim Murdaugh, assistant vice president at [Tallahassee Community College](#); Jeanne Jacobs, president of Homestead campus of Miami Dade College; and Patricia Rowell, western campus president of Cuyahoga Community College in Ohio.

Trustee Karen Moore, chairwoman of the presidential search committee believes the process has been great. She said trustees have "gotten some of the best candidates in the nation." Today, trustees will vote for the top two or three candidates. Then they will have a discussion and another round of voting until the new president is named.

Moore said, "Ultimately, all of us want who is going to be the best candidate for the next five-10 years."

[UPDATE] TCC Names New President

Jim Murdaugh is the new president of Tallahassee Community College. Watch Eyewitness News for more information.

Stephanie Salvatore

STEPHANIE.SALVATORE@WCTV.TV

Although he's not a new face to [Tallahassee Community College](#), Jim Murdaugh is stepping into a position that is very new to him. Chosen as the 8th president of the school, he beat out dozens of candidates from across the nation and various backgrounds.

After Thomas Keegan withdrew his name, the field was narrowed down to the top two, both from our area. Members spoke to the room about which candidate they felt would be best for the job, but made clear that either candidate was a winning choice.

"I think all of us knew he was a very strong candidate. He's done such wonderful work at this college that it was only a matter of whether or not he can take it to the next level and if he could convince the community and the trustees that he could do that because what he's done so far has been flawless," says interim president Barbara Sloan.

"We had two great candidates, two great candidates, it could have gone either way, and I'm pleased that we - the job is done and I know that Jim would do a very good job," says board chair Eugene Lamb.

Murdaugh says he was humbled when he first received the phone call offering him the position and says he is ready to get down to business.

"They are very big shoes to fill. I worked for two presidents, Dr. Wetherell and Dr. Law, both of them were outstanding presidents and I believe it's my obligation to pick the ball up and move it forward and I'm up for the task."

The board hopes to have Murdaugh contracted as soon as possible and in his office and ready go by January.

*** UPDATE 10-18-2010 5:45 PM ***

Tallahassee, FL (TCC Press Release) - [Tallahassee Community College's](#) District Board of Trustees, on Monday, selected Dr. Jim Murdaugh to be the College's eighth president.

In assuming the presidency, assistant vice president Murdaugh will leave his position at the College's Gadsden County-based Florida Public Safety Institute/Pat Thomas

Law Enforcement Academy, a post he has held since 1999.

Murdaugh has also served as the College's point person in Gadsden County for grants, programs and services and assists the Gadsden County Schools, governmental entities, civic groups and others on behalf of TCC.

Prior to his hiring at TCC in 1999, Murdaugh spent 12 years (1988-99) at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. During that time, he served in a number of increasingly responsible leadership roles culminating as a member of the agency's Executive Council as Administrator of the Office of Human Resources.

From 1984-88, he worked in the Florida Attorney General's Office, where he served as Bureau Chief of the statewide Help Stop Crime! Program.

Murdaugh's distinguished career in law enforcement also includes stints with the Fort Walton Beach Police Department (1983-84), the Leon County Sheriff's Office (1977-83) and the Florida Bureau of Criminal Justice Planning and Assistance (1976-77).

Murdaugh also served a total of 30 years in the United States Air Force Reserve (1974-2004), retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. His service included active duty for both Gulf Wars and, in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, he was called to extended active duty, serving as Commander of the 96th Security Forces Squadron and Chief of Security Forces at Eglin Air Force Base.

Murdaugh received three degrees from Florida State University - a bachelor of science and master's of science in criminology and a Ph.D. in public administration.

Murdaugh, who is slated to begin his presidency on January 1, 2011, will take over for Dr. Barbara Sloan, who has served as president since May 1. Sloan replaced Dr. Bill Law, now the president at St. Petersburg College.

Updated 10/18 3:26pm:

Jim Murdaugh is the new president of [Tallahassee Community College](#). Watch Eyewitness News for more information.

[UPDATE] TCC Names New President....

continued

TCC's search for a new president is winding down as the first of five finalists comes in for an interview.

The candidates will be meeting with faculty and students over the course of two days on the main campus, and also visiting the different campuses in Gadsden and Wakulla counties.

Interim president Barbara Sloan says while they're interviewing the candidates, the candidates are also interviewing them.

"We know we have 5 people who are very well qualified so now what we want to do is make sure that we have the person who has the right vision and the right approach for our college. The best way to find that out is to expose them to as much of the campus as we can and to give as much of the campus community as possible a chance to visit with them," says Sloan.

The board of trustees will meet and make their decision on the new president on October 18. For a list of the rest of the schedule, click on the link below.

