



# The Crimson White

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Serving the University of Alabama since 1894

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## Believe Out Loud open to all people

*Local churches welcome homosexuals and pride themselves on being inclusive*

By Caroline Murray  
Staff Reporter  
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Amber Forsythe was the “perfect Baptist child.” She went to church with her family every Sunday, knew the Ten Commandments and did Bible drills. She knew she loved God and God loved her.

Soon, however, Forsythe, a health studies graduate student, committed a sin so severe in the eyes of Southern Baptists that she was cut off from her family. What was the sin? Murder? Deceit? No, Forsythe’s sin doesn’t appear in the Ten Commandments.

She is a lesbian. In many Christian faiths, homosexuality is believed to be a sinful choice. When the many Christian-raised children scattered about the South reach adulthood, those who identify themselves as anything other than heterosexual often face scrutiny from the Christian faith they were raised in.

Groups like national non-profit organization Believe Out Loud and affirming churches like God’s House and Canterbury Episcopal Chapel,

**“If they accept that old church, they accept a wrathful God that hates them. But they come here and find something new.”**

— Helene Loper,  
God’s House pastor

where Forsythe attends, are working to make the Christian community a more accepting place for all people, not just those who are straight.

Helene Loper, a pastor at God’s House, did not come out as a lesbian until her midlife. She said the problem lies in church policies, not with God.

“Many people have equated God with this human institution, and what they have heard isn’t the truth about themselves,” she said. “They are in a crisis and are questioning how, if they are gay, they can be Christian. They must rethink who God is and who the church is. If they accept that old church, they accept a wrathful God that hates them. But they come here and find something new.”

See **CHURCH**, page 3

## Soledad O’Brien visits Bama

*CNN reporter speaks with UA students about diversity in the news*

By Melissa Brown  
and Laura Monroe  
The Crimson White

CNN journalist and author Soledad O’Brien urged students to be their own advocates as they work to find their passion in a lecture in the Ferguson Center Thursday night.

“You have to constantly fight and advocate for what you can do,” O’Brien said. “It’s about constantly challenging people’s expectations of what you can do.” The lecture, titled “Diversity –

On TV, Behind the Scenes & In Our Lives,” touched on O’Brien’s background growing up in an interracial home, her first jobs in journalism and her documentary work of the last several years.

Her mother, a black Cuban, and her father, a white Australian, met in Baltimore, Md., in 1958.

At the time, interracial marriage was illegal, so the couple travelled to Washington D.C. to wed.

See **O’BRIEN**, page 2



CW | Jingyu Wan  
On Thursday, Nov. 3, Soledad O’Brien gives her “Diversity – On TV, Behind the Scenes & In Our Lives” lecture.

## Theatre Tuscaloosa adds song to a spelling bee | PAGE 8



Submitted Photo

The Slash Pine tour takes visitors through Tuscaloosa landmarks.

## Slash Pine to host reading and walking tour through town

By Alex Cohen  
Senior Staff Reporter  
cohen.alex.c@gmail.com

**IF YOU GO ...**

- **What:** Slash Stitch Burn, a tour of Tuscaloosa landmarks
- **Where:** Drish Mansion
- **When:** Saturday at 11 a.m.

Members of the Tuscaloosa community are surrounded by history. But in our day-to-day activities, we tend to take that history for granted or, more often, ignore it. That’s about to change.

On Saturday, Nov. 12, the Slash Pine interns will host “Slash Stitch Burn,” a guided tour of historic landmarks in Tuscaloosa with a literary focus.

As participants visit these places, they will listen to readings, opening their minds and their imaginations to the space around them.

“Slash Pine has a group of 11 interns with an idea to engage the community with the history of Tuscaloosa,” said Luke Southworth, a Slash Pine

mentor and MFA at the University. “They’re playing with the idea of how malleable history can be.”

Applied to history, malleability may seem like a weird concept. After all, it’s history. But Slash Pine interns believe a location’s history changes as people perceive it differently. And that process is facilitated by spoken words.

See **TOUR**, page 8



UA and Shelton State students perform in the dress rehearsal of the musical “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.”

Above: CW | Bryce Denton  
Left: CW | Natalie Nichols

## Mississippi State game buses benefit Toys for T-Town

By Ashanka Kumari  
Staff Reporter  
akumar317@bellsouth.net

Toys for T-Town, a partnership between the Student Government Association, Hilton Garden Inn and University Programs, is carrying out SGA’s mission of community service in response to the April 27 tornado, according to a press release.

The SGA will collect new unwrapped toys during the month of November.

All toys will go directly to students who were affected by the tornado, according to the release. Students can take a bus to the Mississippi State away game on Nov. 12.

Taking the bus does not include a ticket

**“We want to give students the opportunity to give back hope and happiness to the children of our Tuscaloosa community.”**

— Kathy Hasselwander,  
student programming assistant

to the game.

“Instead of paying for the bus in cash, every student must bring a toy to donate, which will essentially benefit Toys for T-Town,” said David Wilson, vice president of Student Affairs.

Students can register for a seat on the bus by going to the list of events at [uaferguson.tix.com](http://uaferguson.tix.com), according to a

press release.

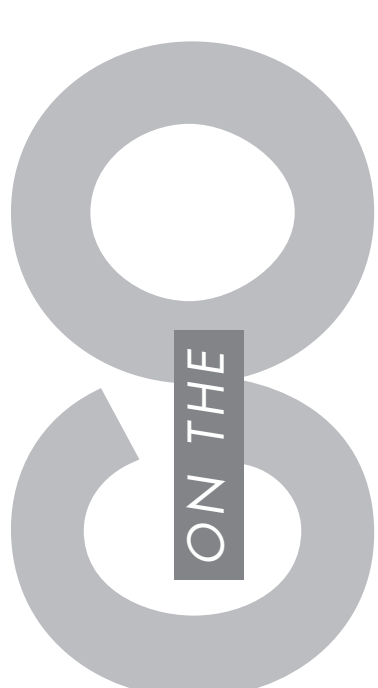
Click on the event titled “On the Town with the Ferg: Mississippi State” and follow the instructions on how to sign up and register.

All students need to print off the ticket and bring it with them to Room 100 in the Ferguson Center.

Only one person may register per seat, and students are required to return to Tuscaloosa on the bus due to safety reasons.

“We want to give students the opportunity to give back hope and happiness to the children of our Tuscaloosa community,” student programming assistant Kathy Hasselwander said.

See **BUS**, page 2



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ONLINE



ONLINE EXCLUSIVE: VETERAN'S DAY MEMORIAL

The SGA and Campus Veterans Association will host a memorial on Nov. 11 to honor veterans at the University.

TODAY

What: Alabama ASTA 'Honor Strings Festival'
Where: Moody Music Building
When: 3 p.m.

What: Art Speaks: Student Art Show
Where: Second Floor Reception Area, Nott Hall
When: 6 to 8 p.m.

What: City of Angels, tickets are \$10
Where: Allen Bales Theatre
When: 7:30 p.m.

ON THE CALENDAR

FRIDAY

What: Veterans Day Observance Ceremony
Where: Front Steps, Gorgas Library
When: 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

What: COE Does ART - The Complete Works of Shakespeare (Abridged)
Where: HM Comer Hall
When: 7 to 9 p.m.

What: City of Angels, tickets are \$10
Where: Allen Bales Theatre
When: 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

What: COE does ART: The Complete Works of Shakespeare
Where: HM Comer Room 126
When: 2 p.m.

What: Alabama ASTA 'Honor Strings Festival'
Where: Moody Music Building
When: 3 p.m.

Submit your events to calendar@cw.ua.edu

ON THE MENU

Table with 4 columns: LUNCH, LAKESIDE, DINNER, BURKE LUNCH, BRYANT LUNCH, FRESH FOOD LUNCH. Lists various food items like Grilled Chicken, Meatloaf, Steak, Turkey Divan, etc.

ON CAMPUS

Crimson Couch to 5K event to be held this Sunday

More than 800 people are expected to participate in the Crimson Couch to 5K Walk/Run Event Sunday, Nov. 13, at The University of Alabama.

to the public. Entry for the CC5K is free for pre-registered individuals who participated in the CC5K nine-week training program, as well as those under the age of 18.

City accepts donations from sister cities

By Stephen N. Dethrage Assistant News Editor sndethrage@crimson.ua.edu

The Tuscaloosa City Council divided more than \$16,000 in donated money Tuesday and awarded it to three schools and several city employees.

The money was donated by various organizations in Tuscaloosa's European sister city, Schorndorf, Germany, to help with relief in the wake of the destruction in Tuscaloosa after the April 27 tornado.

The people of Schorndorf raised the \$16,000+ through various fundraisers and earmarked it specifically to be divided among Tuscaloosa's police officers, city employees and schools.

