



BORDER DISPUTE

Brady Hoke's recruiting success has hinged on his abilities in Ohio

» FOOTBALLSATURDAY, INSIDE



AVOID THE 'TEMPTATION'

From the Daily: Respect the Air Force Academy and don't chant 'You suck.'

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The Michigan Daily

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Ann Arbor, Michigan

Friday, September 7, 2012

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Stephen M. Ross (left) and Jeff Blau (right) speak during a question and answer session at the Business School on Thursday.

TERESA MATHEW/Daily

Candid Ross says he'll leave Related CEO post

Adds that 'U' alum Blau will succeed him in leading real estate firm

By **PETER SHAHIN**
Daily Staff Reporter

University alum Stephen M. Ross, the namesake of the University's Ross School of Business, said in an event at the

Business School on Thursday that he will step down next week as CEO of The Related Companies, the real estate firm he founded. He announced that the company's president Jeff Blau, also a University alum, will take over as CEO.

Every one of the 499 seats was filled at Blau Auditorium, with students and guests spilling into three of the Business School's conference rooms, as Ross and Blau lounged in armchairs and fielded questions

ranging from job prospects for business graduates to the state of the Miami Dolphins, the NFL team Ross owns.

But, the surprise of the hour-long presentation came in a truly unscripted exchange between Ross and Blau over the future of Related's management, when Ross said he will leave his position as CEO and will be replaced by Blau.

"I'll be the first to tell you that next week we're announcing he's the CEO and I'm just

the chairman — you'll read about that next week I'm sure," Ross said. "Just don't tell the press, with social media it's going to be all over the place."

Both Blau and Ross declined to comment after the event when asked about the personnel change. Representatives from Related did not respond to requests for comment.

Ross didn't say why he is leaving his position, and it's unclear when an official See **ROSS**, Page 3A

★ ★ ★ ELECTION 2012 ★ ★ ★

Change takes time, Obama argues at DNC

President accepts Democratic nomination, urges support

By **ANDREW SCHULMAN**
Daily Staff Reporter

Challenged by Republicans to prove that the country is better off now than it was four years ago, President Barack Obama offered a "better path forward"

as he accepted the Democratic nomination for president Thursday night.

In a speech that lasted about 40 minutes, Obama cast the presidential election as a decision between two critically different ideologies for how to tackle America's most challenging issues. While acknowledging that progress has been sluggish, he promised that with more time vast change will be made.

"I won't pretend the path I'm offering is quick or easy," Obama See **OBAMA**, Page 3A

GOP groups pull Mich. ads

Super PACs supporting Romney move money to other states

By **ANDREW SCHULMAN**
Daily Staff Reporter

Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney and conservative groups backing him announced Thursday that they

will not continue to run television campaign advertisements in the state of Michigan, The Detroit News reported.

Though some experts say the decision could damage Romney's prospects in Michigan, it doesn't necessarily signify the campaign is ready to surrender the state, according to Michael Heaney, an assistant professor of political science.

"I wouldn't say it's giving up Michigan," Heaney said "I would See **ADS**, Page 3A

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

Students among delegates

Clinton, Obama speeches among highlights for Dems in Charlotte

By **CHANNING ROBINSON**
Daily Staff Reporter

Several University students made the trek to Charlotte, N.C. this week to participate in the Democratic National Convention and show their support for President Barack Obama and the Democratic Party.

LSA sophomore Daniel Elkus

attended the convention as a delegate from Michigan's 9th district. Elkus said he tries to be as politically involved as possible to represent the interests of the campus groups he participates in, including the University's chapter of College Democrats, the American Civil Liberties Union, Hillel and the United Cerebral Palsy of Metropolitan Detroit.

Of the numerous speakers, he said former President Bill Clinton — who gave a fervent address urging Obama's re-election — and Bob King, president of United Auto Workers, were particularly impressive.

"Bill Clinton gave an excellent speech about the future of the nation ... and showed it is impossible to govern under Republicans," Elkus said.

LSA junior Jacob Light also referenced Clinton's speech as one of the convention highlights.

"Bill Clinton delivered an incredible speech that tore apart the Republican argument See **DELEGATES**, Page 3A



GROOVIN'



Students from the Groove Percussion and Performance group perform on the Diag during FestiFall on Thursday.

PATRICK BARRON/Daily

CAMPUS TECHNOLOGY

Google transition nears completion

About half of 'U' students have migrated services

By **MOLLY BLOCK**
Daily Staff Reporter

As students settle into the new school year, the University is also getting acclimated to its new Google e-mail platform.

