

Military, Law Enforcement News, and More...

UofM students spearhead course on 9/11 lessons in resiliency; Aviation professor pilots module from Fordham's Human Resiliency Institute

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 25, 2024— University of Memphis aviation students Brandon Carroll and Cade Plunk did not experience Sept. 11, 2001, the largest terror attack on U.S. soil in history, or its aftermath.

Like their many of their peers who also began their higher education journey circa 2019, they have always lived in a post-9/11 world, part of the first class of collegiates who are now preparing to enter that world in a professional capacity.

The two commercial aviation majors from Pickwick, Tenn., both received scholarships from the University Aviation Association (UAA) in 2023, further strengthening their commitment to the UofM aviation program. The pair also made an industry connection at the association's national conference that set in motion a much larger plan to bring a new class module to the UofM via the Human Resiliency Institute at Fordham University in New York.

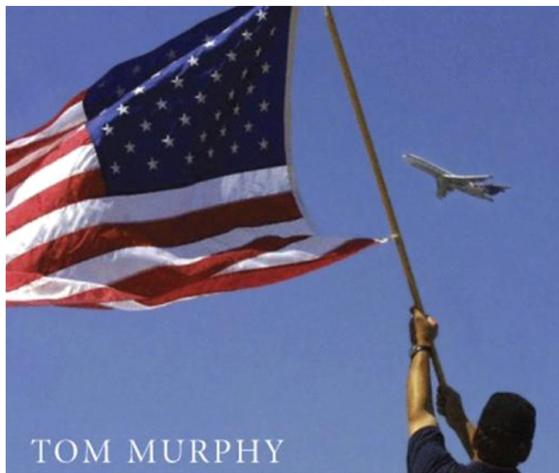
Already, aviation students at the UofM were learning more about 9/11, especially as it relates to resiliency, as part of an aviation management class taught by University of Memphis professor Peter Reddan. An Air Force re-

"Brandon and Cade created an incredible opportunity for fellow and future students to not only learn, but also apply to their own careers, the valuable lessons in resiliency generated by 9/11," said Reddan, a two-time veteran of combat operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan in the wake of 9/11.

tiree, Reddan is working with Tom Murphy, director of the Human Resiliency Institute, to create the module that 128 other UAA-affiliated institutions will be able to offer their students following implementation at the University of Memphis.

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As part of their class work, UofM aviation students read the stories of airport and airline employees who came to work in New York, Boston and Washing-



RECLAIMING THE SKY

9/11 AND THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO KEPT AMERICA FLYING

The University of Memphis will offer "The Reclaiming the Sky Resiliency Project" for aviation students to learn 9/11 lessons. (Photo/Courtesy: UofM)

ton, DC on the morning of 9/11 expecting a normal day, only to find that "just doing my job" was to become the creed of heroes. Their stories are chronicled in the book, "Reclaiming the Sky," by Murphy, who before founding the Human Resiliency Institute, was an aviation consultant who saw firsthand how his aviation colleagues were responding with courage, selfless and resiliency to the attacks on 9/11 to rebuild their lives and reclaim hope.

"The Reclaiming the Sky Resiliency Project gives aviation students an opportunity to learn lessons from the example of the 9/11 heroes and apply them as 'resiliency tools' to meet challenges they will face in their lives, both personally and professionally," said Murphy.

The new course module introduced first by the UofM will give students in aviation programs the opportunity to learn resiliency strengths from the example of 9/11's aviation heroes.

The goal is that the program expands to other institutions in coming years, training a new generation who never experienced 9/11 first-hand but who can now learn from the lessons of their forebears to navigate challenges in an ever-evolving world.



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Crime Commissioner President Bill Gibbons examines ways to curb crime in Memphis and Shelby County

By Bill Gibbons, President Crime Commission

Our community has a lot of positive momentum. Blue Oval City and related businesses should bring thousands of good-paying jobs to Shelby Countians. Our tourism industry is booming. Last year, we had more than 12 million visitors, with an impact of some \$4 billion. In 2023, a record of more than 4.2 million people flew to Memphis International Airport with Memphis as their final destination point. We have a new convention center, rated best by Smart Meetings magazine. We have a reimagined Tom Lee Park on the

riverfront and the new Memphis Art Museum under construction downtown. There are so many new hotels open, under construction, or in the works downtown,

Opinion

I can't keep up with them. The city has invested over \$100 million in our network of community centers.

The University of Memphis is now an R1 top tier national research university. Downtown is surrounded by a booming medical community, with St. Jude, LeBonheur Children's Hospital, and the UT Health Science Center all expanding.

This positive momentum is jeopardized if we don't get a handle on our unacceptably high crime rate. Our community is energized with a sense of urgency about crime, and that's a good thing. The climate is ripe for what new Memphis Mayor Paul Young has called a pandemic-type response to public safety. (As noted by some of our public health leaders, we really are facing a gun violence epidemic.)

Many other cities are being cited as "models" for what can be done, and all have merit.

One city that has been cited for decades is Boston, which originated the focused deterrence approach through its Project

Ceasefire, an effort designed to focus efforts on known bad actors, try to change their behavior, but hold them accountable with severe consequences if they continue down the wrong path. Boston remains one of the safest big cities in America, with a record low in reported shootings and only 37 homicides in 2023.

Detroit has launched its Violent Crime Reduction Partnership with impressive success. In fact, former Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland led a delegation of us to Detroit in 2022 to take a first-hand look at some of the things it was doing, including its version of focused deterrence. Other steps taken by Detroit include

data-driven deployment of police officers and technology; restricting movement for those on bail to work, education, and medical needs; updating probation orders to allow additional searches and compliance checks for those most likely to illegally possess firearms; and creation of a special apprehension unit for those with outstanding felony warrants. Last year, Detroit had a 16 percent drop in non-fatal shootings compared to 2022 and reported 252 homicides – the lowest number since 1966 (admittedly kind of like comparing apples to oranges since Detroit had about three times the population in 1966 that it has today).

Indianapolis launched its special Violence Reduction Plan in 2021, using American Rescue Plan funds. The plan includes some 60 "peacemakers" charged with intervening to head off retaliatory acts of violence; mental health response team expansion; added law enforcement and technology; and a focused deterrence effort that zeroes in on individuals and groups most responsible for gun violence. During the first two years of the plan, Indianapolis achieved a 31 percent drop in homicides and a 20 percent re-

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U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn visits Southern Border in Eagle Pass, Texas

NASHVILLE, TENN. – U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, visited the southern border in Eagle Pass, Texas on Tuesday, March 26 amid the sovereignty battle between the Biden administration and the state of Texas over en-

forcing immigration law.

"Since Inauguration Day 2021, more than 9.2 million illegal immigrants have entered the United States, including over 1.7 million known gotaways. Meanwhile, the Biden administration deported just 142,000 people in all of 2023 – less than 5 percent

of all illegal crossings. What is happening at the southern border is nothing short of an invasion. Not only has this White House refused to step in, but they are waiving a historic number of illegal immigrants into our country on parole and actively blocking states from protecting their own

sovereignty. I'll be traveling to Eagle Pass to help shine a light on what the state of Texas, Border Patrol, law enforcement, and local landowners are doing day and night to uphold the rule of law and secure our southern border," said Senator Blackburn.



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