Update: Murdaugh has been selected TCC president

By Angeline J. Taylor
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

10:56 p.m. Update

Numerous handshakes, bear hugs and words of congratulations met Tallahassee Community College administrator Jim Murdaugh as he walked into a room in the institution's administration building.

Murdaugh, 58, smiled at scores of faculty, fellow administrators and trustees while thanking them. He had come into the building shortly after being selected as TCC's eighth president by a trustee vote of 4-3. He has already accepted the job.

"It's exciting and very humbling to serve our college," Murdaugh said after the vote was taken. "I was hopeful my message would resonate with trustees."

It took trustees about 40 minutes to select Murdaugh Monday. They completed three overall votes, two on paper. The first vote eliminated finalists Jeanne Jacobs, president of Miami Dade College's Homestead campus and Patricia Rowell, western campus president of Cuyahoga Community College in Ohio.

That left two finalists – Murdaugh and local attorney Randy Hanna of Bryant, Miller & Olive. Murdaugh earned the presidency by one vote. Then, once it was clear Murdaugh was the frontrunner, the seven trustees held up their hands in show of a unanimous vote supporting Murdaugh.

"We picked a great person," trustee chairman Eugene Lamb said. "We had great candidates."

The board's decision on the eighth president of TCC comes nearly six months after their search started. A national search was held. A search consultant, Jeff Hockaday was hired. And a team of community members was chosen to narrow the list of 59 applications to 10 and then to five. Finalist Thomas Keegan, president of Peninsula College in Washington bowed out Saturday.

Russell Doster, former TCC trustee who was on the board that selected former TCC President Bill Law, said, "It was a very professional search. TCC's the ultimate winner."

Trustees said they heard from several people throughout the community before they made their decision between Murdaugh and Hanna. Lamb said he heard from FAMU President James Ammons over the weekend. Trustee and search committee chairwoman Karen Moore also heard from Ammons, the CEO of Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and others.

Trustees Frank Messersmith, J. Allison DeFoor II, Kimberle Moon and Bill Hebrock voted for Murdaugh. Lamb, Moore and trustee Dana Callen voted for Hanna. Each trustee who voted for Murdaugh shared why they were voting for the man who has overseen TCC's Florida Public Safety Institute.



Messersmith said, "Dr. Murdaugh has shown us ... how to get things done in Gadsden County. He's ready. He's prepared. I'd recommend him for the president of TCC."

Moore said, "We have been overwhelmed with (people) telling us what their thoughts are. What I found on reading all of these is that there's a clear choice. This community ... believes Randy Hanna is the choice."

Hebrock said Law and former TCC and Florida State University President T.K. Wetherell recommended Murdaugh. Murdaugh, who has worked at TCC for 11 years, worked with both Law and Wetherell.

In his application to trustees, Murdaugh said, "I welcome the opportunity to serve the college and the community as we build upon the successes of previous presidents, taking TCC to its next level of excellence."

Prior to coming to TCC, Murdaugh worked with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Florida's Attorney General's Office, Fort Walton Beach Police Department and the Leon County Sheriff's Office.

Lamb will be finalizing the negotiation process with Murdaugh before the next trustee meeting in November.

3:18 p.m.

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continued

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Former TCC President Bill Law agrees. He was also pleased with how well the search went.

He said, "I'm most proud they ended up with 15 sitting presidents vying for that position," Law said.

TCC selects new president

There's a new leader at one local community college. [Tallahassee Community College](#) welcomed a new president. In a 4 to 3 vote Jim Murdoe was selected as the school's new leader. Murdoe is currently the vice president of the college and plans to take his new reign as president by early next year. The school has been awaiting this decision for nearly six months.

Connecticut Business News Journal - October 19, 2010

Church Hill Classics Launches the "Frame My Future" Scholarship Contest 2011

Monroe, CT – October 19, 2010 - Church Hill Classics, a leading manufacturer and online retailer in the college and university diploma frame industry, launched their "Frame My Future" Scholarship Contest 2011 on October 7, 2010. For the third year in a row, the company is giving back to students interested in pursuing their dreams of a college education by presenting \$6,000 in scholarship awards.

The "Frame My Future" Scholarship Contest 2011 is open to legal US residents attending a U.S. college or university full-time for the 2011-2012 academic year. Students can win one of five \$1,000 scholarships, and one of these winners will also receive a \$1,000 donation to their university/college's scholarship endowment fund.

To enter, the main requirement is creativity, and to communicate: This is how I "Frame My Future." Entries must be an original "creation" within one digital image that expresses what they hope to achieve in their personal and professional life after college. The entries can be a photograph, collage, poem, drawing, painting, graphic design piece, short typed explanation, or any original creation submitted as an online image.

