

Military, Law Enforcement News, and More...

UofM secures \$9.2 mil contract to study drones in weather; State-of-the-art facility sponsored by the Office of Naval Research and Naval Surface Warfare Center-Carderock Div.

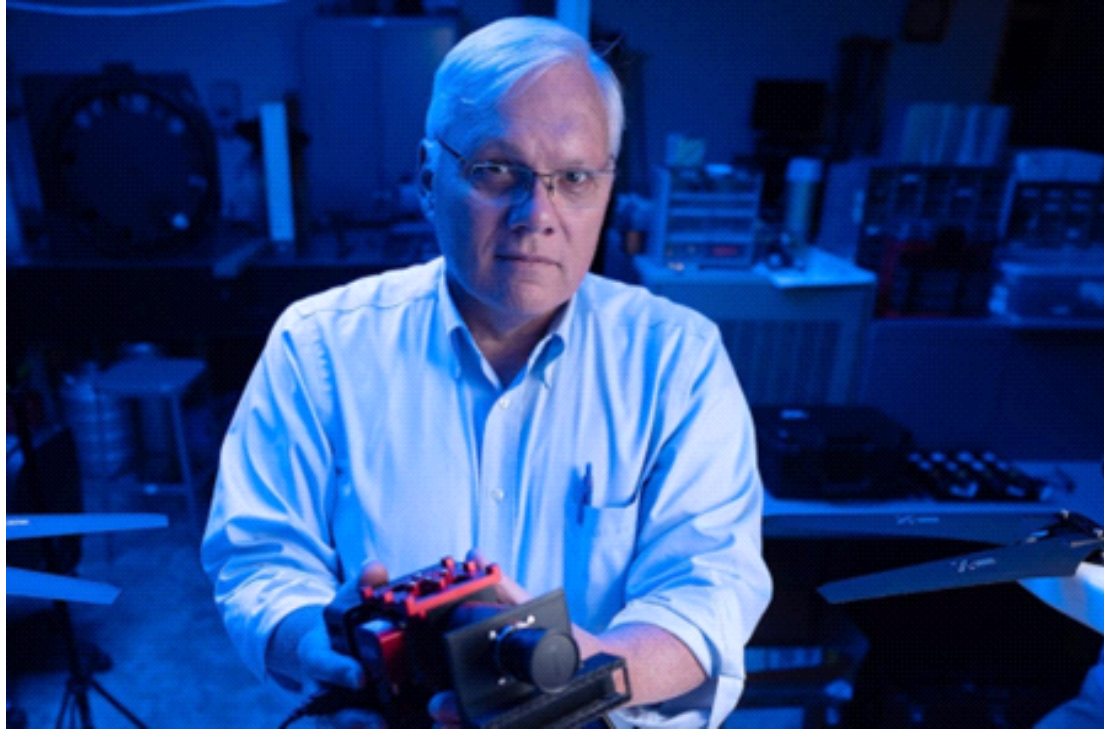
Withstanding Severe Weather is Goal of Research into Capabilities of Unmanned Vehicles

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Aug. 20, 2024 — Successfully flying a drone in heavy rains or on an extremely windy day is next to impossible. A University of Memphis researcher is looking to improve the odds for such unmanned aerial systems after securing a \$9.2 million contract to design and construct a facility to develop and test drones capable of operating in adverse weather conditions.

The state-of-the-art facility is being sponsored by the Office of Naval Research and the Naval Surface Warfare Center – Carderock Division. The facility, which is still in its early planning stages, will be located on President’s Island at the William Morgan Large Cavitation Channel.

The development of the Unmanned Systems Degraded Environment Facility underscores the University of Memphis’ commitment to advancing technological innovation and contributing to national defense efforts.

“This project is the latest in an



Eddie Jacobs is a senior researcher at the Center for Applied Earth Science and Engineering Research (CAESER) and professor of electrical and computer engineering in the Herff College of Engineering. (Wendy Adams photo)

ongoing effort by the University of Memphis to develop intentional research-focused collaborations with the Naval Surface Warfare Center – Carderock,” said Cody Behles, executive director of research and innovation development at the UofM’s Divi-

sion of Research & Innovation. “The Memphis Institute for National Defense Sciences at the UofM helps coordinate opportunities in partnership with the offices of the Tennessee Congressional Delegation. Their collaboration and continued sup-

port are vital to get projects such as this off the ground.”

The project is being led by Eddie Jacobs, senior researcher at the Center for Applied Earth Science and Engineering Research (CAESER) and professor of electrical and computer engi-

neering in the Herff College of Engineering. The University of Memphis will collaborate with fellow researchers at the University of Arizona, the University of Central Florida and the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

“The William Morgan Large Cavitation Channel is already a unique facility for testing ship and submarine components,” said Jacobs. “We have the incredible opportunity to help build another unique facility for testing unmanned aerial systems (drones) in this space, greatly expanding the Navy’s ability to develop and test these systems.

“When flying drones, we are often restricted to days that have calm winds and no rain. We will be able to accurately control the wind and generate rain in this new facility,” Jacobs continued. “This will help us design and test drones that can operate under more challenging conditions.”

Jacobs highlighted the future research facility’s potential to enhance the performance of unmanned systems in difficult environments, with far-reaching implications for both military and civilian applications.

SAF, NRA file amicus brief in challenge of Mass. gun licensing provision

From the Tactical Wire.com

The Second Amendment Foundation and National Rifle Association have filed an amicus brief with the Massachusetts Supreme Court in support of a New Hampshire man who is challenging the Massachusetts permit law.