The University's migration from Internet Message Access Protocol — its previous webmail program — to Google is almost complete, according to officials. By the end of September, all IMAP e-mail accounts will automatically change to M+Google, the University's personalized Google platform.

The switch was pioneered by the University's NextGen Michigan Collaboration project, which

was officially launched on March 5, giving the Ann Arbor campus access to more than 40 Google collaboration applications.

According to Rita Girardi, senior marketing and communications specialist for the NextGen program, M+Google differs from a standard Gmail account in its lack of advertising and its integration with existing University tools such as MCommunity, See **GOOGLE**, Page 3A

WEATHER
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NEWS BRIEFS

MARQUETTE, Michigan

State unveils new Olympic themed license plate

Michigan is offering a new license plate for motorists to show their support for the nation's Olympic athletes.

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson on Wednesday announced the availability of the plate. The redesigned plate features bolder USA lettering and the phrase "Go Team USA" along the bottom.

It replaces Michigan's existing Olympic design that was introduced in 1995.

Olympic gold medal-winning gymnast Jordyn Wieber says in a statement the plate "is a great way to say, 'Go Team USA!'" Wieber is from the Lansing-area community of DeWitt.

KANSAS CITY

Catholic bishop failed to report pedophile priest

The first American bishop criminally charged in the clergy sex abuse scandal was found guilty Thursday of a misdemeanor count of failing to report suspected child abuse, a conviction that extends the struggle of Roman Catholic leaders to restore trust in the church.

Bishop Robert Finn was acquitted on a second count. He received two years of probation, but that sentence was suspended and will be wiped from his record if he adheres to a set of conditions that include mandatory abuse reporting training, setting aside \$10,000 in diocese money for abuse victim counseling, and instructing all diocesan agents to report suspected criminal activity involving minors.

Finn and the Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph were each charged with two misdemeanor counts of failing to report suspected child abuse to the state. Prosecutors said they dropped charges against the diocese, and the judge is expected to sign off on that Friday.

NEW YORK

Stock index soars to pre-2008 levels

The last time the stock market was this high, the Great Recession had just started, and stocks were pointed toward a headlong descent.

But on Thursday, the Dow Jones industrial average hit its highest mark since December 2007, and the Standard & Poor's 500 index soared to its highest level since January 2008 in a rally that marked a milestone: American stocks have come almost all the way back.

A long-anticipated plan to support struggling countries in the European Union provided the necessary jolt, and the gains were extraordinarily broad. All but 13 stocks in the S&P index were up. European markets surged, too.

TOLEMAIDA, Colombia

Colombia rejects peace proposal from rebel group

President Juan Manuel Santos on Thursday night rejected a proposal by Colombia's main leftist rebel movement to observe a cease-fire during peace talks that are to begin next month in Norway.

Leaders of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, said hours earlier during a news conference in Cuba that their first item on the negotiations' agenda would be to propose a truce in the half-century of fighting that has killed tens of thousands.

Santos said that would not happen. He said the Colombian military and police had been instructed to intensify offensive actions against the rebels.

—Compiled from Daily wire reports

ADS

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say, at this point in time, they view their scarce resources as more effectively devoted to other states. They just have a limited amount of money, and they've got to be smart in how they spend it."

Super PACs American Crossroads and Americans for Prosperity recently committed \$13 million to spend on advertising in key swing states, so the decision to end Romney's advertising campaign in Michigan may suggest that his campaign is placing less focus on winning the state in the November election, according to The News.

Poll numbers released by Public Policy Polling on Sept. 3 indicate that Obama is currently carrying a 7 point lead in Michigan.

The destination for the conservative groups' funds may be states such as Florida, Ohio, Colorado, Virginia or North Carolina — battleground states that Heaney said are more contested and more electorally significant than Michigan.

Political Science Prof. Vincent Hutchings agreed, adding that other swing states are more important to Romney's election chances and President Barack Obama's re-election.

"(Romney) really needs Florida and Ohio; it's a little hard to see him winning without both those states," Hutchings said. "But he doesn't really need Michigan, and frankly, neither does the president."

DELEGATES

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from last week," Light said. "You couldn't help but be excited and enthused as he delivered the speech of the night."

Light compared the convention's excited mood to the enthusiastic support Obama garnered at the 2008 convention.

Recent polling data indicates the November election will be a close race, Political Science Prof. Michael Heaney said. He added that he expects the youth vote to be a determining factor in the election's outcome.