Church Hill Classics will select 24 Finalists and post them on their [diplomaframe.com](#) website for public voting from April 5 – May 5, 2011. The top five most popular entries determine the five Scholarship Winners who each receive a \$1,000 scholarship. The top-voted, Grand Prize Winner, also earns the bonus donation for their 2011-2012 attended school. All 24 Finalists receive a special custom made Frame My Future frame featuring their entry.

Previous years' scholarship winners were students attending Blinn College, Cornell University, Flagler College, Mercer University, Olivet Nazarene University, Saginaw Valley State University, Saint Norbert College, [Tallahassee Community College](#), Villanova University, and Wellesley College.

PC president won't take Florida job

(Port Angeles) -- Peninsula College's president will not be heading to Florida.

Tom Keegan told officials at [Tallahassee Community College](#) he didn't want the job for which he was a finalist. The college ended up giving the job to another finalist already on the college's staff.

It's the second time in a year Keegan has applied for a job in Florida. He was the runner-up for the presidency at St. Petersburg College earlier this year.

Keegan has been president at Peninsula College since 2001.

Tallahassee Democrat - October 20, 2010

Natural transition

New TCC president understands challenges ahead

The decision by [Tallahassee Community College](#) trustees to select a person who has been a part of the college's success story is welcomed news.

Jim Murdaugh, who had the backing of former TCC presidents Bill Law and T.K. Wetherell, among other community leaders, will be able to step right into the president's chair and carry on the college's mission of providing traditional degrees, along with specific job training skills so that students are equipped to be hired in fields such as nursing, technology and business.

In selecting Mr. Murdaugh, the board ultimately went for a man who enjoys a strong reputation regionally for his leadership skills, community service and proven track record in law-enforcement training. He won on a 4-3 vote over Tallahassee attorney Randy Hanna, who garnered support from many community leaders, including Florida A&M University President James Ammons. Though the board quickly gave Mr. Murdaugh a unanimous vote to show solidarity, he nevertheless will need to work on consensus-building.

Curiously, the time and money spent on conducting a national search that attracted 59 applicants ultimately came down to two Tallahassee men, Mr. Murdaugh and Mr. Hanna, who is chairman of the Bryant Miller & Olive law firm and has served as a trustee at TCC as well as FAMU and served on the Florida Board of Community Colleges.

Mr. Murdaugh, 58, has been at TCC for the past 11 years. During that time, he has made outstanding progress as

assistant vice president in charge of Gadsden County's Florida Public Safety Institute, formerly known as the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy. The Midway-based campus has earned a reputation as one of the leading training institutions for law enforcement in the Southeast.

He's also carried out TCC's mission of making educational opportunities possible for residents in Gadsden County, where he's worked closely with the School Board on a dual-enrollment program and with the business community.

We find these successful programs encouraging as TCC continues to play a major role in bringing educational opportunities to this region, while at the same time, furthering its workforce-development mission. The college has excelled at providing essential skills training to prepare graduates for positions with companies that might be attracted to this area and help diversify and expand employment opportunities.

Mr. Murdaugh, who has a doctorate in public administration from Florida State University, was an administrator with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for 12 years before joining the staff at TCC. He's also worked in leadership roles with the with Florida Attorney General's Office.

We're confident that Mr. Murdaugh will use his skills in leadership and team-building to further the college's enviable reputation as an important player in economic and academic growth in the Big Bend.

Update: Murdaugh shares what he hopes to build on at TCC

By Angeline J. Taylor

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

2:20 p.m. update

[Tallahassee Community College](#) administrator Jim Murdaugh was chosen by trustees as the best pick for the job of president because he was a "prepared proven leader."

Murdaugh has said he plans to build on the successes of previous presidents. Murdaugh has worked with former TCC presidents T.K. Wetherell and Bill Law.

Wetherell, Murdaugh said, stressed a "high quality learning environment."

He didn't want learning to be "distracted by poor quality," Murdaugh said remembering Wetherell's administration. Law, Murdaugh said, stressed the quality of TCC's programs. Those are two take-aways from each of his previous supervisors that Murdaugh hopes to build on.

morning update

No date has been finalized as to when newly selected [Tallahassee Community College](#) President Jim Murdaugh will take the helm of the institution.

What has been established by Murdaugh, trustees and others is what kind of leader Murdaugh will be at TCC.

He told trustees during his interview that one thing he would do is pull from his collaborative skills. Those same skills that helped bring a consistent schedule of law enforcement training to the Florida Public Safety Institute in Gadsden County.

But trustees -- who helped Murdaugh, edge out his closest competition for the presidency, local attorney Randy Hanna -- clarified why they were selecting him. What they saw in him that made him beat out 58 other applicants.

New boss at TCC focuses on students

By Angeline J. Taylor
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

No date has been set for new Tallahassee Community College President Jim Murdaugh to take the helm of the institution.