The money was awarded in person to city employees who were negatively impacted during the tornado but continued to work and serve the city in the hours and days that followed.

"It is a real honor for us to recognize them," Mayor Walt Maddox said. "I know how difficult it was without any missing family and without any damage to my home. I couldn't imagine serving the city without knowing if my home was still there

or if my family was safe. "Those individuals that you saw are true heroes of this city," he said.

Each city employee was given \$850 to assist them in whatever way they saw fit. Funded by donations from the LIONS program in Schorndorf, Tuscaloosa's University Place Elementary, University Place Middle School and Alberta Elementary School were given around \$1,600 each to boost efforts to repair damage caused by the storm.

"I am very, very proud of our relationship and very moved by what they've done," Maddox said. "We had several employees negatively impacted by the tornado, and this will help them a little bit."

The employees were recognized and awarded by Lisa Keyes, executive director of the Tuscaloosa Sister Cities Commission.

"When you reach out to get to know someone on a personal level," Keyes said, "from community to community, from people to people, we discover that we are all so much more alike than we are different."

Narashino, Japan, another sister city, raised an addition-

al \$25,000 and donated it to Tuscaloosa's general fund to aid in the funding of tornado relief projects.

"This shows what friendship around the world is really about," Councilman Bob Lundell said. "The people of Narashino, Japan, got together. After their earthquake, we sent money over to them, and ironically, we sent it to them at 2 o'clock in the afternoon on the 27th of April. They, in turn, sent us back \$25,000 for our tornado relief."

Mayor Maddox said that when Tuscaloosa entered the Sister Cities program, no one expected results and support as great as the donations given by and to Tuscaloosa this year. He said the cities joined originally to reinforce economic ties and business ventures and have since grown to truly aid and support one another.

"I remember, when we were raising funds for Narashino, thinking just how devastating it must be, never thinking we would find ourselves in that position," Maddox said. "It does make you feel good knowing that although the distances are so far, we have friends that feel so close."

O'BRIEN

Continued from page 1

O'Brien, one of six children, was on the pre-med track at Harvard University before dropping out after realizing her heart wasn't in medicine.

"To say my parents were disappointed was an understatement," she said. "Go with your gut when you know what your passion isn't, though."

O'Brien took her first job in television, a job she said involved making coffee and taking tacks out of a bulletin board. In one of her first interviews, O'Brien said she was told she wouldn't get the job because of her skin color.

"He said 'I'd like to hire you, but I only have one spot for a black person, but you're not dark enough,'" she said.

O'Brien also recounted a story of her mother, a public school teacher, who saw a young black student surrounded in the hallway by the school principal, vice principal, and dean. O'Brien said her mother noticed the boy looked overwhelmed. Her mother stayed in the hallway with the boy, O'Brien said, even after the principal told her she wasn't needed.

"She was telegraphing to the kid that 'I'm here to be a witness for you,'" O'Brien said. "That was power - being the person willing to be a witness and not move on when someone tells you that you should."

This experience, she said, is

what drove her to journalism and still inspires her to tell the stories of the underrepresented.

"My personal goal is to bring to light a wider range of stories," she said. "We are all in a position to do something. Diverse voices have power."

Kelly Ritenour, a junior majoring in telecommunication and film, found O'Brien's success motivating because of her less than glamorous beginnings.

"She inspired me," Ritenour said. "Her first job was something every college kid could relate to."

Meaghan Thomas, a senior majoring in telecommunication and film, said O'Brien's advice for college students rung true because the journalist has lived it herself.

"She never took no for an answer and shot for the stars," Thomas said.

O'Brien has spearheaded the series "In America," which has produced the documentaries "Black in America," "Education in America," "Latino in America," and "Muslim in America." It was announced last week that she will return to CNN to host a conversational news show.

Whatever the format, O'Brien said she hopes to continue to fight to be a diverse voice.

"How do we tell stories about human beings we are engaged by? We start doing them because it matters," she said. "I believe the time is now and the opportunity is now to use your voice."

BUS

Continued from page 1

After the tornado, the Hilton Garden Inn Tuscaloosa wanted to help those affected in a different way. During their 4th Annual Christmas in July, a charity drive was created to collect donated toys for the children of the Tuscaloosa area - primarily families who had suffered losses during the April 27 tornado, Traci Channell, director of sales, said in a press release.

"There are so many families who had such loss during the April 27 tornado," Channell said. "Although many needs have been met through generous donations and sponsor-

ships, we hope to provide toys to some of those families who may not have the means to purchase Christmas gifts for their children."

They are looking for toy donations for a wide range of ages, from newborns to teenagers, Katie O'Laughlin, SGA press secretary, said. All toys must be new and unopened. If you register to ride the Mississippi State away game bus, you can ride for free with the donation of a toy. Toys can be brought to the University Programs Office, SGA Office or Ferguson Center Room 100 between now and November 30.

"The SGA is very excited to offer this opportunity to students to help those families affected by the April 27 storm,"

ON THE RADAR



MCTcampus

Paterno fired as Penn State coach

From MCTcampus

Penn State's football coach Joe Paterno has been fired by the school's Board of Trustees. In addition, the long-serving President Graham B. Spanier is out as a result of fallout from the sex abuse scandal that has rocked the school. Penn State's board of trustees accepted Spanier's resignation, the board announced Wednesday night. Both men

have been under fire since a grand jury report emerged late last week, charging former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky for molesting young boys on Penn State's campus over a period of years. Two university administrators also were charged in the case for perjury and failure to report a crime. When told of a 2002 alleged sexual assault by Sandusky on a 10-year-old boy, Paterno notified University officials

but not law enforcement. Spanier acknowledged that one of his administrators told him about the incident involving Sandusky but said that it was only described as "horseplay." Since arriving at Penn State in 1995, Spanier has been credited with increasing fundraising and enrollment and starting a plethora of new programs and initiatives. In 2010, his contract was extended by the Board of Trustees to 2015.

# Filling Station hosts DVD drive for soldiers overseas

The University's MBA program and the Filling Station pull together to collect DVDs for the United Service Organization

By Heather Lightsey and Hanna Roberts  
The Crimson White

## IF YOU GO ...

**Who:** UA's MBA program and the Filling Station

**What:** Collecting DVDs for soldiers

**When:** Starts today

**Where:** The Filling Station

organization designed to serve the U.S. military, will see that the DVDs are received by soldiers. This organization has helped more than 1 million U.S. soldiers and their families by providing rooms and comfort spaces for soldiers while awaiting deployment.

Blake Brown, manager of the Filling Station and graduate of UA's MBA program, helped to initiate the partnership.

"[The MBA Association] had already decided to do a DVD drive for USO, and we were more than happy to help them

with collecting," Brown said. "We have set up a box at the Filling Station, and anyone who drops a DVD in gets free cover that night."

Brown also explained that soldiers can feel forgotten while they are transitioning between deployment and coming home. They can sometimes be stuck in places for days or weeks at a time.

"This is our way of saying, 'We know you're still serving and you're not back, and we still support you,'" he said. Taylor Davis, a freshman

majoring in marketing, said he believes this event will be successful.

"I feel that Veterans Day should be celebrated every day," Davis said. "This event could help change many people's minds on patriotism."

Colby Nicholson, a senior majoring in marketing, also thinks the event will be effective.

"I have never heard of an event like this to go to the cause of helping pass time or ease stress for soldiers," Nicholson said. "College students have

tons of DVDs and anything that saves us money and gets us into a bar, we are going to like."

Nicholson, whose grandfathers both served in the military, also said this event could help increase support from students.

"Americans definitely forget to stop and appreciate the bravery and dedication that soldiers have in protecting the rights and freedoms that they enjoy daily," he said. "Any event to help bring attention to Veteran's Day and to help soldiers is a worthy one."

## CHURCH

(Continued from page 1)

Gwen Ashby, director of Believe Out Loud, agreed that all Christian churches are not the same.

"I want to combat the notion that Christianity is unilaterally anti-gay," Ashby said. "I want to spread the message that there is a welcoming and affirming body of Christians that love you just as you are and want to work to form equality for everyone."

The Christian argument against homosexuality is based on several Bible verses interpreted literally. Ashby said these verses are often taken without regard to context.

"If you are going to be a Bible literalist, then you probably need to take off your polycotton and refrain from eating shellfish," Ashby said. "The few verses used against homosexuality are looked at without looking at mandates."

Homosexuality was not defined in the sense it is today until 1850. Jane Smith, a freshman majoring in psychology, who doesn't define her sexuality with any one traditional label, said this fact makes the anti-gay interpretation of these verses even more suspicious.

"Some verses say don't let

women speak. The Bible isn't about that," Smith said. "The Bible says God will love you no matter what many, many more times than it says anything about same-sex relationships."

