

# The Valley Weekly

*"Love takes off the masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within."*

- James Baldwin

**FREE**

Volume 2, No. 5

Friday, October 9, 2015

## New Head of WHI-HBCU Announced

Ivory Toldson is the new executive director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (WHI-HBCU), the U.S. Department of Education announced on Friday.

Toldson has been deputy director of the initiative since 2013. He follows George Cooper, the previous executive director, who died in July. A former professor of psychology at Howard and Southern Universities, Toldson also has worked for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation.

Arne Duncan, the secretary of education, congratulated Toldson in a written statement. "Despite



difficult circumstances," Duncan said, "he and the initiative's team have continued to remain focused on their work and the students they serve."

Dr. Helen McAlpine, president of Drake State Community and Technical College, is a current member of President Obama's Commission on HBCUs.

## Nobel Laureate Will Visit the Valley

The 18th Annual Putcha Venkateswarlu Memorial Lecture is scheduled for Friday, November 20, at the Dawson Building auditorium at 3 p.m.

The noted event is named in honor of the Alabama A&M University professor and physicist who impacted the lives of many students and colleagues during his life, which ended as he worked in his office.

Nobel Laureate Martin Chalfie from Columbia University will deliver the lecture. Dr. Chalfie shared the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 2008 with Osamu Shimomura and Roger Y. Tsien "for the discovery and develop-

ment of the green fluorescent protein (GFP)."

In the summer of 1971, Chalfie's research at the lab of Jose Zadunaisky at Yale University resulted in his first publication. Rejuvenized, he returned to his alma mater (Harvard) for graduate studies under Robert Perلمان, and received his Ph.D. in 1977.

He conducted his postdoctoral research at the Laboratory of Molecular Biology with Sidney Brenner and John Sulston, and the three published a paper in 1985 on "The Neural Circuit for Touch Sensitivity in *C. elegans*".



to join the faculty of Columbia University in the department of biological sciences and continued his research.

The public is invited to the free presentation.

## UA to Honor Local Nurse

A flagship institution of higher learning will pay special tribute to a local woman affiliated with the nursing profession.

The Board of Visitors of the Capstone College of Nursing at The University of Alabama has selected Dr. Rhoda Hutchinson, to be inducted into the 2015 Alabama Nursing

Hall of Fame. The Alabama Nursing Hall of Fame strives to honor, preserve, and perpetuate the names and outstanding accomplishments of nurses and other individuals who have brought lasting fame to the State of Alabama and/or the United States in the field of nursing.



## CASA Weatherization Efforts Begin

CASA of Madison County is preparing for its 32nd annual TEMP\$ Work Day, scheduled for Saturday, November 7.

Volunteers are needed to prepare nearly 150 homes before the onset of winter. A required train-

ing session for team leaders, new and old, will be held on October 22 at 6 p.m.

Please contact Lauren Carter in the CASA office for more information at (256) 533-7775 or [lauren@casamadisoncty.org](mailto:lauren@casamadisoncty.org).

## A&M Tom Joyner Foundation SOTM

Alabama A&M University will be the Tom Joyner Foundation's "School of the Month" (SOTM) for the month of November.

Throughout the 30-day period, all donations and other funds received at the Foundation from individuals and business will go toward a fundraising goal AAMU has set with the Foundation.

After the month is over, not only will AAMU receive the funds contributed by its alumni

and supporters who made donations in its name through the Foundation, but it will receive other monies attracted from the promotion of the SOTM efforts on a national scale.

For a Mobile Pleddge, dial 41444 and text "AAMU." To donate online or to mail in a donation in November, visit [TomJoynerFoundation.org/Donate](http://TomJoynerFoundation.org/Donate). On Twitter: #TJFAAMU.

### Where to Find Your FREE Copies of The Valley Weekly

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St. Bartley PB Church

St. Luke Christian Church

Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Maxtin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

## DLC Graduate Presents Paper

Samuel Greene, a Cohort III graduate of the Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium, was invited by the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Justice and Administrator Gina McCarthy to present an intensive case study on his research.

Greene's research focused on "Environmental Racism: Assessing Penalties for Federal Environmental Law Infringements" on October 2, 2015.

According to Greene, the research presentation was well received by attendees in Atlanta,



Ga., at the Sam Nunn Federal Building.