What has been established by Murdaugh, trustees and others is what kind of leader the newly selected president will be at TCC.

Murdaugh told trustees during his interview that he would pull from his skills at working well with others. Those are the same skills that helped build the now successful Florida Public Safety Institute in Gadsden County.

Murdaugh said he also wants to build on the success of the two men he once called supervisor — former TCC Presidents T.K. Wetherell and Bill Law. “We’re on the right path,” Murdaugh said prior to being selected for the job on Monday. “We need to look for opportunities to move from good to great. We have a lot of things we need to build on.”

He believes one of the biggest challenges facing the college is the state’s economic climate.

“We have to be good fiscal stewards,” Murdaugh said. “We have to appropriately dedicate our funds to student success.”

Trustees — who helped Murdaugh edge out his closest competition for the presidency, local attorney Randy Hanna — clarified why they were selecting him. They explained what they saw in Murdaugh that made him beat out 58 other applicants.

“He has a proven record,” Trustee Frank Messersmith said. “Dr. Murdaugh’s style gives students the tools and guidance they need.”

Murdaugh’s professional background differs dramatically from Law and Wetherell. Murdaugh received his doctorate in public administration. He worked with the Florida Bureau of Criminal Justice, the Leon County Sheriff’s Office, the Fort Walton Beach Police Department, the state’s Attorney General’s Office and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement before coming to TCC.

“I believe the new president should transform the college into a dynamic engine of opportunity and prosperity,” Murdaugh said to trustees in his application. “I believe that I am uniquely qualified to lead this transformation with over 34 years experience as a public servant in education, public safety and the armed services.”

Wetherell was a longtime lawmaker, a former House speaker who was entrenched in two-year and four-year colleges. He received a doctorate in education administration from Florida State University. After leading TCC, he served as president for seven years.

Law’s background is similar to Wetherell’s. He dabbled in the Legislature, having worked as a staff director. He also worked with Florida’s previous governing body for the State University System — the Board of Regents. He received a doctoral degree in design and management of post secondary education from FSU.

Law held three jobs as president at two-year colleges before being selected for St. Petersburg College’s top spot earlier this year.

That’s when the doors opened for Murdaugh. He was voted in as president by an initial 4-3 vote Monday. Later, trustees raised hands in unison in a move supporting Murdaugh as the new president.

Trustee Bill Hebrock said, “We hired Bill Law eight years ago and told him to focus on workforce. Dr. Murdaugh will be able to lead the academic side of the house as well as workforce.”

Christopher Rich, a 32-year-old TCC student, said, “I know his track record. He listens to the voice of the students, staff and faculty. We will get someone who cares about our issues and will listen to us.”

Brandon Ardoin, a 25-year-old student, said, “I was pleased with the decision because he is someone who does a lot in the community.”

TCC student faces child porn charges

20-year-old arrested after TPD, North Florida ICAC Task Force investigation

Courtney Rolle

STAFF WRITER

On the morning of Wednesday, Oct. 27, at around 8 a.m., Brandon Hagan, 20, was unexpectedly greeted at his apartment on Appleyard Drive by The Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations and the Tallahassee Police Department (TPD). He was arrested on the spot for the possession of child pornography on his personal computer.

Hagan is a student at [Tallahassee Community College](#) and a pitcher for their baseball team.

He is a sophomore, and according to the school's website, is one of TCC's 2010 Panhandle Conference All-Academic Honorees. Hagan is being charged with 72 counts of possession of child pornography as a result of an investigative search conducted by TPD and the North Florida ICAC Task Force.

"The task force specifically goes out and looks for people possessing or distributing child pornography," TPD Supervisor of the Special Victims Unit Sgt. Lawrence Revell explained. "We locate those, and then go through the legal process of getting that information, and once we have it, we get a search warrant."

The police department traced the child pornographic video files to Hagan's computer. He was taken into custody with bail set at \$10,000.

Revell also stated that not much can be said about the standings of Hagan, as most specifics on the case must remain private information. Revell does, however, extend great sympathy and concern to one party in this case: its victims.

"Most people don't realize how serious this is, because you're dealing with a child victim," Revell said. "In each of these pictures and each of these videos, there's a victim. This is not a willing adult. The child is being exploited. Most people don't realize how prevalent this is."

Prepaid tuition changes reflect higher ed changes

By Doug Blackburn
DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

Rebecca and Gabriel Posner recently enrolled their two sons in Florida Prepaid. Starting in April, the Tallahassee couple will pay about \$190 a month for the next 18 years to insure that Leon, just 31/2 months old, won't have to worry about tuition and fees when he's ready for college.

Even though prices went up for the different prepaid plans, the Posners are convinced they made a sound investment.

"We were disappointed to see the prices shoot up," Gabriel said, "but we figured they're only going to keep going up. We figured we better do it now."