SAF and NRA are represented by attorneys Adam Kraut with SAF in Bellevue, Wash., Joseph G.S. Greenlee and Erin M. Erhardt with NRA in Fairfax, Va., and Edward F. George, Jr., at Edward George & Associates in Arlington, Mass.

The case involves New Hampshire resident Dean F. Donnell, Jr., who was stopped by police in Massachusetts and charged for carrying a firearm without a license. In their 38-page brief, SAF and NRA explain their interest as that of their members’ ability to travel with firearms legally across state lines, to use them for lawful purposes.

“There is no historical tradition that justifies the non-resident licensing scheme now in place in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,” said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. “Looking back, a government license has not been required to exercise the right to carry arms. Such licenses came into existence only in the late 19th Century, and they applied only to the concealed carry of firearms. Open carry was unrestricted.”

“Our brief,” explained Kraut, who is also SAF’s executive director, “discusses how there were often exemptions for those traveling from being subject to the same restrictions as residents of a particular state. We note how the licensing scheme in Massachusetts is unduly prejudiced against nonresidents. New non-resident license applications require an in-person appointment in Massachusetts, necessitating an extra (unarmed) trip to the Commonwealth—which, especially for residents of distant states, becomes a barrier to entry that may be financially untenable.”

For more information, visit saf.org.

Women’s soccer program announces campaign for the Liza Wellford Fletcher Stadium supported by the Liza’s Light University of Memphis Soccer and Track Stadium

MEMPHIS, Tenn., August 20, 2024 - The University of Memphis women’s soccer program announced the Liza Wellford Fletcher Stadium campaign, a transformative initiative to build a state-of-the-art facility for the women’s and men’s soccer teams and the track and field programs. The development is supported by the Liza’s Light University of Memphis Soccer and Track Stadium Fund.

“As we embark on this exciting journey to build the Liza Wellford Fletcher Stadium, we are proud to create a state-of-the-art facility for our athletes – honoring the enduring legacy of a woman who touched so many lives in our community,” Associate Athletic Director, Annual Fund & Women’s Sports Revenue Initiatives Christina Wiatr said. “Liza’s passion for soccer and her commitment to Memphis will forever inspire us. This stadium will stand as a testament to

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her spirit while providing our student-athletes with the resources they need to succeed on and off the field.”

The new stadium will not only

elevate the athletic programs but also honor the life and legacy of Liza Wellford Fletcher – a former Tiger soccer player, beloved teacher, runner and community member.

The initial phase of the project aims to raise \$7 million to provide top-notch amenities for student-athletes. Enhancements will include a grandstand for the soccer and track stadium, press box, women’s soccer team area and a framework for the men’s side. Subsequent phases will complete the team areas for men’s soccer and track & field, ensuring that more than 100 student-athletes have access to premier facilities while empowering excellence on and off the field.

“The Liza Wellford Fletcher Stadium is a symbol of the dedication, resilience and community that Liza embodied every day. This new facility will give our athletes a place they can truly be proud of, reflecting the hard

work and excellence they bring to the game,” head women’s soccer coach Brooks Monaghan said. “It is long overdue, and it’s exactly what we need to keep Memphis soccer on the map and continue building our legacy.”

The University of Memphis would like to thank the Liza Wellford Fletcher family, Orgill Inc., Southern Security Federal Credit Union, First Horizon and others in the community who have made substantial contributions to this effort.

For more information on the Liza Wellford Fletcher Stadium, naming opportunities, or how to get involved, visit www.lizas-light.org or contact Lizas-Light@memphis.edu.

About Liza’s Light University of Memphis Soccer and Track Stadium Fund

The Liza’s Light University of Memphis Soccer and Track Stadium Fund was established to honor the memory and legacy of Liza Wellford Fletcher, a beloved teacher, avid runner and inspiring figure in the Memphis community.

This fund, organized and supported by close friends and family of the late Liza, is dedicated to building a state-of-the-art facility for the University of Memphis women’s and men’s soccer and track & field teams. Liza’s Light ensures that her passion, dedication and spirit continue to inspire and uplift future generations of student-athletes.

For complete information on Memphis Tigers Soccer, visit www.GoTigersGo.com and follow the team’s social media channels on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

Memphis Showboats are hiring; Put in your application

MEMPHIS, Tenn. -August 16, 2024 – The Memphis Showboats are hiring.

The Showboats are looking to fill five roles in the areas of sponsorship, marketing and ticket sales. The team will be hiring a Director of Sponsorship, a Director of Marketing, a Director of Ticket Sales & Experience and two Ticket Sales & Experience Managers.

“The Memphis Showboats are investing in Memphis,” said

“The Memphis Showboats are investing in Memphis,” said Steve Macy, Showboats Sr. Director of Business Operations. “We are looking for great team members who will help us make the Memphis Showboats the class of the United Football League.”

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members who will help us make the Memphis Showboats the class of the United Football League.”

Each of the five positions will be housed in Memphis.

Below are links to each of the job descriptions with instructions on how to apply.

- Director, Sponsorship** - <https://shorturl.at/qf9Rj>
- Director, Marketing** -

<https://shorturl.at/p5a1Y>
Director, Ticket Sales & Experience - <https://shorturl.at/LLxqN>
Ticket Sales Experience Manager (2) - <https://shorturl.at/sJ85I>

For more information, visit TheUFL.com

About the United Football

League
 The United Football League (UFL) is the premier spring football platform, formed by the merging of the XFL and USFL in 2024. The UFL has eight teams in Arlington (TX), Birmingham (AL), Detroit (MI), Houston (TX), San Antonio (TX), Memphis (TN), St. Louis (MO), and Washington D.C.

An Editorial Comment from The Mid-South Tribune:
“Real women should play in women’s sports!”

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