**COUNCILL ALUMNI OFFICERS:** The William Hooper Councill Alumni Association (WHCAA) elected the following officers: President, Earnest Horton; Vice-President, Brenda Chunn; 2nd Vice President, Arthur McDonald; Executive Secretary, Olivia Brandon; Recording Secretary, Patricia D. Williams; Treasurer, Paul Langford; Parliamentarian, Peter Procter, Jr. *Not Shown:* Bradley McDonald, Chaplain.

## NAAACC Meeting Set

The North Alabama African American Chamber of Commerce has set Tuesday, October 20, as the date for its monthly meeting, which will include presentations by experts and officials.

NAAACC has been committed to positive economic development, business and job creation,



and advocacy that are critical to the growth and future success of its members.

## Huntsville Meets Cyclocross

Cyclocross racing is coming to Huntsville and the Valley area for the first time!

The inaugural Bicycle Cove Space and Rocket Cross will be held at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center on Sunday, November 8, at 7 a.m.

Organizers are inviting the public to come participate "in the most spectator-friendly and fun cycling discipline on the planet."

Whether you plan to race or cheer on your favorite cyclist, Space and Rocket Cross is an out-of-this-world cycling experience.



This event benefits the Madison County Special Olympics Cycling Team.



THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL

# Community Health Fair

**WEDNESDAY,  
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**11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

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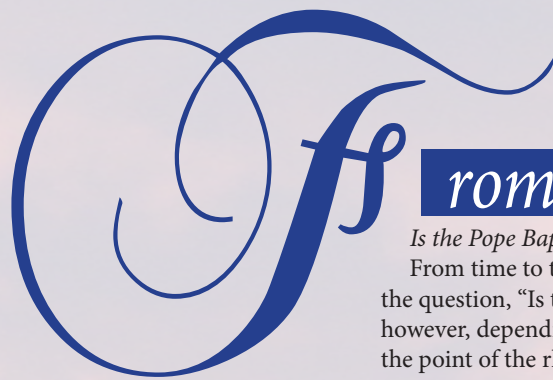
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**The Valley Weekly**

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## From the Editor

*Is the Pope Baptist?*

From time to time when one is trying to prove a point, someone will ask the question, "Is the Pope Baptist?" All of us know that the Pope is not Baptist; however, depending on the setting and context of the question, we understand the point of the rhetorical question. Pope Francis took America head-on during his visit to the Washington, D.C., New York and Philadelphia. It is estimated that there are over 70 million American Catholics. Pope Francis is the fourth Pope to visit the United States. Americans from all backgrounds, faiths, values and denominations might just agree with the concept of strong neighborhoods and communities, feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, serving the poor, ministering to children and prisoners, building homes, orphanages and hospitals for the oppressed and sick, stopping institutional and personal violence, and schooling our children.

Research has shown that proper early education is foundational to impacting and changing lives. Pope Francis called on us to put the least of these as the center of our concern. Wealth, celebrity status, and grandness should not be our yardstick. He said that we should lift up the poor and marginalized, stand for justice, human dignity, show compassion, love the outcasts and those who suffer, resist the sirens or war, and cherish religious liberty and freedom while coming together in humility and service rather than standing on the sideline of hope. He looked forward to the days of engagement, sharing with the American people, celebrating the institution of marriage and family, and building an inclusive society. He is committed to reducing pollution and expressed concern about climate change and the future that we are leaving our children. He referred to Dr. Martin Luther King's statement concerning America's default on its promissory note that all men would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Pope Francis noted that now is the time to honor that note.

Many of us were glued to our smart devices, Internet and televisions every minute we could eke in each day to hear the Pope and see the seas of people who witnessed and soaked in his messages. He indicated that we cannot remain on the sideline of hope and that we should be working together to build a common home--the world! I don't know about you, but his message was right on point for *this* Baptist woman.

My friends at Saint Joseph and Knights of Peter Claver are doing their part. For several years, Dr. Charles Smoot and Mrs. Butch Damson (who I affectionately call "Butch" and "Smoot") have invited me to join them at St. Joseph for the Stations celebration each year. To my delight, the people there are simple, humble, friendly and non-pretentious. Their history is long and rich, dating back to the early 1950s. So I asked both of them, "How did you get here?" Butch's grandfather, Frank Rieder, fell out of a tree and broke his hip. After the fall, he could not get up the stairs at the downtown Church of the Visitation Catholic Church; therefore, they went over to St. Joseph to worship, which was then located in the Beasley Mansion. According to their history, the school at St. Joseph integrated in 1962, before the 1964 Civil Rights Act. On the other hand, Smoot was assigned to the Church of the Visitation when he moved here in 1963. After attending the downtown church a couple of times, he went over to St. Joseph, where he found "home." According to Smoot, "the people are very warm and friendly and everyone says "Welcome to St. Joseph."