Florida Prepaid College Board, a state-run agency entering its 23rd year, began accepting new clients in mid-October. The deadline for enrolling at current prices is Jan. 31.

The 2010-2011 options include a new four-year Florida college plan, which reflects the changing nature of most of the state's 28 community colleges. Many — [Tallahassee Community College](#) is one of the exceptions — are converting to four-year schools and offering bachelor's degrees.

The other three plans were changed so that they now include tuition, tuition differential and most mandatory fees, Prepaid spokeswoman Susan James said.

"The bottom line tuition differential has changed and it's estimated that it will equal or exceed the tuition fee once tuition reaches the national average," James said. "This way a family won't be surprised."

If a student qualifies for a Bright Futures scholarship, prepaid plans will work in tandem with it so that Bright Futures can be used to pay for housing and books, James said.

The price of a four-year Florida university plan went up 13 percent, from \$40,085 to \$45,367, while tuition went up by 15 percent at all 11 schools in the State University System.

"Our prices reflect the prices that are the cost of going to college," James said. "I don't think there's going to be an education bubble. It's something that rises every year."

The Posners agree. As expensive as college is, it's only going to get pricier, Rebecca Posner said.

"The reason that we wanted to go ahead and sign up as soon as possible for Leon is that we wanted to lock into those prices," she said. "We consider it an investment."

TCC Recognized for Workforce Development Program

REPORTER: TCC RELEASE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (November 1, 2010) –

Tallahassee Community College's weatherization installation training program has been named a 2010 Exemplary Program Finalist by the National Council for Continuing Education and Training (NCCET). The award was announced at NCCET's annual conference, held October 10-12 in Miami.

The program is an initiative of the Division of Workforce Development's Florida Green Academy, in partnership with WORKFORCE plus, the Big Bend Early Learning Coalition and the Capital Area Community Action Agency. Nominated programs were evaluated on their impact and success, sustainability, creativity and ability to be replicated at other colleges.

The TCC program targeted economically disadvantaged adults, rapidly training them to help local employers meet the demand for weatherization services created by an infusion of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds in the Weatherization Assistance Program managed by the Capital Area Community Action Agency.

The staff of TCC's Division of Workforce Development worked closely with industry representatives to make sure trainees developed the specific skills they need to succeed on the job, said Director of Workforce Training and Business Services Rick Frazier. "As a result, program completers have an 83 percent job placement rate." The curriculum was also designed to position trainees to later pursue a further career pathway, such as weatherization crew chief or residential building auditor.

The weatherization installation program enrolled 37 trainees in a total of four training sessions; of those, 32, or 86 percent, completed the training.

TCC and WORKFORCE plus were named the Community Partners of the Year by Capital Area Community Action Agency for "outstanding contributions to improving the quality of life for the poor" as a result of this project in January 2010.

Tallahassee Democrat - November 8, 2010

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Student blog site created: In an effort to help students discover more about TCC, the Office of Communications and Public Information is launching TCC's own student blog site. The newly designed site features six bloggers of different ages, majors and backgrounds. The bloggers were selected through a sample-submission process. The students chosen demonstrated a strong talent and enthusiasm for writing, as well as a desire to help other students through their blogs. To learn about the bloggers and to read their posts visit blog.tcc.fl.edu.

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TCC Continues Participation in Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program

REPORTER: TCC RELEASE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (November 11, 2010) –

In 2007, [Tallahassee Community College](#) first participated in the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) Program, a scholarship program with a strong focus on cultural exchange between the United States and Germany. A positive experience prompted TCC to enhance its participation in the program.

Earlier this year, 150 students – 75 each from both the United States and Germany – were chosen to participate in the program. Following a rigorous selection process, 21-year old Sabine Trojan was placed in Tallahassee.

“We are excited to again participate in the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program,” said Betty Jensen, International Student Adviser. “We have enjoyed three great years of participation, and TCC is now sending American students to Germany – so this is truly an exchange program!”

Trojan began her year-long stay in Tallahassee in August and has been in class at TCC since the fall semester began August 23. After studying at the College through the end of the Fall 2010 semester, she will spend six months completing a required internship in her career field before returning to Germany in July 2011.

Trojan will fulfill another requirement on Friday, November 12 when she makes a presentation to American students at TCC who may be interested in studying in Germany through the CBYX program. The presentation will take place at 12:15 p.m. in Room 114 of TCC’s Center for Workforce Development.

CBYX is designed to give its participants understanding for everyday life, education and professional training in Germany and the United States. Participants are chosen based on an array of factors including a strong desire to learn other cultures and forge lasting friendships. They also have the opportunity to study, work and live with a host family. While in Tallahassee, Trojan is being hosted by Hobby and Tracy Wright.

