One of the most common physiological effects of climbing mountains in distress due to the lack of sufficient oxygen. This is known as altitude sickness and is why mountainers often only go well on this kind of expedition, but also they favor go alone. They make sure that they are equipped by experienced climbers so the lack of oxygen does not generate, among other things, hallucinations that can be fatal.

Something similar can be said of certain people who reach high positions in titles, for positions for which they are not fully prepared. Just the sensation of being at the height of an institution makes them hallucinate and their fatal mistakes.

Just a couple of weeks ago the University of Akron announced that its president, Scott Scarborough, and the university board of trustees had “mutually agreed” that he should step down after less than two years as the head of the institution.

What happened there is becoming more and more common in academia. Many factors have been put-

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Letters from Academia

He also decided to rename the university as Valdosta University, but the new name was not well received by the students and faculty. The student body and faculty expressed their dissatisfaction and the fact that this is an institu-

tion that teaches many other subjects besides techni-
cal careers. Last month the university said it was no longer going by the new name.

Anyone who is knowledgeable about the culture of higher education knows that to change the name of the institution is a very risky proposition that will irritate many scholars – usually the people with the bad reputation by base of any college or university. And to change a name that describes many disciplines as irrelevant to the institution is the easiest way to insult many institutional constituents.

In May 2015 Scarborough sought a peace before the scandal. He was trying to deal with the bad press issue by terminating about 200 employees, while spending, nearly a million dollars to defend the university-owned president’s home. He also spent more than $500,000 in a contract with a new company called Trust Navigators, to provide “success coaches” to freshmen students. In May of this year the university announced it would not renew the contract with that Cleveland company because there was not a noticeable difference in the fall-to-spring retention rate for students with the coaches, com-
pared to the year before without them.

There were also attacks made by Scarborough to his subordinates that included warnings about “failing to pick up trash and to maintain an orderly and clean work environment.” “Being late to meet-
ings,” “saying one’s own,” and “ability to answer a question directly and successfully.”

The conclusion of the study is clear enough” communication between him and the board.

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