Katherine Mills, a junior majoring in telecommunication and film, is a straight member of the LGBTQA organization called Spectrum. She disagrees with the practice of homosexuality but hopes to change the minds of homosexual people through support. Even though she disagrees with homosexuality, she agreed that God's love is unconditional.

"We're made in God's image. He doesn't hate us; he loves us. He hates sin," Mills said. "Some people think being homosexual is a sin and think because they are in a state of sin, God hates them. But that is not how he operates."

Loper said all love originates with God.

"We believe the capacity to love is from God, and orientation is about who you fall in love with emotionally and psychologically, not just physically," Loper said. "Love is from God, and saying this love is evil is not sound theology."

Mills agreed that God's love is for all people.

"We are called to love. Next to loving God is loving your

neighbor," Mills said. "Do you only love your neighbor if they are white? If they root for the same team? If they like the same music? No. You love your neighbor as yourself."

Loper said that this conflict between minorities and Christianity is not specific to homosexuality.

"There is a fear factor. There are social struggles. People are looking to scapegoat rather than find a solution," Loper said. "If it is not us, it is the immigrants. There is a changing pattern."

Marc Burnette, chaplain at Canterbury, said this pattern is evident in the church's history.

"It is very clear to us that God makes all people, and therefore, all people are welcome at Canterbury, and we're serious about it," Burnette said. "Canterbury has been very intentional to be inclusive. It is part of our history. We were a church of inclusion in the civil rights era and in these days of political stuff. It is who we are."

According to a Pew Research Center study regarding gay and lesbian issues conducted over a 20-year period, acceptance of the homosexual community has grown. In 1994, 49 percent of the public said homosexuality should be discouraged. By 2007, that num-

ber was down to around 40 percent.

In 2011, multiple surveys by various groups like Gallup, CNN and ABC found for the first time that a majority of the public favored same-sex marriage. A 2011 study from the Public Religion Research Institute shows 69 percent of the Millennial Generation agrees that religious groups are alienating young people by being to judgmental about gay and lesbian issues.

Ashby agreed that the Millennial Generation is changing Christianity.

"Young people, more and more, are leaving more conservative church traditions because they think it is hypocritical," Ashby said. "As those young people decide to come back to church, they will find or start their own inclusive churches."

Ashby, Loper and Forsythe all said the key to getting through this clash of sexuality and faith is finding a strong support group. Forsythe found this support group at Canterbury and is now active in the spirituality she could never deny.

"I experience God as he created me," Forsythe said. "I can't deny I feel him in me."

For a map of area affirming churches and other resources, visit [believeoutloud.com](http://believeoutloud.com).

## UA Ducks Unlimited banquet occurs tonight

By Nathan Chambliss  
Contributing Writer

The University of Alabama's Ducks Unlimited chapter will promote the preservation of the state's wetlands and waterfowl at their annual banquet at the Bryant Conference Center Thursday at 6 p.m.

"This event is not just for duck hunting but for those who value the preservation of wetlands throughout the United States," said Jack Mitchell, marketing manager for the University's Ducks Unlimited chapter. "This is something that would appeal to a wide range of students." Mitchell said the event would be a great chance for people who enjoy hunting, fishing and a wide array of outdoor activities to come out and show their support for the school and the organization.

Jordan O'Brian, a junior majoring in business, has been a member of the Ducks Unlimited organization for several years.

"Organizations like Ducks Unlimited are important for many reasons, mainly because they protect the environment and the activities so

many people enjoy, such as duck hunting," O'Brian said.

"This is a big event and we are trying to become the nation's largest chapter," Mitchell said.

Last year the banquet had tremendous success, Mitchell said. With more than 500 people attending in support of UA's student chapter, it became the third largest collegiate chapter in the nation.

"We think this could also be great recognition for the University of Alabama if we were able to become the nation's largest collegiate chapter," he said.

Tickets for the banquet cost \$40 for an individual and \$55 for a couple in advance and \$50 for an individual and \$60 for couples at the door.

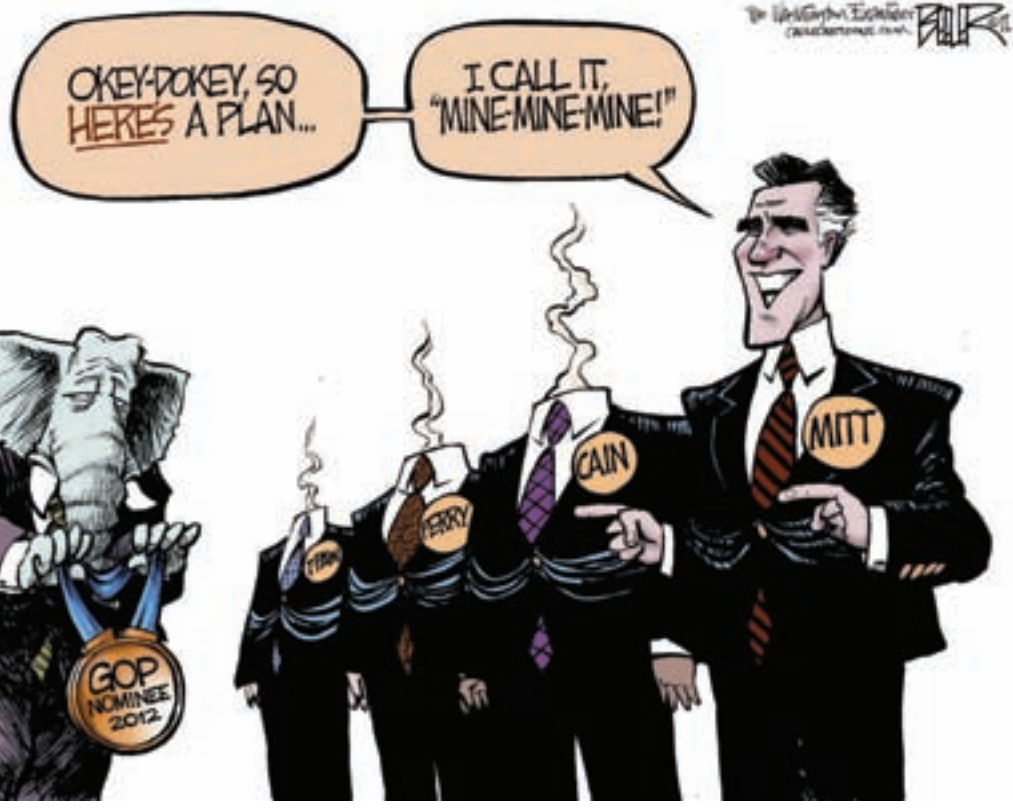
The price includes a barbecue meal, a yearlong membership and a chance to win a variety of prizes that will be given away from sponsors like Academy Sports and Outdoors and Woods and Water of Tuscaloosa.

For more information about this event, follow them on Twitter @UADucksUnltd or find Ducks Unlimited on Facebook at Alabama Ducks Unlimited Banquet.



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MCT Campus

## Don't occupy your future by protesting on Wall Street

By Dan Mirolli

Henry Perkins, a junior in New College, was featured in the Nov. 8 edition of *The Crimson White* for receiving credit for participating in the Occupy Wall Street movement. Perkins is protesting a system that encourages attaining wealth (which is most often held by the best educated) through ambition and merit. Yet he himself thought it necessary to attain college credit within the system he is currently protesting before he went to protest?

The hypocrisy is unconscionable. By dropping French 103, a skill more desired than blogging, Perkins has only secured the future he so desperately protests. The Declaration of Independence states that humanity is entitled to the pursuit of happiness, not its guarantee.

And in regards to advising students to "drop out of school and come to New York" – is he serious? That's his advice – for someone who made sure he got college credit before protesting – to drop out of college? Does being the one percent sleeping on a marble bench make you more qualified to advise people than the 99% on a wood bench? Encouraging students to relinquish their competitive advantage is bad advice.

America has long been the source of innovation because men and women pursued it. For all those listening, if you want a job after graduating college (a reality that is ever dwindling as more people attain college degrees), you must make yourself more marketable to an employer. So you have a degree from UA, big deal! You are only guaranteed the opportunity to compete. One great thing about public schooling before college is that we all started on the same line.

To the faculty of New College, please value your college's degree. I am not in New College but admire its innovativeness; i.e. creating a Chinese major (as only a minor exists), or a specific business minor for communications majors looking to better pursue their future, etc.. But credit for protesting?

My fear is that this decision will cheapen the value of another New College graduate's degree. Yes, students should be allowed to fail, but not when core values are compromised. As stated on the New College website, and above, the program assumes that students are responsible for their education.