The program is jointly funded by the German Bundestag and the U.S. Congress, through the U.S. Department of State.

CBYX is intended primarily for young adults in business, technical, vocational and agricultural fields, though applicants from all fields are encouraged to apply. Since 1984, approximately 75 college-age Americans have gone to Germany annually while 75 Germans have come to study in the United States.

Any American student at TCC interested in finding out more about the CBYX Program should stop by TCC’s Office of International Student Services, located in Room 242 of the Student Union, log on to www.cdsintl.org/cbyx or contact Betty Jensen by phone, (850) 201-8457, or email jensenb@tcc.fl.edu. The application deadline for to participate in the 2011-12 program is December 1.

Thomas University making its presence felt in Tallahassee

Thomasville college now has a satellite campus at TCC

By Doug Blackburn

DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

Raja Merkison is delighted to be a guinea pig.

Merkison, employed by the Department of Elder Affairs and eager to be a case worker with seniors, is one of four students in Thomas University's new social work program at [Tallahassee Community College](#).

"I've decided if I'm going to get anywhere in life, I need to get that degree," Merkison said. "It's kind of unusual, having only four in our program. It's great, really. The professors bend over backward to work with you."

This fall marks the first time the private, small liberal arts college 30 minutes away across the Georgia state line has offered a bachelor's degree in Tallahassee, but it's likely only the beginning.

Thomas University has more than doubled its enrollment during the past five years under president Gary Bonvillian, and he sees enormous opportunity for further growth in Florida's state capital.

"Since I arrived, I've put a lot of emphasis on the Tallahassee market," Bonvillian said. "I could tell we at Thomas University weren't taking full advantage of the rich demographic there.

"That community college is one of the largest in the state. It's a feeder, and this gives their students a chance to stay right there and continue on toward a baccalaureate degree."

Or, in the case of Merkison, an opportunity at age 41 to expand on the associate's degree she earned two decades ago at Bainbridge College in Georgia. The longtime state employee had taken a few courses at Florida State to fulfill foreign language requirements, but she realized getting a social work degree at FSU would take considerably longer than the program being offered by Thomas University.

"It's really convenient being at TCC and not having to travel to the campus (in Thomasville)," Merkison said. "It's not that far, I know, but it would have been late in the day after a full day of work."

Thomas University is the fifth university to establish a satellite campus at TCC, hoping to attract graduates of

the community college while also trying to lure non-traditional students into their programs.

The social work program is designed for students who are working during the day. It has classes in the evening on Mondays with other courses offered online.

Sally Search, dean of academic support programs at TCC, welcomes the addition of Thomas U. "It's a wonderful opportunity for our students. It gives them another option in terms of getting a degree beyond two years.

"I certainly see this as a growing program and jobs in social work will continue to grow as well," Search added. "There are a lot of different areas where those students can work."

Thomas University, with 1,046 students this semester — a 55 percent increase since 2006 — has about 40 social work majors at its main campus. Three of the department's four full-time faculty are teaching classes at the university's satellite campus at TCC.

Bill Milford, chairman of the division of social work, wants to add more students at TCC next semester, growing the class to as many as 15.

"This is our foot in the door in Tallahassee," said Milford, who, like about one-third of the faculty at Thomas University, lives in Tallahassee. "It's an excellent fit for our program. We're able to meet the students where they're at.

"We tend to have non-traditional students, so we offer night classes and online classes to provide flexibility. With only four students right now, they're getting lots of personal attention."

Thomas University also has nursing programs established at both hospitals in Tallahassee. Its students at TCC have a separate building on campus for their classes. They also have complete access to all of TCC's resources, including the Learning Commons, gym and library.

Bonvillian, Thomas University's president, speculates that criminal justice — Thomas' largest program — or business might be the next specialty to become part of the satellite campus in Tallahassee.

Thomas University making its presence felt in Tallahassee....

continued

"There are a lot of program options we can explore once this is rolling along. We need to assess what TCC would prefer to see us do there," he said. "They have other university partners and we don't want to interfere with those relationships.

"I don't think we're anywhere near our potential yet, given the size of the demographic in Tallahassee. People are just beginning to discover who Thomas University is. To a lot of people we're a mystery. For small schools like us, part of your task is to get the public to know who you are."

Merkison, a south Georgia native, already was aware of Thomas University. But she didn't know about its new program at TCC until she saw an advertisement.

Because Thomas University is private, she isn't able to take advantage of the tuition waiver offered by the state. Which means she's taking out loans to get her bachelor's degree.

"By the time I finish I'll have probably have close to \$30,000 debt. I'm looking at it like a new car. That's the kind of payment I'll have," she said. "It's also an incentive to work harder toward the degree, because I'm paying for it."