"The polls show it's basically an even race," said Heaney. "Very few people are undecided. The trick is getting the few that wouldn't participate, to participate."

Light said he attended the convention to continue fostering student support for Obama, noting that the student voice is increasingly important this year.

"I thought it was really important to go, to show that young people really support the President and the work he's doing for us," Light said.

Elkus said he will be vot-

OBAMA

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said. "I never have. You didn't elect me to tell you what you wanted to hear. You elected me to tell you the truth. And the truth is, it will take more than a few years for us to solve challenges that have built up over decades."

He vowed, however, to solve those challenges — to grow the economy and restore the promise of the middle class, end foreign wars and energy dependence, while improving all levels of education.

"But know this, America, our problems can be solved," Obama said. "Our challenges can be met. The path we offer may be harder, but it leads to a better place. And I'm asking you to choose that future."

The plan Obama presented in his speech included the creation of 1 million manufacturing jobs by 2016, the reduction of net oil imports by half by 2020 and decreasing the growing rate college tuition in the next decade.

Obama spoke little of the youth vote or on higher education, but emphasized his experience in foreign policy and with the economy. Obama called voting for him over Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney "the clearest choice of any time in a generation," directing his most pointed language to Romney's record of outsourcing jobs.

"After a decade of decline, this country created over half a

million manufacturing jobs in the last two-and-a-half years," Obama said. "And now you have a choice. We can give more tax breaks to corporations that shift jobs overseas or we can start rewarding companies that open new plants and train new workers and create new jobs here in the United States of America."

Obama continued to tout his experience and his accomplishments in office, contrasting himself with Romney. He responded to Romney's charges against him at the Republican National Convention last week, saying the Republicans failed to offer solutions to the nation's challenges.

"Now, our friends at the Republican convention were more than happy to talk about everything they think is wrong with America, but they didn't have much to say about how they'd make it right," Obama said. "And that's because all they have to offer is the same prescription they've had for the last thirty years."

Obama's focus on solutions stemmed, in part, from his desire to frame the election as a choice between him and Romney rather than as a judgment of his economic record, Political Science Prof. Michael Traugott said.

"He is vulnerable when the campaign centers on the referendum, and he's vulnerable if the Republicans get the focus on the current state of the economy," Traugott said. "But he's at

an advantage when he compares his experience as an incumbent against Romney's relative lack of experience, and he's at an advantage because he has a vision of the future that's more optimistic and detailed than Mitt Romney's."

Traugott and Aaron Kall, director of the University's Debate Program and Debate

ing for the Obama-Biden ticket based on the pair's track record. "I'm voting Democrat and for Obama because of what he has done to improve the life of the average American," Elkus said.

Specifically, Elkus cited the Affordable Care Act — the comprehensive health care reform plan passed under Obama in March 2010 — as a transformative piece of legislation.

"Obama has done so much for people like myself with cerebral palsy by passing the Affordable Care Act and eliminating pre-existing conditions," Elkus said. "As a delegate, I see myself as a voice for the disability community whose worlds would be turned upside down by the Romney-Ryan plan."

Light said he will cast his presidential vote Democratic not only because of what his administration has accomplished the past four years, but because of the strength of the convention's message.

"This convention has marked the Democrats going on the offensive ... we have the direction for the future and for the next four years," Light said. "It's really the future that we are electing (Obama) for."

GOOGLE

From Page 1A

the University's online directory.

Girardi said the new Google platform aims to establish more efficient and collaborative tools for communication within the University. The Dearborn and Flint campuses will also move to M+Google this fall, she added.

"This effort is about much more than e-mail and calendar," Girardi said. "It's about working together more effectively and easily. We're already seeing how Google collaboration tools are changing the way we work."

According to Girardi, the University also has plans to integrate more existing tools with the Google platform. She said the hope is to sync Wolverine Access calendars and class schedules with Google, though this change will require software changes to Wolverine Access, which won't happen immediately.

Though Girardi said the change will likely be significant for many faculty members who have used the old program for awhile, she said she's not concerned that students will have difficulties with the new interface.

"The move to M+Google for e-mail and calendar is a big

change, especially for those faculty and staff who were accustomed to using e-mail software like Outlook or Apple Mail," Girardi said. "Because so many students were already using Google, it seems the transition has been easier for them."