Might I point out "that problem-focused, general education experiences of an interdisciplinary nature..." are not as highly desirable as solutions. The world has no shortage of people highlighting current problems. As a friend of several New College majors, I plead with the college to make its priority innovation for the students in order "[to export] successful innovations to...the University". Furthermore, should the other 31,000+ of us enrolled at UA get credit for protesting the protesters by remaining in class?

There are two kinds of people protesting Wall Street. There are those who protest their future, demanding a guarantee in the current crisis. We need people like them in the workplace to shine a light on practices that aren't in the world's best interest. To say they need everyone to be nice is a child's argument. I urge them to search their hearts and ask if they're truly seeking a better world or just a world where they don't have to sacrifice for others to be comfortable because somehow it's someone else's job to pursue happiness for them.

The others are people who tried to pursue happiness the way America intended and faced the worst job outlook we've seen. They are right to protest, and I encourage them to continue to do so before Congress and the President!

It is the government's job to create an environment where greed helps our fellow man while advancing our society. Government failed.

We had a worldwide recession. Obviously there is more to a global drop in cash flow than one blanket statement, but the point remains protesting those who led us down the path of recession does no good when you don't address those who paved the road.

Dan Mirolli is a junior majoring in accounting and minoring in Mandarin.

## True progress now possible on campus

By Austin Gaddis

Throughout this semester, students have heard and read endlessly about campus division, corruption, allegations, investigations, rumors and resignations.

We have plagued this page and paper with complaints and tirades about all that is wrong with our system, our leaders, and our status quo.

What no one seems to be talking about is how to move forward – how to progress as a whole and take the lessons learned as framework for a new campus vision.

No one will question that our campus culture has issues and problems that continue to stifle hopes of a more inclusive and diverse university.

We have become comfortable in allowing ourselves to be controlled by a Machine that has lost all touch with campus growth and looks only to serve its own interests.

We have become complacent in our desire to be diverse through not allowing our collaborative groups, societies and organizations to move toward racial inclusivity for the sheer excuse of so-called tradition.

We have conformed to represent a status quo that so many within our community speak out against.

I often implore my readers to ask themselves tough questions. I do not believe we can begin the journey forward without being honest in our shortcomings.

Now more than ever, we must begin to not only ask ourselves how to move on, but how to steer our culture towards a better and



brighter tomorrow.

The Machine will only go away once leaders within the greek community stand up in unison against its influence. Without fear and blind obedience, it holds no power. It is not needed and should dissolve.

I challenge my fellow leaders in the greek community to rise up and make the right choice for our community as a whole. Let us truly represent the community we proudly head. Let us be true leaders.

We must also break down the racial and social barriers that harm the pace of our campus progress. Within many organizations and societies, there is evidence of division.

We are constantly reminded of our divide anytime we read an email from our president about a racial incident, look at our campus, which has one of the nation's most prestigious greek systems but is not integrated, or when

premier campus organizations have few minorities.

We must be better than that. We must allow ourselves to move forward.

Over the past few months, I have had the opportunity to talk with many members of our campus – leaders and average students – about the status quo. Overwhelmingly, people are tired of our present condition.

They are tired of the fighting, the back-and-forth columns on this page, and the constant reminders that our campus isn't as unified as we portray to our tour groups.

We have the opportunity to be different and to challenge the way that we define ourselves. We write the definition of our legacy.

The road to true progress on this campus will not be easy, will not be met with open arms, and will not be comfortable – but no true change ever is.

We have the opportunity to begin the change that we seek. We have more of an opportunity now than ever in our history.

Never before have so many from within our community been so hungry for change. We have seen that the status quo is not conducive to our thriving University.

Twenty, fifty, one hundred years from now, what will our campus be like? Will we be able to come back and see reformation, or will it be more of the same "traditions" that we cling to so tightly?

The change starts now – it starts with us.

Austin Gaddis is a junior majoring in public relations and communication studies. His column runs on Thursdays.

## UA must develop ethical leaders

By Ryan Flamerich

Last summer, people around the country buried their heads between the pages of "The Help," a heartwarming story of African-American maids in Mississippi during the Civil Rights Movement. The book spent more than 100 weeks on *The New York Times*' Best Seller List and was written by University of Alabama alum Kathryn Stockett.

More than 800,000 Americans wake up each morning to "Morning Joe" on MSNBC, where another proud Alabama graduate, Joe Scarborough, runs through the issues of the day. When Joe Scarborough was a student, he ran against the Machine for SGA president but dropped out in order to unite his supporters behind another non-Machine candidate.

After Republicans took over the United States House of Representatives in January of this year, Congressman Jo Bonner of Mobile became the chairman of the House Ethics Committee. When Bonner was a student here, he also ran against the Machine for SGA president. He lost that election, but he never lost his moral foundation. Today, he is the leading ethics watchdog in the U.S. House.

The University of Alabama has produced many outstanding alumni who, while at the Capstone, opposed the coercive influence of the Machine at every turn and stood for a progressive, democratic and ethical culture.

Stockett, Scarborough and Bonner represent the best of what this University has to offer. Our single most important goal should

be to develop more leaders like them, who can perform enormous services to our country while also proudly representing the University.

We come to college with a very fundamental sense of right and wrong. It is our duty, as a student body, to create and sustain an environment that reinforces good judgment and provides a strong ethical foundation for those who follow. If we fail at that task, then our ability to generate such high caliber leaders will be diminished.

That is why the scandal in the First Year Council selections process earlier this semester is so important. That is why it is critical that the student body understands what went wrong.

But the flurry of headlines about different students stepping down from their positions and ongoing judicial affairs investigations miss this larger issue. I doubt anyone has gotten involved in SGA with the mission of corrupting the First Year Council selections process. That's just how business has been done in our SGA. That's what has been expected and, unfortunately, accepted.

So, good people are now bearing the consequences for a culture that has been cultivated for nearly a century – a culture they did not create or condone. They got involved through the system because it was the only way they knew how to get involved – because it was the only way they could get involved.

Thankfully, we have the opportunity to correct these systemic perversions. We have many great leaders – both inside the SGA and

around campus, both inside the greek community and outside of it – who are working to change courses and chart a different path for student involvement and leadership at the Capstone.

I have made many mistakes in my college career. One of them is that I have often equated campus politics to a chessboard and devoted much of my energy to a fruitless endeavor to become a chess master. The reality is that we shouldn't be working against a black king or a white king. We should be working against the board itself.

We should be working against the idea that student involvement is a game to be mastered and toward a vision of a campus where every student has an equal opportunity to get involved.

I got involved on campus because I wanted to address the parking situation at Lakeside my freshman year. SGA and other leadership groups should give students an outlet to work on projects like that and to truly serve the UA community, not to fight against one another along the false divides that sustain those who rely on a segmented student body for power, money and privileges.

I have never been more disgusted and disillusioned with the coercive aspects of our campus than I have been the past few months. But, I have also never been so hopeful that students from disparate groups are ready to stand up and make the changes necessary for our University to reach its full potential.

Ryan Flamerich is the speaker of the SGA Senate.

Thursday,  
November 10, 2011  
Editor • Tray Smith  
letters@cw.ua.edu  
Page 4

### YOUR VIEW

IN RESPONSE TO,  
"DO YOU THINK  
FANS IN THE STUDENT  
SECTION BEHAVED APPROPRIATELY DURING SATURDAY'S GAME AGAINST LSU?"

"@TheCrimson-White In the block section - no. In the student section - yes."

— Jeff Brown, junior,  
electrical engineering  
@jeffbrown01

"Don't group all students into that category. There are many students that cheered when our team left the field. Like myself"

— Sarah Chovnick,  
senior, broadcast news  
@Sarahchovnic

"If you have to tell people you have class, you don't."

— Erin Armstrong  
sophomore, journalism  
@I\_AM\_ERIN\_24

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Letters to the editor must be less than 300 words and guest columns less than 800. Send submissions to letters@cw.ua.edu. Submissions must include the author's name, year, major and day-time phone number. Phone numbers are for verification and will not be published. Students should also include their year in school and major. For more information, call 348-6144. The CW reserves the right to edit all submissions.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

#### Occupy Wall Street supporters don't know what they've done

By Andrew Parks

Let me pose a question to the #OWS supporters out there: Just what have you done?

I'll tell you what you've done. You've broken windows at small businesses across the country. You've lit fires in trashcans on city streets and made the lives of policemen much, much harder. You've attempted to shut down the Brooklyn Bridge, a lifeline for countless New Yorkers – many poor – that must cross the Hudson River to get to work. You've pushed a 78-year-old lady down the front steps of a Washington, D.C. building. You've left half of Oakland in shambles.

Congratulations. You've thrown a temper tantrum. Now, let me ask a few more questions.

You claim to represent the 99% of Americans supposedly oppressed by our nation's wealthy. Did you stop to think that the top 1% of income earners provide 36.73% of federal tax revenues? That's about \$794 billion of the \$2.162 trillion the IRS brought in last year. By comparison, the Medicare/Medicaid budget is \$793 billion, the Social Security budget is \$701 billion and the defense budget is \$689 billion.