I read the first 60 years of history about St. Joseph and found it intriguing. Most interesting was the students from Alabama A&M University who attended the Church and school. When Rev. Hermenegild Messmer was assigned to Huntsville in 1950, he established a Mission for Black Huntsvillians. Later St. Joseph purchased a house and land from two Black families, the Fitchards and Gurleys. Throughout their history, they have been focused on giving to the poor and downtrodden, providing for the homeless, educating the children and relief from day-to-day and when disasters strike. Today, St. Joseph is one of the most diverse and outwardly-focused institutions in this area. Some of Huntsville's most loving, caring and daring families worship there each week. The six adults who attended the first public Mass were James Jackson, Rose Brandon, Ernestine Street, Elizabeth Rooks, Geneva Stegar, and Gertrude Langford.. I have met Fr. Joseph, who has always welcomed me. Actually, I look forward to our annual visit there, sometimes with lunch to follow with Smoot, Butch, Jerry, and/or Susan. With that said, our community is truly blessed to have St. Joseph, a group of unselfish people who strive to live the message that Pope Francis delivered. Pope Francis "brought it home" to America during his trip. And, you can take it from me, "there's no place like home." Until next week ...



*When you can't find a printed copy of The Valley Weekly around town, follow us on-line at [www.valleyweeklyllc.com](http://www.valleyweeklyllc.com).*

*Dorothy*

## Credit Card Chip-N-Dip

Security is very important for most common citizens, especially business owners. Whether you're protecting your assets, your ideas, your wealth, or yourself, having a sense of security is necessary. As I learned in one of my Communication Studies classes in college, "Security is one of the Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. People have a strong desire to feel protected and safe." When owning a business or being a well known celebrity or brand, there tends to be higher level of security such as bodyguards, vaulted banks, security tags/ towers at retail stores, concierge at condos, and financial safety nets set aside in case of emergencies.

Unfortunately, there seems to always be somebody out there that tries to target and take your belongings, which is why people

pay big money for security. Technology surely has forced us to be more cognizant of how well we protect our information and assets. There was a time where you would have to physically steal money from someone, nowadays; all it takes is the right hacker, or your 16-digit credit card number getting in the wrong hands.



As an effort to avoid cyber crimes and credit card fraud/theft, MSNBC reported that "this is the beginning of an end for the 40 year old, swiping of black magnetic strips on credit cards to dipping the chips in the terminals. On October 1, 2015, retailers must start accepting new cards with embedded security chips, or the retailer will be financially liable in case of theft or fraud. Each Chip has a unique code that can't be replicated and

aimed at curving counterfeit. Critics say the new technology unfairly hurts small businesses that have to pay for the new credit card terminals." (Tamron Hall, MSNBC) Companies not only have to invest in the protection of their inventory, wealth, property, and other insurances, but now they are having to make an investment in the security of their customers.

Many of us recall the Target scandal, where hackers received credit card and personal information on millions of Target customers. As a business owner, it makes much more sense to me to fork out the money for a new terminal than to risk millions in lawsuits from unhappy customers. Just as we secure our stores and ourselves, it's also our due diligence for our customers to feel secure and safe when shopping at our establishments.

by Amoi Savage

## Civil War Round Table Oct. 8

The Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table (TVCWRT) is rounding out its 2015 initiatives, which included partnering with history classes at University of Alabama at Huntsville to of-

fer speakers and field trips to a younger audience.

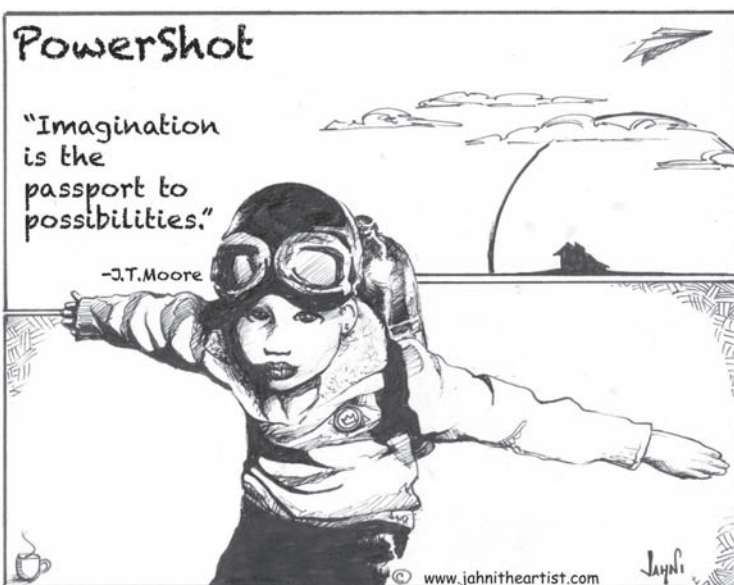
TVCWRT also expanded its speaker list to add cultural topics of the Civil War era. On Thursday, October 8, TVCWRT