WCTV - November 15, 2010

LOCAL NAMES: APPELYARD DRIVE

BY GERALD ENSLEY

DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

This westside thoroughfare that fronts [Tallahassee Community College](#) is named for Thomas Jefferson Appleyard, an early Tallahassee newspaper editor, printer and government official.

T.J. Appleyard was secretary of the Florida Senate from 1895 to 1905. In 1909, he became the state printer and also published the weekly Florida Record newspaper. During the legislative sessions of 1913, 1915, 1917 and 1919, he published the Record as the daily Florida Morning News newspaper. In 1919, he sold his newspaper to the rival Tallahassee Democrat but continued to operate a printing company, which was sold after his death to the present-day Rose Printing Company.

Appleyard, who joined the Confederate Navy at 12 and later was the major general of the Florida Division of United Confederate Veterans, died in 1931.

Desmond Tutu's Daughter Gives Lecture in Tallahassee

REPORTER: LA'TASHA GIVENS

EMAIL ADDRESS: LATASHA.GIVENS@WCTV.TV

She was welcomed to drumming and a dance performance like a queen.

Naomi Tutu, daughter of Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu gave a talk at [Tallahassee Community College](#) during International Education Week.

"Our differences are just opportunities, our differences are in fact our strength as a community," says Tutu.

In the lecture titled Striving for Justice, Searching for Common Ground, Tutu talked about the importance of accepting others and how to use those differences to strengthen ourselves.

More than 300 hundred people listened as she talked about life lessons from her travels around the world and living in South Africa during apartheid.

"The foundation of a just society is whenever we recognize the potential for greatness is in each of us," says Tutu.

Daneila Gailindo, Vice President of the International Student Organization says, "We did everything so this evening was perfect for her. We've been planning this for several weeks and it was a wonderful experience."

TCC Student Ryan Flord says, "I thought it was incredible. It was a very powerful. It was motivating. It made the entire audience just speechless."

Tutu says she will continue to spread her message so more people are willing to stand up for justice.

Tallahassee Democrat - November 16, 2010

Our Opinion: It's reaching-out time for new local leaders

The Leon County Commission will undergo a transformation this afternoon at 3 when two new commissioners take office and two veteran commissioners step down.

We salute outgoing commissioners Bob Rackleff and Cliff Thaell, two prominent public servants who have served admirably during their respective tenures on the County Commission.

At the same time, we welcome two new faces, the new District 5 commissioner, Kristin Dozier, and the new at-large commissioner, Nick Maddox. Ms. Dozier and Mr. Maddox showed promise during the recent campaigns, and each gained strong voter support. Bill Proctor handily won re-election, while Jane Sauls, Akin Akinyemi and Bryan Desloge are just two years into their terms.

And, with District 3 Commissioner John Dailey expected to get the nod to become chairman, the team will be in place for a challenging period ahead.

While Leon County faces its own challenges, many of its actions — reactions, actually — are influenced by mandates from the Florida Legislature, which also welcomes new members today in its reorganization session.

Across town, the Legislature's work will be guided by a looming \$2.5 billion budget shortfall and the influence of a new governor who spent most of the past year campaigning to rid Tallahassee's culture of "politics as usual" and

Our Opinion: It's reaching-out time for new local leaders....

continued

carrying out his mandate to create new jobs while reducing what lawmakers identify as excessive government spending — an elusive moving target.

Locally, the County Commission still faces the same serious challenges it did before the elections. These include:

Streamlining the permitting process to help jump-start new building projects.

Securing state and federal funding to improve roads and transportation systems.

Identifying measures to ensure a more sustainable environment.

Working with the city and Chamber of Commerce on promoting the growth of small businesses and job creation.

Providing health care for the indigent.

Keeping tax rates in line.

Mr. Maddox and Ms. Dozier both ran on promises of bringing fresh perspectives to the commission. Mr. Maddox is pushing for more utility and tax incentives that will help existing small businesses expand and start up here. He also wants to incorporate help from Florida State and Florida A&M universities and [Tallahassee Community College](#) into the county's planning.

Ms. Dozier's focus will be on land-use decisions and strong business practices that incorporate sound, sustainable environmental practices.

Our new officials, state and local, are going to work during one of the most challenging periods of Florida history. They need to work in collaboration to maximize gains and minimize losses — and the burden is on local officials, city, county and school district, to reach out and communicate with state leaders.

Residents of Leon County have spoken. Now is the time to dig in and make smart decisions that will help create jobs, strike a balance between growth and the environment — and make sure that, as Florida's capital city, we set the standard of open, productive government.

