

# BUSINESS

S&P 500 1,587.73	▲ +19.12	NASDAQ 3,297.25	▲ +59.39	DOW 14,802.24	▲ +128.7
30-YR T-BONDS 3.00%	▲ +.06	CRUDE OIL \$94.64	▲ +.44	EURO 1.3058	▼ -.004

## Chamber hires two new VPs

**By Anthony Clark**  
Business editor

The Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce has hired a former diplomat to China and a former chief of staff for the mayor of Birmingham, Ala., to fill key positions.

Kamal Latham started Monday as vice president of public policy to lead the Chamber's efforts advocating for the business community and working with city, county, regional and state governments.

Latham served as a diplomat for the U.S. Department of State under Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, working on economic affairs from the embassy in Beijing. He received a Meritorious Honor Award for his work negotiating air services rights credited with generating \$5 billion in new business for U.S. air carriers over

five years, according to a news release from the Chamber.

Latham is also president of Diplomatic Treatment Corporate Consulting specializing in business development in China. He has a master's in public policy from Harvard University and a bachelor of arts in political science and history from Temple University.

He and his wife, Jonnel, have two children.

Latham takes the job last held by Ife Goodson.

Deborah Bowie starts Monday as vice president of Chamber development, which includes managing staff and providing resources to help members and other local businesses.



Latham



Bowie

She replaces Sonia Douglas, who resigned in January for a career move.

Bowie, a Miami native, comes to Gainesville from Albany, Ga., where

she served as senior director of public policy and communications with the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce.

Before that, she served as chief of staff for the mayor of Birmingham and vice president of community development for the Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce.

She has a bachelor's in communications from Xavier University of Louisiana.

Bowie and her husband have four children, including 4-year-old triplets.

## UF's biotech incubator wins award

Staff report

The University of Florida's Sid Martin Biotechnology Incubator was named 2013 International Incubator of the Year by the National Business Incubation Association after one of its graduate companies landed a major defense contract and three companies were acquired in multimillion-dollar deals.

Associate Director Patti Breedlove said the award caps "a cascade of really good news over the last eight months. We've had our best year ever."

The incubator helps companies that commercialize UF biotechnology research by providing a 40,000-square-foot facility in Progress Corporate Park in the city of Alachua. It is currently home to nine resident companies and 14 affiliated clients. Since opening in 1995, 28 companies have graduated out of the incubator or been acquired by other companies.

Incubator companies have received more than \$1 billion in funding and have an annual economic impact of \$100 million

in Alachua County, UF said in a news release.

Last month, the Department of Defense granted graduate company Nanotherapeutics a contract that could be worth as much as \$360 million over 10 years to build a drug development and manufacturing facility in Alachua.

Alachua-based Pasteuria Bioscience announced in September that it was being acquired by Swiss agribusiness giant Syngenta for \$113 million.

Other recent graduate acquisitions include

Celunol Inc. for \$98 million and EraGen Biosciences for \$34 million.

The award was announced this week at the association's international conference in Boston. Association Membership Director Randy Morris said the awards are based on an incubator's record of success and financial footing for future success.

The Sid Martin incubator also won one of two Dinah Adkins Incubator of the Year awards for technology incubators.

# Blacks still face economic equality hurdles

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Black Americans have achieved tremendous gains in education over the past 50 years, but that has yet to translate into major progress toward economic equality, the National Urban League says in its latest State of Black America report.

This year's report, "Redeem the Dream: Jobs Rebuild America," identifies unemployment as the biggest barrier to that progress. It also marks milestones in black history since 1963, the height of the civil rights movement.

According to the report,

released Wednesday during the league's annual legislative conference, 75 percent of black adults had not completed high school 50 years ago, compared with 15 percent of black adults today. At the college level, there are now 3.5 times more blacks aged 18-24 enrolled, and five times as many black adults who hold a college degree.

Overall, the standard of living for black Americans improved significantly, due mainly to better access to educational and employment opportunities, the report says. It credits those opportunities to the

passage of civil rights laws and affirmative action policies. But there has been much less change between blacks and whites on the economic ladder, with indicators such as employment, income and home ownership. On average, blacks remain twice as likely as whites to be unemployed and earn less than two-thirds the income of whites. For every dollar that whites earn, blacks earn 60 cents, the report said.

On average, African-Americans enjoy 71.7 percent, or fewer than three-fourths, of the benefits and privileges

that are offered to white Americans. These include education, economics, health, social justice and civic engagement.

The report derives its numbers from an "equality index" that is based on nationally collected data from agencies including the Census Bureau, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Center for Education Statistics and Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

The National Urban League has launched a \$70 million initiative, "Jobs Rebuild America," to help get unemployed African-Americans back to work.