will welcome Gary Waddey of Franklin, Tenn., who will discuss "Zebulon Vance: North Carolina's Civil War Governor."

The group meets at 5:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month (except December) at the Elk's Lodge, 725 Franklin Street SE, in Huntsville, Ala. Following a buffet, the free program begins at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.tvcwrt.org](http://www.tvcwrt.org).



The Center for Aging, in Partnership with the College Of Nursing, University of Alabama in Huntsville,



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Dr. Karen Frith, Ph.D., Associate Dean, College Of Nursing, University of Alabama, Huntsville



Dr. Zaheer Khan, M.D., MRCP (London) Gerontologist, Founder & Medical Director of the Center for Aging

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Here are the most recent top issues in Washington, D.C.:

1. The House and Senate were in session this week. With Washington still reeling over Speaker Boehner's abrupt announcement that he is leaving government service effective October 30, the House will approve a "clean" continuing resolution (CR) to keep the federal government operating through December 11, 2015, which will not include language to defund Planned Parenthood. The House was also slated to take up a bill to extend the current FAA Authorization legislation, which expired on October 1, through March 31, 2016 (this also extends the authority of the federal government to collect taxes for the Aviation Trust Fund). The Senate was also expected to pass a CR to keep the federal government funded through December 11 by voting on the "clean" version of the CR that does not include language to defund Planned Parenthood.

2. After hosting back-to-back state visits recently for Pope Francis and Chinese President Xi Jinping, President Obama was in New York on the second day of a 3-day trip there which began on Sunday. He addressed the United Nations and met with Indian President Narendra Modi, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and Cuban President Raul Castro.

3. On Wednesday of last week, the Senate Subcommittee on

Fisheries, Wildlife, and Water held a hearing on the new Waters of the United States (WOTUS) regulation: "Oversight of the Army Corps of Engineers' Participation in the Development of the New Regulatory Definition of 'Waters of the United States.'"

4. Also, on September 30, the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a hearing on the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative: "A Review of the Progress and Challenges in Restoring the Great Lakes."

5. The White House and the U.S. Department of Transportation released an updated handbook (known as the "Red Book") on streamlining environmental reviews for transportation and other infrastructure projects and announced that on October 1 it would begin identifying new infrastructure projects for expedited review, which will include highways and bridges, major transit projects, airport capital improvements, ports and dams, electricity transmission, broadband internet networks, and renewable energy generation facilities. See more at: <http://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/obama-administration-initiatives-accelerate-infrastructure#sthash.tYdcUgI5.dpuf>.

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## HCS Ousts 'Average'

*HCS Declares Average is Officially Over! What's Your Extra?*

This statement speaks to the efforts we are ALL making to support Huntsville City Schools in becoming the number one school district in the nation. In order to be outstanding, we must have great personnel who declare Average is Officially Over both professionally and personally. During my school visits, I have personally witnessed teaching that reflects this expectation and I have observed displays of the statement.

After fall break, I challenge every school leader and classroom teacher to embrace and boldly display in a prominent location, Average Is Officially Over. More importantly, I encourage you to live and breathe this belief as you teach and touch our students each day. We must have high expectations and motivate every student to strive for excellence in all endeavors.

The progress we have made demonstrates our commitment to our students and community. We have achieved many collective accomplishments including: partnering with The Lena Foundation to close the 30,000,000 word gap, rezoned schools to reflect true feeder patterns to



align educational opportunities for students, improved transportation for our Majority to Minority students and provided Wi-Fi on buses, implemented a Digital Curriculum to personalize learning, and created the new Jemison College Academy.

We have also trained our first Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports cohort, received the ADL No Place for Hate Designation in every school for two years, implemented math acceleration in our elementary schools,

increased Advanced Placement, IB and Honors options for all students, increased college scholarship dollars, opened two new state of the art P-8 schools, increased our Magnet Schools enrollment, provided Breakfast in the classroom, and created the model for Cyber security and Green power Career Academies.