In a four-month period from May to August, many University faculty members and staff migrated to M+Google mail and calendar. However, the University of Michigan Health System, along with other small research groups, is not permitted to transition due to the nature of healthcare regulations and data restrictions. The University of Michigan-Google Apps for Education Agreement doesn't include liability protection, which is a concern for UMHS and other groups handling sensitive subject matter. However, the groups will still have access to Google tools beyond e-mail.

Girardi said about 27,000 of M+Google student users self-migrated in the past six months, about 51 percent of the student population, noting that she expects about 52,860 students to self-migrate.

"As of this week about half (of the University) has moved to M+Google," Girardi said. "We are sending out weekly reminders to those who haven't moved yet,

on people and the product they build," Allen said in an interview after Thursday's event.

The majority of the questions from students revolved around job prospects, community values and personal reflection for Ross and Blau. One student said he had started three failed businesses and asked the duo about their greatest business shortcoming.

"That story (the three failed businesses) is worth more than your GPA," Blau responded. "Failure should be viewed as a learning experience," he added.

Ross advised students to think outside the traditional market to find jobs, citing his own company as an example.

"You have to have the attitude that you don't want to be where everybody else is," Ross said. "We're always looking to be doing things differently."

Ross also criticized the Obama administration for new regulations during the event, saying the private sector could "out wait" Obama and the 2012 election before investing.

Ross co-hosted a \$2,500-per-plate dinner for Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney in January according to Palm Beach Daily News. However, Ross did not mention Romney by name during the event.

"From a political standpoint, I think if we don't have a new president, we could have a worldwide recession, just the way things are lined up," Ross said.

ROSS

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announcement will be made.

The Related Companies is one of the largest privately-owned real estate firms in the country, best known for developing Time Warner Center, a skyscraper complex in New York City.

Ross, 72, graduated from the University with a bachelor's of business administration in 1962. In 2004, he donated \$100 million to construct the new Business School complex in 2004, after which the University renamed the school in his honor. As of March, his net worth was \$3.1 billion, according to Forbes.

"I really have a lot of respect for what's taught at Michigan, the people here, and what it stands for," Ross said.

Blau earned a bachelor's of business administration from the University in 1990 and has also donated significant sums to the Business School. Blau Auditorium is named after him.

Peter Allen, moderator of the event and a lecturer in the Business School, said he connected Ross and Blau after a lecture in 1988. Allen explained that after Ross spoke to his class, he asked to meet with Allen's best student, and that started the partnership between Ross and Blau.

"What came through loud and clear was their emphasis on passion and quality, both

advising them that they have until the end of September to do so."

Engineering junior Shan He said the self-migration was appealing since he is already familiar with Google's e-mail platform.

"I migrated last semester because I had a Gmail account before I came here," he said. "It is much more convenient because it has Google calendar and Google documents which are really useful."

Even though Engineering sophomore Andrew Pollack didn't previously have a Google account, he said he found the transition to be smooth.

"Migration was a very easy process," Pollack said. "I did it about a week before school started, and it's a lot better because Gmail keeps you logged in and it shows the entire e-mail conversation."

However, the concerns of some students who have had problems making the change from IMAP to Gmail are discouraging others from making the switch.

"I haven't migrated yet because a lot of my friends who did lost two weeks of e-mails," Engineering senior Hannah Balge said. "Also, I don't have time to migrate and it seems like a long process."

In an interview after the session, Ross said the only surprising topic was the amount of questions he received about the Miami Dolphins. He also expressed uncertainty about the fate of future entrepreneurs as the country goes through a "great change."

"It's unfortunate, you like to think you're leaving it better for the next generation, and that might not be the case," Ross said.

Business senior Stan Dupuy said he was impressed with Ross and Blau's answers during the event, but he wasn't surprised Blau was being promoted to CEO. Dupuy said two years ago in a class visit, Ross had indicated that Blau was being groomed for the position.

"We were pretty much told that Jeff (Blau), having been in the company for 20 years, was really the next in line, and that Steve was forming him to be the next CEO of Related," Dupuy said.

Business freshman Abhi Satya said he found Ross's answers thorough and genuine, and saw the stories of his struggles with failure early in his career as motivational.

"He truly inspired all the students by telling us the story of his failures and made himself seem like a real person, like one of us, who came up from being an eager student to one of the most successful businessmen of all time," Satya said.

tor and followed former President Bill Clinton's and Vice President Joe Biden's addresses well.

"There was some concern about whether or not he would be able to deliver in light of the quality that preceded him," Traugott said. "But I thought he met or exceeded everybody's expectations."

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