Do you really believe you represent 99% of Americans? Stop kidding yourselves. I grew up in a fairly populous blue-collar Texas county. 99% of the people back home aren't up in arms calling for bankers' heads. Heck, on this college campus of 31,000 students, the one protest I could find has about forty people protesting a few hours a day and one guy in a tent. Ironically, that's about 1% of the student body.

Why am I asking you these questions? The better question is, why aren't you asking yourselves these questions? Look around. 99% of America doesn't identify with the anarchy symbol. Why? Because 99% of Americans have enough common sense to do something constructive when they want reform.

Andrew Parks is a freshman majoring in civil engineering.

# ABXY members anticipate new video game releases

By Kris Mitchell  
Contributing Writer

New releases of juggernaut video game titles make this November the month of the gamer.

This year's holiday season is slightly unusual for the video game industry. There are usually only a few major titles released each fall, but this year there are nearly a dozen.

Titles such as Microsoft's Gears of War and Halo franchises and id Software's "Rage," along with "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3" and "Battlefield 3," are hitting the market.

Activision Blizzard Incorporated's "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3" recently broke the record to become the most preordered video game of all time and may have sold as many as six to eight million copies in its first day of sales, according to some video game analysts.

The stream of major video games has kept members of ABXY, the University's video game student group, with their hands on their controllers.

"A lot of times, there's a big rush right before Christmas," said Lauren Liebe, president of ABXY. "There's also usually a rush in April, right before the summer. The fact that there have been so many good games in close proximity is a little bit odd, but not unprecedented."

"Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3" is probably going to be the best-selling game of the season," said Micheal Mintz, vice president of ABXY. "'The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim' is definitely going to provide the most content, with hundreds of hours of content expected."

The glut of new major releases has not stopped most members of ABXY from buying video games on the first day of release, Liebe said. Titles such as "Batman

Arkham City" and "Assassin's Creed" may have long play times, but many in ABXY have found a way to balance video gaming with studying.

"I always play on the weekends and every night when I finish any school work I have for the night," said Patryck King, a senior majoring in history.

"Everything in moderation," Mintz said. "Video games are a hobby, and I balance my time spent playing video games the same way I would any other hobby. If I have time free from studies, I play games, but school comes first."

There has been a persistent image that video gaming is a hobby that makes gamers alienate themselves from the world, but ABXY members are a close social bunch.

"It's the same as any other social activity," Mintz said. "A friendly but competitive atmosphere allows people to get together, compare their interests and compete against each other, all while having fun."

"Being social is the entire reason why ABXY is here," Liebe said. "Others can come play the games they love and share that passion. It's a community for gamers."

ABXY offers plenty of opportunities for gamers to become involved with the group. After the first week of the semester, ABXY meets weekly. Fight Night is held every Tuesday, where gamers can play the latest fighting games with others, and Wednesday is Handheld Night, which features the Pokémon series of games.

Liebe said more events are scheduled to come, but many of them are in the process of development.

"We're working on Pixelcon, our annual video game convention," Liebe said. "We've done charity video game marathons in the past, and we want to work on more this year."



CW | File

# MDB marches to beat of its own drum

By Adrienne Burch  
Contributing Writer

Alabama caps off a drive with a ten-yard touchdown from Trent Richardson, and who is there to strike up "Yea Alabama" and get the entire stadium on its feet? The Million Dollar Band. They are an essential part of The University of Alabama game-day experience that makes it unlike any other in the nation.

The name the "Million Dollar Band" came around in 1922, when Alabama's band had to raise money to attend Georgia Tech for a game. Alabama alumnus W.C. "Champs" Pickens coined the term because of their successful fundraising efforts.

The Tide fell short of Tech that year, but when Pickens was asked by an Atlanta sports writer, "You don't have much of a team - what do you have at Alabama?" He replied, "A Million Dollar Band."

Since then, the name has stuck. From August to December, they can be seen playing every afternoon on their practice field off of University Boulevard.

They begin with a 10-day band camp in August, prior to the start of classes. They practice 10 hours a day during camp to prepare for the upcoming season and then transition into daily practices from 4 to 5:30 p.m. for the remainder of the season.

Despite these daily practices, the band members still seem to find a way to balance band and their school work.

"It takes up a lot of time being in the Million Dollar Band, but it has made me a better person and a more dedicated student," clarinet player Danielle Drews said.

The dedication of band members can also be seen in how they endure the drastic change in weather from the 90-degree

days of August to the 30-degree days in December.

"The weather change has different effects on different people," said drum major Breanna North. "We just try our best to adjust to the weather. Some of the instruments play differently in colder weather, so we have to keep that in mind, as well."

However, from the daily practices to the crazy weather, the band seems to get through, and the members say all of the hard work and dedication becomes worth it when they step onto the field on Saturdays.

"I feel like what makes all the hard work worth it is game day," said baritone/euphonium section leader Andy Shirley. "There's nothing else like coming out of the tunnel dressed in crimson and white, playing the tune to the best fight song in college football."

This year's band consists of around 430 members who play at each home game. The band typically takes a small pep band of about 50 to 100 members to away games; however, occasionally, they take a full band on the road.

"We are like our own student section, all 400 of us," Drews said. "We have way too much fun."

They began this season with a Tuscaloosa Tribute show that honored the tornado victims. Then they transitioned into an Elvis-themed show, followed by the Elton John show they performed for the final time against LSU last Saturday.

"Changing shows keeps it interesting," Drews said. "Every month or so, we are learning a new show, so the music never gets old."

The Million Dollar Band will debut a new show at the Nov. 19 game against Georgia Southern and will play this throughout any possible championship or bowl game.



Freshman Shuler Sitsch practices with the Million Dollar Band earlier this season.

CW | Megan Smith

## November's AAA Video Game Releases

**Uncharted 3: Drakes Deception**- November 1

**Metal Gear Solid Rising**- November 1

**The Lord of the Rings: War in the North**- November 1

**GoldenEye Reloaded**- November 1

**Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3**- November 8

**The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim**- November 11

**Assassin's Creed: Revelations**- November 15

**Halo: Combat Evolved Anniversary**- November 15

**Saints Row: The Third**- November 15

**The Legend of Zelda: Skyward Sword**- November 20



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**WWW.ROLLTIDE.COM**

# Mississippi State should not be underestimated

By Brett Hudson  
Senior Sports Reporter  
bbhudson@crimson.ua.edu  
@Brett\_Hudson

At a quick glance, LSU and Mississippi State could not be more different.

LSU is the No. 1 team in the BCS rankings and is on the inside track to go to New Orleans for the BCS National Championship game.

The Bulldogs are 5-4, near the bottom of the standings in the Southeastern Conference West division, and are in danger of missing a bowl game this season.

But in film study, the teams show similarities, especially in personnel at the quarterback position.

Chris Relf, the likely starter for the game, shows skill as a running quarterback, just like LSU's Jordan Jefferson. Both teams also have a second option in a pocket passing quarterback, Mississippi State's Tyler Russell and LSU's Jarrett Lee.

"It's pretty much like last week with Jefferson and Lee," linebacker Nico Johnson said. "Jefferson was more running, and the other was more passing. No. 14 [Relf] is more running. He can pass, but he'll run more. They'll run more options with him than they will with the other quarterback."

The similarities carry on to the box score as well. In the 2010 season, both Relf and Jefferson averaged 3.7 yards per carry. Both quarterbacks also have two rushing touchdowns this year, giving Relf nine and Jefferson 11 for their respective careers.

Relf is not the only one on the team who can wreak havoc carrying the football for the Bulldogs. Running back Vick Ballard has had four 100-rushing yard games so far this season, including one in his last game against Tennessee-Martin and a season high of 166 in the season opener against Memphis.

Even with similar personnel

at the quarterback position, defensive coordinator Kirby Smart has the tough task of getting his defense to make a tough game plan adjustment in one week, with the style of offenses between LSU and Mississippi State being so different.

"The game plans are not similar because they have two different styles of offenses," Johnson said. "LSU is more of a power team, more smash-mouth. Mississippi State, they have the offensive coordinator that used to be at Florida (head coach Dan Mullen), so they love to catch you off balance, to get you out of position. LSU is more downhill."

This style of offensive attack is done well in Starkville and has caught the attention of Alabama coaching staff.

"No one has been able to put these guys over at Mississippi State away," head coach Nick Saban said. "They've played some tough teams and played well. They play well on defense,



Alex Watkins (91) and Adrian Hubbard (42) during the football practice on Wednesday. Alabama will play Mississippi State at Starkville, this Saturday.

they're physical and they run the ball well."