Although these efforts cannot erase 52 years of segregation, we are demonstrating our leaders' and teachers' collective commitment to ensure every student in HCS receives a quality education. We will continue to make great strides when we provide above average teaching that results in every student achieving high academic standards.

*by Dr. Barbara Cooper  
Deputy Superintendent, HCS*

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# Calendar of Events

## October 8

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table  
725 Franklin Street, SE  
5:30 p.m.

Tickets, \$40; (256) 536-9400  
(Transportation provided from church)  
Ernest Knight Center/AAMU  
6 p.m.

11 a.m.-3 p.m.

## October 31

Walk to Defeat ALS  
HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology  
*Family style picnic celebration following the walk*  
Free registration at [walktodefeatals.org](http://walktodefeatals.org) or 800-664-1242  
10 a.m.

## October 9

Concerts on the Dock Fall Series (Free)  
Lowe Mill, 6-9 p.m.

## October 28

3rd Annual Community Health Fair  
Millet Activity Center  
Oakwood University

## October 10

Yoga by the River  
Hays Nature Preserve  
9-10 a.m.

## October 14

Urban Planning and Architectural Design for Sustainable Development  
AAMU Agribition Center  
Moore's Mill Road  
9-11 a.m.

## October 16

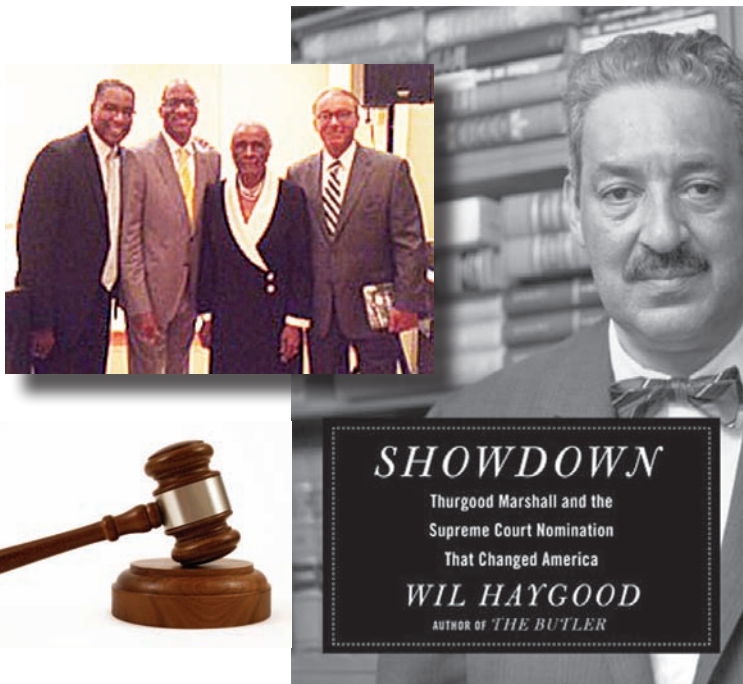
Downtown Street Food Gathering  
Church Street  
6-9 p.m.

## October 19

Rockin' Story Time  
Huntsville Public Library  
10:30-11:30 a.m.

## October 24

Second Harvest Banquet  
Sponsor: Lakeside UM Church  
Speaker: Rev. Donald F. Smith,  
Center Grove UM Church



Mrs. Rosetta James (c) with (l-r) William Huston; Wil Haygood, author of "The Butler," along with Mayor Michael Coleman of Columbus, Ohio, attending the September 29 book signing of Haygood's biography on Thurgood Marshall entitled "Showdown."

**State Farm**



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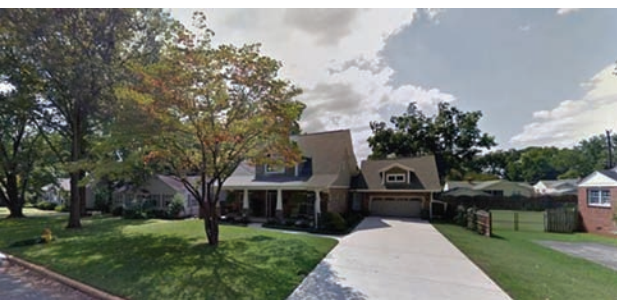
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**Tim Brown**

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## Medical District Planning Charrette

The Big Picture Huntsville is planning a charrette for the Medical District on October 14 from 6-8 p.m. An exact location will be announced soon.

