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BUSINESS

Lansky's expertise keeps him on top | C1

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2011 | COMMERCIALAPPEAL.COM

TIGER FOOTBALL

Freshmen pass-catch duo set

Reed, Malone pairing could boost offense. | D1

09.11.01 | TEN YEARS LATER

World takes detour

Lawyer re-evaluates life, leaves N.Y. streets for Rhodes sidelines



Mark Weber/The Commercial Appeal

Rhodes College head football coach Dan Gritti gets his players pumped up during a practice on Thursday. The 37-year-old New York lawyer-turned-coach had a life-changing experience when he witnessed the collapse of the World Trade Center towers on Sept. 11, 2001.



GEOFF CALKINS

HE REMEMBERS THE SMELL of burned cement, the way it hung in a haze. He remembers the McDonald's trucks, driving up and down Second Avenue. "They're refrigerated," he said.

For the bodies. Or pieces of bodies. Dan Gritti watched the trucks come and go, come and go. He was an attorney with the firm Littler Mendelson. He was on top of the universe. He shopped wherever he wanted to shop. He had a driver to take him wherever he wanted to go.

His income: Substantially more than half a million a year. His favorite perk: Free tickets to every home Yankees-Red Sox game.

As it happened, the Red Sox were in town the night before. He and his brother saw them get rained out. So he woke up, put on a suit, walked out to hail a cab, revelled in the glorious morning, and then

watched, standing right there on the corner, as the world forever changed. The North Tower. The South Tower. "I saw both of them go down," he said. He remembers the oddest things. The two clouds in the sky. The girl, collapsing in tears.

Gritti returned to his apartment. He started making calls. Which friends were

alive? Which friends were not? The phone rang. It was work. A message to all members of the firm. "It said that this is a great tragedy but that the clients of the firm still have to be served and we were expected to be at work the next morning," Gritti said. "It took every fiber of my being not to throw

Please see **CALKINS, A3**

COMING SUNDAY

A decade of trying to understand

Special section: When New York's skyline was altered the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, the landscape of America changed in kind. We examine some of the most significant changes.

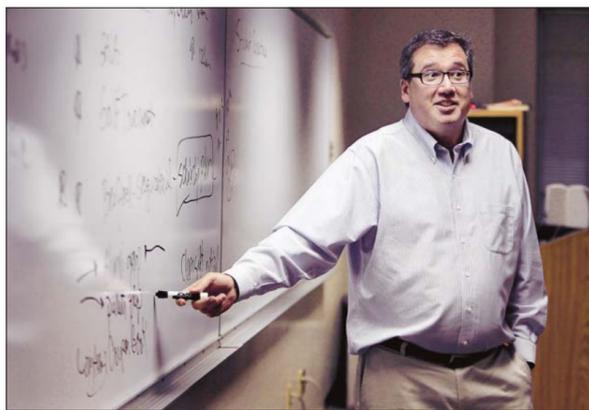
TODAY'S COVERAGE

Still more work to be done

In his words: Rhodes College chaplain leads effort to improve the community in memory of 9/11. | M1

Tributes: See a list of area commemorations of the 10th anniversary. | B1

Undaunted: Latest terror threat has New Yorkers, Washingtonians living lives among ever-more increased security. | A10



CBU professor Rev. Paul Watkins left the Dominican Order after being ordained, establishing himself as a successful businessman and millionaire. After the 9/11 attacks, he felt a calling and a need to return to the order.

Nikki Boertman
The Commercial Appeal

Priest-turned-business mogul led by events back to the pulpit



Faith in Memphis
David Waters

FOR A MAN who made millions selling Cajun entrees and diet products, Rev. Paul Watkins seems alarmingly subdued about having given it all up for a life of poverty, chastity and prayer.

"I've never been an extravagant person, not even when I had all that money," Watkins said as he sat in his tiny office at Christian Brothers University, where he teaches business and ethics.

"We don't need much to be happy

and helpful."

On Sunday, the 50-year-old member of the Dominican Order of Preachers will stand in the pulpit of St. Peter Catholic Church and try to be helpful and hopeful.

He'll tell a story about a young man who dreamed of starting his own business and did, who became a millionaire and then gave it all away to help God by serving others.

It's a 9/11 story.

Please see **WATERS, A2**

IN TODAY'S NEWSPAPER

Obama touts his job plan

PR blitz: The White House mounts a full-court press in support of President Obama's jobs plan, while Republicans tone down their criticism of the president. | A4

In Egypt: Protesters break into the Israeli Embassy and the ambassador flees. | A11

Stocks down: U.S. stocks plunged Friday amid European debt worries, erasing week's gains. | C1



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Warming up
Mostly sunny; high 84.

DETAILS, D10

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