This adjustment is difficult, going from a smash-mouth offense to an Urban Meyer-like offense that revolves around the spread, but it is one the

Tide is ready to make. "It's one thing we have to do if we want to be successful," Johnson said. "If we want to win, we have to make the transition. That's one thing we've been focused on this week."

Page 6 • Thursday, November 10, 2011  
Editor • Tony Tsoukalas  
crimsonwhitesports@gmail.com

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Tide kicks off regular season at home after big win

By Jasmine Cannon  
Senior Staff Reporter  
jmcannon@crimson.ua.edu

It's been months since the women's basketball team faced an opponent in a regular season game. After an 81-27 exhibition victory last week, the Tide will be hitting the court against Nicholls State for their first game of the 2011-2012 season. Tipoff is set for Nov. 12 at 2 p.m. in Foster Auditorium.

"The exhibition game really taught us a lesson about ourselves," said head coach Wendell Hudson. "I think that our intensity was up for forty minutes. That's going to really help us prepare for the opening game."

Alabama got leading double-digit scoring efforts from Kyra Crosby and Celiscia Farmer, who had 15 points each. The

team out-rebounded AUM 29-19 and also dished out 19 assists. Nevertheless, they saw many areas of improvement.

"We need to make free throws, and just being able to get everybody on the same page every possession are the biggest things we've been working on," said senior Ericka Russell.

Sophomore guard Khristin Lee said, "We're working on cleaning up all of our small mistakes. We're putting big emphasis on defense and sharing the basketball."

This year's team features Russell as the lone senior who was named a finalist for the Lowe's Senior Class Award, as well as second team All-Southeastern Conference. Though the squad will not have players due to injury, it welcomes three junior col-



Erin Hogue passes the ball to Kyra Crosby during the Crimson Tide's game against Auburn-Montgomery on November 6th.

lege transfer All-Americans – Crosby, Jessica Merritt and Meghan Perkins that will play big minutes.

Nicholls State finished last season with an 8-21 record and

returns three of their five starters. The Tide ended last season with an 18-15 record and a trip to the Women's National Invitational Tournament Sweet Sixteen. They're excited for the

start of this season. "I think we just have to be able to compete against other teams," said Russell. "We've been working hard in practice, so we're just ready to go compete and get it started. We're pretty excited."

Hudson says the key to victory is to stay focused while they look to build off of the success from the exhibition game.

"It's going to count for real on Saturday," he said. "I think the big key is to continue to play the way we practice because we've had some really good practices... If we play to our potential, we really believe winning and losing will take care of itself."

Lee says the team's goals are simple.

"Dominate," she said. "We want to be the team that everybody else hates to play."

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## Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 Eve's youngest

5 Special \_\_\_ military force

8 Priest's place

13 Trojan War epic

15 "The \_\_\_" placekicker Lou Groza's nickname

16 Dog

17 Wealthy relative

19 Sidekick who rode Scout

20 Bagel flavoring

21 Rio automaker

23 Bones partner

24 Emulate Muhammad Ali

27 Free, as legal work

31 Author Fleming

32 Titled woman

33 Older but

36 Dean's list factor: Abbr.

39 Father-son talk, e.g.

43 D.C. bigwig

44 Annually

45 Jason's vessel

46 Had some grub

47 Leave high and dry

50 Assembled in a makeshift manner

55 North Carolina university

56 Fed. loan guarantor

57 Take turns

62 Bank takebacks, briefly

64 Get-together for the starts of 17-, 24-, 39- and 50-Across?

66 Used a prie dieu

67 Many, many moons

68 Coach : athlete :: \_\_\_ : student

69 When tripled, and so on

70 Gun lobby org.

71 Rockwell or Gothic

**DOWN**

1 32-Acrosses' spouses

2 Nobelist Wiesel

3 Nervous spasms

4 "Very funny!"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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By Robert A. Doll 1

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41 Batik artisans

42 \_\_\_ Francisco

46 Composer Schoenberg

48 Arctic floater

49 Take in from a pet shelter

50 Beef \_\_\_: dried meat

51 Kagan who replaced Stevens on the Supreme Court

52 Enticed, with "in"

53 "Peer Gynt" dramatist

54 Croc's cousin

58 Drawn tight

59 Culturally pretentious

60 'Vette roof option

61 Brontë's "Jane"

63 RR depot

65 Literary collection

## Sudoku

	3		7				6	2	8
6			1		5				9
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3	2	6				7		4	

## Octo

Place the numbers 1 to 8 in each of the octagons such that the numbers are not repeated in any octagon, row, column, or diagonal. The sums of the minor diagonals (diagonals that contain either four or six numbers) are provided at the beginning and end of each minor diagonal. The sum of the four numbers that border a diamond end of each minor diagonal. The numbers that border diamonds do not have to be unique.

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## A different kind of spelling bee at Theatre Tuscaloosa

By Will Edwards  
Staff Reporter  
wgedwards@crimson.ua.edu

Singing and dancing probably isn't the first thing that comes to mind when one thinks of a spelling bee, but beginning Thursday, Nov. 10, Theatre Tuscaloosa will be putting on the Tony Award-winning musical comedy, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee."

The play, featuring many student actors from the University, has been famous since its stint on Broadway from 2005-2008, but director Stacy Alley didn't want actors coming in with preconceived notions for their characters.

"I wanted them to create their own character, not base it on what they already saw," said Alley, a professor of musical theatre and dance at Alabama.

The show takes place at an elementary spelling bee and uses choreography, music and singing to give exposition and internal monologues to the characters, who are playing elementary school children.

"We really had to work with the actors to help them get the mannerisms and actions of children," Alley said. "It really adds to the humor of it and helps the audience see the lessons the play teaches."

The play is being put on by the community theater group "Theatre Tuscaloosa" and features actors from varied backgrounds. Students at UA, Montevallo and Shelton State are featured, as well as professors and perpetual community theatre actors.

"It's a real mixture, and that really plays into the show," said Alley. "It's a true ensemble show. There are no stars and no characters that are more important than the other."

Zacchaeus Kimbrell, a music major from the University who is playing Chip Tolentino, said he had always wanted to do the show and was incredibly excited that Theatre Tuscaloosa was putting it on. He had never worked with Alley before but said it has been a great experience.

"She gave us a lot of freedom to explore and find our own character," he said.

The show gives members of the audience the opportunity to participate, and



The cast of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee rehearses at the Bean-Brown Theatre at Shelton State Community College on Nov. 7.

CW | Natalie Nichols



the cast has to improvise based on what the audience participant does, which the actors say keep the shows fresh.

"You really have to think about every scenario that could happen with the audience participation and play off that," Kimbrell said. "Every show will be completely different."

The show's humor is said to be on a

PG-13 level and keeps the audience laughing throughout. It is shorter than most musical theatre, lasting only an hour and thirty minutes, and it features no intermission. Alley said this keeps the audience engaged and the laughs fast-paced.

The show's run will officially begin on Friday, Nov. 11 and will cost Alabama

students \$14, but a special dress rehearsal will be on Thursday, Nov. 10, at 7 p.m. and will be "pay what you can."

The show will be held at Shelton State's Bean-Brown Theatre, and tickets can be purchased online at theatretusc.com or by phone at 205-391-2277. Those who are interested in doing the audience participation are asked to arrive at 6:45

### REVIEW | THEATRE

## Why is no one laughing?

By Jared Downing

With UA's new musical "City of Angels," I had a mystery on my hands. Sure, its 1940s Noir parody had a convoluted detective story, but this mystery didn't involve a millionaire's missing daughter or blackmailing mobsters — it was the case of who killed the audience.

Don't get me wrong, "Angels," the department's second musical farce in a row, is funny. In fact, it's a riot. Larry Gelbart's book slops on equal helpings of razor-sharp wit and schmaltzy hardboiled pulp as he tells the stories of Stone, a fictional private eye hunting a missing heiress, and Stine, the persecuted writer bringing Stone to the screen for 1940s Hollywood — all illustrated by a jazzy, big-band, lounge-lizard score.

So, why did I feel like I was watching "Purgatorio" again?

When Stone freezes in the middle of a monologue as Stine gets writer's block — crickets. When Stone says, "LA. Not much different than a pretty girl with the clap" — crickets. When a group of cops transforms into a Mexican mariachi band as they beat Stone up... well, that got a chuckle.

At one point, I leaned over to my date and whispered, "What the heck is wrong with this crowd?"

Last semester, the audience was in stitches with "Flora the Red Menace," and "Angels" is basically what we would get if last spring's "The Realm" knocked up "Flora" at a cast party. But while that show was a big, colorful, Vaudeville beach ball, director Karen Baker keeps "Angels" subdued, opting for the sort of finesse the tiny Allen Bales allows.