In the Medical District (along Governors, north of Bob Wallace, east of the Parkway), all signs point to a rapidly transforming neighborhood. Proximity to amenities (such as Huntsville Hospital and the new Whole Foods) and good schools make it an attractive place for people

of all ages. And people are beginning to notice-- the average home sales price in the area has jumped 16 percent in the past two years.

Join the BIG Picture on October 14 at 6 p.m. for a charrette, where planners will use interactive activities so residents can help to create plans for the neighborhood. This event is free and open to the public. Watch future newsletters and the BIG Picture website for more information.

## Deltas to Hold Summit

The Huntsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., will present its "3rd Annual Empowering Males to Build Opportunities for Developing Independence (EMBODI) Summit: What's on Your R.A.D.A.R.?"

The event will be held on Saturday, October 24 at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center Education Training Facility, 1 Tranquility Base, in Huntsville. The event will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m.

According to Mychelle A. Leonard, chapter president, the EMBODI Summit will focus on cultural and academic enrichment,



building self-confidence, critical thinking, interpersonal relationships and other issues impacting young African American men between the ages of 13-17. It is a mentorship program designed to address educational, social and emotional obstacles young men of color may experience.

# Valley University Secures Key Financing Package

Through a partnership with the U.S. Department of Education, Alabama A&M University has restructured a portion of its debt, while also acquiring the funds necessary for capital improvements on its campus.

The financial package includes refinancing of roughly \$65 million of existing debt, which will result in a savings of about \$400,000 per year. The package also provides roughly \$30 million in a new loan, which will allow the University to construct

a new 500-bed residence hall and to renovate several buildings on campus.

AAMU President Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr., said the new and renovated facilities would enable the University to accommodate its recent increases in enrollment.

The financing arrangements were secured under a Department of Education program designed to assist Historically Black Colleges and Universities in meeting their capital needs.

Dr. Hugine said the funds would help the

University meet a range of student needs.

"The University is fortunate to have attracted and retained record numbers of students over the past several years. This financial package will enable us to meet the future needs of our growing student body, while also easing the burden of servicing existing debt," Dr. Hugine said.

The AAMU loan is the largest in the HBCU Capital Financing Program's history. Representing the University at the finance closing were President

Andrew Hugine, vice president of business and finance Clayton Gibson, interim vice-president of student affairs Gary Crosby, and general counsel Angela Redmond Debro.

AAMU, founded in 1875, is a land-grant institution. The AAMU campus is situated on more than 2,300 scenic acres, a five-minute commute from downtown Huntsville, Ala. Its campus was laid out by Frederick Law Olmstead, Sr., designer of New York's Central Park.

## Unsung Hero Heralded by the French

Born in Columbus, Ga., Eugene Jacques Bullard was the first African-American fighter pilot in history. Bullard was an expat living in France, and when World War I broke out he joined the French Infantry. He was seriously wounded, and France awarded him the Croix de Guerre and Medaille Militaire.

In 1916, he joined the French air service and he first trained as a gunner but later he trained as a pilot. When American pilots volunteered to help France and formed the famous Lafayette Escadrille, he asked to join but by the time he became a qualified pilot they were no longer accepting new recruits, so he joined the Lafayette Flying Corps instead. He served with French flying units and he completed 20 combat missions.

When the United States finally joined the war, Bullard was the only member

of the Escadrille or the French Flying Corps who was NOT invited to join the US Air Service. The reason? At that time the Air Service only accepted white men.

After WWI Bullard became a jazz musician in Paris and he eventually owned a nightclub called 'L'Escadrille'. When the Germans invaded France and conquered it in WWII, his Club, and Bullard, became hugely popular with German officers, but what they did not know was that Bullard, who spoke fluent German, was actually working for the Free French as a spy.

Bullard eventually joined a French infantry unit, but he was badly wounded and had to leave the service.

By the end of the war, Bullard had become a national hero in France, but he later moved back to the U.S., where he was com-

pletely unknown. Practically no one in the United States was aware of it when, in 1959, the French government named him a national Chevalier, or Knight.

In 1960, the President of France, Charles DeGaulle, paid a state visit to the United States and when he arrived he said that one of the first things he wanted to do was to meet Bullard.

This request sent the White House staff scrambling because most of them had never even heard of him. They finally located Bullard in New York City, and DeGaulle traveled there to meet him personally. At the time, Eugene Bullard was working as an



elevator operator.

Not long after Bullard met with the President of France, he died, and today very few Americans, and especially African-Americans, even know who he is.

Submitted by  
Betty Dixie