Nontombi Naomi Tutu speaks in honor of International Education Week

BY ASHLEY HOGANS

CORRESPONDENT

Daughter of Nobel Prize winner and former Archbishop of South Africa Desmond Tutu called on students at [Tallahassee Community College](#) to seek common ground. Nontombi Naomi Tutu spoke Monday night in honor of International Education Week.

About 300 faculty members and students greeted Tutu with a round of applause as she graced the stage at the TCC Student Union Ballroom.

Tutu spoke about her life experiences growing up during the apartheid era in South Africa, where segregation was legal until 1994. She encouraged individuals from different races and religions to find a common ground, even when the governing powers fight against it.

"The aim was to divide us as a people based on our race. It told white South Africans that they were somehow special, somehow better, than other south Africans and to try to teach the rest of us we were somehow less than fully human," Tutu, said.

However, Tutu's mission as the keynote speaker was to spread positive energy to students on campus as she told them to embrace differences, be they race or religion.

"We are all people made with different gifts and different challenges," said Tutu. "Difference offers an opportunity and difference is a new way of seeing the aspect of the world."

Prior to Tutu's, the daughter of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, an African dance ensemble joined by live percussionists entertained speech students.

"I honestly was here studying, and I saw the drummers jamming and I was like, I need to check this out so that's what caught my attention," said Stephen Baker a freshman at TCC."

For one international student who traveled all the way from Columbia to the U.S. to attend TCC he felt really connected with Tutu. He said, as a freshman stepping outside of his comfort zone was definitely a challenge.

"I feel like when you just go out of your home country you kind of look at everything in a wider perspective and you kind of understand other cultures better than the people that live in the same country all the time it's kind of like they have horse blinds on," Carlos Galindo, 20, an international business student from Columbia.

But according to Naomi individuals who have challenges meeting new people she encouraged everyone to be open minded and "hear everyone's story and how it's different and how it's the same."

"We need to start asking questions and we may realize we are not that different," said Brittney Boykins, assistant English professor. "When someone comes up to us and ask us a question, why do we do that, we feel like they are attacking us when they may just want to know who we are."

International Education Week is a worldwide event launched by the U.S Department of State and U.S Department of Education to bring students to the U.S. to study, learn and exchange experiences.

"I think everybody should open up and listen to other people and get to know people from other countries and get to know about their culture," said Galindo. "They will be able to see there are a lot of nice people and it's really awesome."

HCC of Tallahassee presents culture week

Kendal Kalish

STAFF WRITER

The Haitian Cultural Club of Tallahassee (HCC) is currently hosting its HCC Week 2010 from Nov. 14 through Nov. 20.

Whether participants are competing in the “Battle of Vertieres” interactive game night on Thursday or attending the banquet and after-party at The Roxy on Saturday, the organization has set up an array of events spanning the week-long celebration.

“Come learn about the people, the music, the food, the history, the art, and the famous Haitian individuals. Come learn and help us with the different activities that we are involved with in helping our fallen country.”

— Louis Dorce Jr. FSU Senior and Former HCC President

Founded in 1988, the HCC invited students from Florida State University, Florida A&M University, [Tallahassee Community College](#) and other members of the Haitian community in Tallahassee to create unity among its members while participating in community service projects, helping fundraise for victims of the earthquake and support other not-for-profit organizations.

“HCC week is a great way to not only expose the Haitian culture to the Tallahassee community, but give us an opportunity to unite as one to serve people in need of a helping hand,” Vice President of the HCC and junior at FAMU Peterson Monestime said. “Our goal is to give back to the community and educate students and citizens about Haitian history.”

The week kicked off on Sunday with a church service at the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, which was followed by a “Cultural Fusion Potluck” at the FSU Global Café,

where students were encouraged to share their best dish.

On Monday, the HCC traveled to Bainbridge, Ga., to give out packages of hygiene products to the Haitian migrant workers there.

On Wednesday, Nov. 17, a fashion show to display the beauty of the Haitian culture took place in FSU’s Miller Hall.

The week will continue with a different event every night, from a “Bouillon Talent Show” on Friday, in which bouillon will be served after members display their talent on stage, to a cookout and Olympic games event at Tom Brown Park to finish off the week on Sunday.

Louis Dorce Jr., FSU Senior and former HCC president, said organizing the event was daunting at times, but as long as one more individual is reached to care about Haiti, it was worth it.

“Come learn about the people, the music, the food, the history, the art and the famous Haitian individuals,” Dorce said. “Come learn and help us with the different activities that we are involved with in helping our fallen country.”

The HCC has approximately 1,500 members and alumni.

To receive more information about the club’s events and a complete itinerary of the HCC Week 2010, search “Haitiancc” on Facebook to visit their fan page, or send an e-mail to Haitiancc@gmail.com.

“You do not have to be Haitian to join the club,” Monestime said. “We are just looking for people who are willing to work, get their hands dirty and have an open mind.”