Musically, it works. "Angels" lacks "Flora's" boisterous production numbers, instead favoring duets, charm ballads and a slick lounge piece by Jessica Berzack that takes full advantage of the Bales' intimacy. Plus, David Zippel's lyrics are often as clever as Gelbart's book, especially in Stine and

**Don't get me wrong, "Angels," the department's second musical farce in a row, is funny. In fact, it's a riot.**

Stone's Act I climax "You're Nothing Without Me."

Admittedly, Gelbart's wit could have used a little more animation. While the exaggerated grizzle of Michael Luwoye (who already took hardboiled for a spin in "The Realm") is just right with Stone, Russel Stephens' unassertive, brooding Stine doesn't show much passion for his writing. Cooper Kennard's pompous director Buddy makes a wonderful loudmouthed foil, but Stine has a lot of his own bite. Stephens doesn't quite bring to life.

The set is full of elegant, modular art-deco bits that, paired with some clever lighting, make interplay between brooding Noir L.A. and sunny Beverly Hills almost seamless. But, of course, one constant presides over both worlds: a gigantic sign reading HOLLYWOOD.

But the design was harder to appreciate from my seat, which was to the side of the Bales' thrust stage. Until I could change at intermission, I missed a lot of sight gags and saw a lot of back. A dame in her underwear tries to woo Stone: The audience in front got a graceful and seductive dance number. I got a view of a glowing mic-pack that blinked green when she hit the high notes, like if the Bionic Woman worked at a strip club. Head for the center, if you can.

So, what killed the audience? Who knows, maybe I just came on a bad night. Maybe the house just had a severe case of the Mondays. For all I know, the Wednesday crowd could be in tears as I write this. Go to "City of Angels." It's fun and cool. But if you go, give it a chance. Don't be afraid to laugh, even if you're the only one.

### COLUMN | MUSIC

## Gangsta Gibbs keeping gangster rap alive

By Jefferson Fabian

When Gangsta Gibbs dropped the "Str8 Killa No Filla" mix tape last year, I was pleasantly surprised. It was the first I had heard of Gibbs, and I definitely liked what I heard. Here is a rapper from Gary, Ind., who is part of a dying breed of rappers: true street-hardened up-from-the-slums gangsters.

I was most impressed by his ability to show this through his lightning-fast flow and intense lyric delivery. Since the release of the Str8 Killa EP, Gibbs has spent the past year taking guest spots and absolutely murdering the tracks he appears on (see "Scottie Pippens" by Curren\$y & the Alchemist), while compiling new material for the "Cold Day In Hell" mix tape released on Halloween. Needless to say, my anticipation for this one was through the roof.

Thankfully, Gibbs and label-mates from Young Jeezy's Corporate Thugz. Entertainment delivered.

While it spans a daunting 16-track, one-hour runtime, "Cold Day In Hell" is generally solid and often exceptional.

"Cold Day In Hell" might even be the mix tape of the year.

Gibbs proves that he can hold an entire tape down by himself, but it doesn't hurt that he's got a worthy slew of producers and rappers on board to lay down some high-end beats and guest verses.

Gibbs has a lifetime of hardships to draw on, and when you have a pool of experience like that, artistic output is going to be generally interesting, if not impressive. Gibbs runs the gamut of lyrics about life in poverty: drugs, pimping and violence; however, he does branch out into creative storytelling.

"My Homeboy's Girlfriend" is a disturbing tale of a man who steals another man's girlfriend when he's doing time in jail, and the conclusion hearkens to Eminem's emotionally hard-hitting "Stan."

Gibbs also keeps up his tradition of completely destroying any other rapper featured on his tracks. Featured on this mix tape are heavyweights like Juicy J and Jeezy himself, along with up-and-comers like Dom Kennedy, but none of them can hold a candle to Gibbs' technical skill. Each guest sounds like a step down in quality, but in the end, the diversity is welcome over the course of the album's

hefty length.

Gibbs comes armed on this mix tape with a solid roster of producers in tow. The Grammy-winning J.U.S.T.I.C.E. League, growing southern rapper-producer Big K.R.I.T., and the ever-improving DJ Burn One all contribute to the beats along with several lesser-known artists, and even the unknowns put in some surprisingly good work. Most of the beats on this tape are strong southern-style bangers, but the production crew leaves room for some diversity as well.

Overall, I can't really find much to complain about with this mix tape. It showcases everything that I liked before about Gangsta Gibbs, with the luxury of better production and big-name guest stars. I have a few gripes with the bloated runtime, which doesn't bother me until the latter-end of the tape when the beats get a little too similar, but that's a minor complaint.

Regardless, Gibbs has proven himself to be the rapper to watch, and I'll have to agree with many of Gibbs' fans when they say that he's keeping legitimate gangsta rap alive, whether it's on life support or perfectly healthy.

## Art Speaks returns for November

By Hannah Muncher  
Contributing Writer

Art Speaks is an art exhibit on campus that was created by students for other students to showcase their work. The November edition will be held on Nov. 10 at 6 p.m. at Nott Hall.

Sponsored by the Honors College, Art Speaks is an informal assembly of artwork that will feature UA student artists Henry Busby, Lindsay Jones Lindsey and Trey Stafford.

Colby Leopard, a junior majoring in public relations, initially came up with the idea of Art Speaks. It was his vision to develop an event that would break the mold of the stereotypical art exhibit.

Olivia West, a junior majoring in art and a featured artist in September's edition of Art Speaks, stepped in after the first exhibit to help Fisher with the shows.

"[I wanted to help] solidify certain aspects of the shows and help him achieve his vision," West said.

Art Speaks is an event that covers all spectrums of art, including organic, photographs, sculpture and even organic clothing.

The exhibit aims to provide a laid back atmosphere and will have live music, free food and time to communicate with artists. West said each artist brings a fun, different vibe to the exhibit.

Busby, a senior majoring in telecommunication and film, will be displaying his photography and paintings at Thursday's exhibit.

"Though I have never participated in the event, I am looking forward to it and how other people will react to my stuff and seeing what aspects of certain pieces people identify with," Busby said.

Lindsey will be showing sculptures, paintings and drawings. She got involved with Art Speaks after West contacted her to be a featured artist.

"I haven't had a chance to display any of my art outside of an art class," she said. "I'm excited to have a chance for my friends and family to come see my art."

Lindsey said the show is a great way for students to come and see what other students are doing, as well as to enjoy free food and live music.

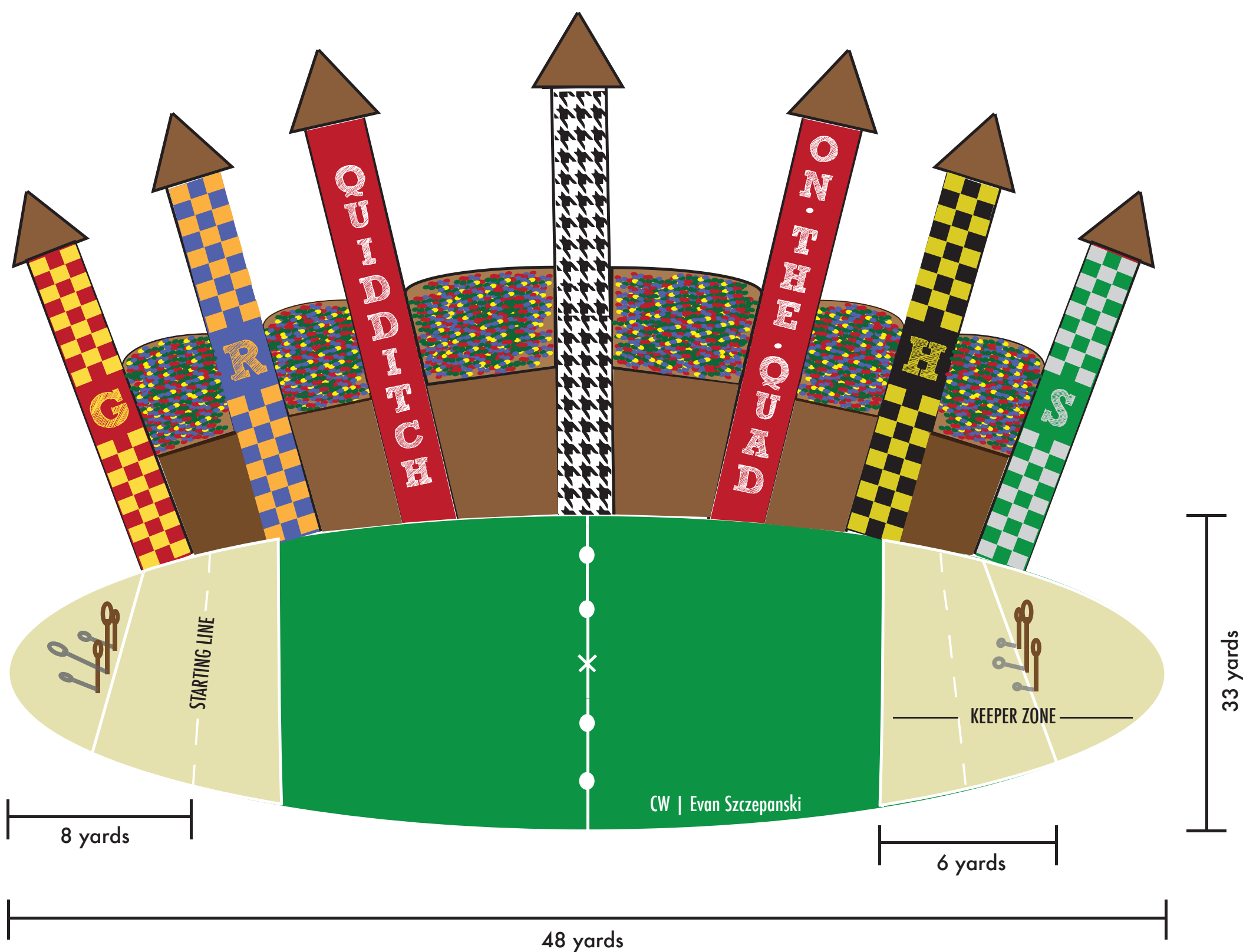
"[Art Speaks] is a certain kind of event you don't see often on campus," West said.



# ROWLING TIDE

Thursday, November 10, 2011

## Quad Quidditch 101: Navigate the Pitch



*Quidditch on the Quad is back for its second year in a row, and with nearly twice the number of teams signed up to play. Preliminary rounds begin tonight at 7 p.m. at the Student Recreation Center fields. Games continue on the Quad Sunday at noon. All proceeds benefit the Tuscaloosa County Reading Coaches to raise awareness about literacy.*

*The game, made famous by J.K. Rowling's best-selling Harry Potter series, is perhaps best described as three games going on at once – hide-and-seek, dodgeball and a combination of basketball, soccer and rugby. Creative Campus hosted Quidditch on the Quad for the first time last year. Preliminary rounds were held Nov. 11 at the Student Recreation fields, and final rounds were held on the Quad four days later. The event received 1,074 donated books for the Alabama Literacy Initiative.*

<p><b>THE PITCH BOUNDARIES</b></p> <p>From backline to backline, the pitch measures 48 yards in length. Across the midfield line, it measures 33 yards. The pitch itself is shaped like an oval. All players except the seeker are confined within these boundaries during gameplay. If a player intentionally leaves the boundaries, they have to be cautioned. Players may leave boundaries to retrieve a ball.</p>	<p><b>THE KEEPER ZONE</b></p> <p>The keeper zone measures 12 yards in total – 6 yards from the hoops to the backline, and 6 yards from the hoops to the start of the keeper zone. Although the keepers are allowed to go anywhere on the field, they are subject to different rules inside and outside of the designated area. After a chaser scores, all of the scoring team's chasers must return to the keeper zone.</p>	<p><b>THE HOOPS</b></p> <p>Set up on the goal line, there are three hoops that chasers can throw the quaffle into to score. The hoops are 3 feet high, 4.5 feet high and 6 feet high. The hoops themselves measure between 33 and 40 inches.</p>	<p><b>SNITCH</b></p> <p>Although the snitch is a person in muggle Quidditch, it is still considered a ball. The snitch is allowed to run and hide anywhere on campus. As the game continues, the area the snitch is allowed to run in gets smaller. By the end of the game, the snitch is confined to the field. The snitch is the only ball that does not start on the ball marks. Instead, it starts on the run.</p>
<p><b>QUAFFLE</b></p> <p>The quaffle is a volleyball and is handled by the chasers during the game. Teams score points by tossing the quaffle through the hoops. There is one quaffle per game.</p>	<p><b>THE PENALTY BOXES</b></p> <p>Each team has its own penalty box on its respective side of the pitch. Each penalty box is on the sideline, 5 yards from the midfield line, making them separated by 10 yards. Players are sent to the penalty box after being cautioned, sent off or committing one of many fouls within the keeper zone.</p>	<p><b>THE STARTING LINE</b></p> <p>This is where both teams line up before mounting their brooms, starting the game 8 yards and 20 inches from the backline.</p>	<p><b>THE GOAL LINE</b></p> <p>The middle line of the keeper zone, the goal line, is where the hoops are lined up. It is 6 yards from the backline.</p>
<p><b>BLUDGERS</b></p> <p>The bludger is a dodgeball and is handled by the beaters. Teams knock players off their brooms by hitting them with bludgers. Once players are hit, they must stop where they are, drop any balls they are holding and run and touch their hoops before resuming play. There are three bludgers in each game, but teams can only have two in their possession at any given time.</p>	<p><b>BROOM</b></p> <p>Players must be mounted on a broom with a wooden or plastic pole at least 40 inches long for the entire game. The International Quidditch Association recommends a 46-inch broom with plastic, corn or wooden bristles.</p>	<p><b>BALL MARKS</b></p> <p>Before gameplay, all quaffles and bludgers are placed on ball marks on the midfield line. The first two marks are placed 1.5 feet from the center mark, and the other two marks are an equal distance between the first ball and the sideline. The quaffle must be placed at one of the ball marks closest to the center spot.</p>	<p><b>UNIFORM</b></p> <p>Each position has a specific color headband they must wear for the match. Chasers wear white, beaters wear black, keepers wear green and seekers wear yellow. Each team has a uniform members designed themselves, and every team must wear matching shirt with numbers on the back of them.</p>

ITINERARY	BAMA DINING MENU	WHAT'S IN DIAGON ALLEY	STAFF
<p><b>12 p.m.</b> Opening ceremonies, which will include a skit by Alpha Psi Omega theatre honor society, dances, a band and a pep rally. The March of Teams will happen within half an hour.</p>	<p>\$2 Crunchy Cockroach Clusters (Peanut Clusters) \$2 Slytherin Twists (Soft Pretzels) \$2 Cauldron Cakes (5 Mini Cupcakes) \$1 Butterbeer \$1 Bama Water</p>	<p>90.7 The Capstone Academic Honor Council Spectrum American Chemical Society Nu Delta Alpha UA American Red Cross Bama Corps UA Movement</p>	<p>• <b>Stephanie Brumfield</b>, lifestyles editor • <b>Ashley Chaffin</b>, assistant lifestyles editor • <b>Sarah Massey</b>, magazine art director</p>
<p><b>12:30 p.m.</b> First games begin.</p>		<p>Mortar Board Al's Pals SWACA HCA Lambda Zeta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. READ Alabama Sigma Tau Delta</p>	
<p><b>1 p.m.</b> Denny Chimes plays "Hedwig's Theme."</p>			



# Quidditch by the numbers:

74 | teams

938 | players registered

100 | volunteers



2 | referees per field

5 | fields

15 | snitches

13 | booths



# 11/12

Forty Creative Campus interns are working hard to generate ideas and plan creative projects and events to impact UA and beyond. Be sure not to miss some of their annual favorites.

## Upcoming Projects:

Norman Fischer: Jan 17-18, 2012

Senses of Creativity Art Show: Feb 3, 2012

Waxwing: Feb 10, 2012

DCAF: Mar 24, 2012

Poetry, Painting, and Notebooks: Jan 28, 2012

Avant-Jazz: Feb 27, 2012 & April 6, 2012

The Nest: 2012

Hacker Space: 2012

Arts TV Show: 2012

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# Golden snitches play hide-and-seek with players

By Lauren Ferguson  
Staff Reporter  
ldferguson@crimson.ua.edu

It can be argued which position on a Quidditch team is most important – is it the chaser, beater, keeper or seeker? Ultimately, the seeker plays a vital role by catching the elusive golden snitch to end the game and win points.

Many of this year's Quidditch on the Quad snitches are new to the tournament and express much enthusiasm and excitement for the games that will commence Thursday evening.

"I wanted to be a snitch last year but was going to be out of town," said Matthew Hardman, a junior majoring in electrical engineering. "I applied online this year to be a snitch and was accepted. It's going to be a lot of fun."

Typically a small golden ball with silver wings, as described in the Harry Potter series, the golden snitch is released at the beginning of Quidditch matches and must be captured by the seekers to end the game.

In the book series, when the snitch is caught, the team receives 150 points and usually wins the game. Quidditch on the Quad rules dictate the capture of the human snitch will end the game and earn that team 30 points.

"I've read Harry Potter books all my life and seen the movies, too," said Trent Rankin, a freshman majoring in electrical engineering. "For me, it will be fun to try to avoid the seekers on campus. However, if they get too close, it will make me nervous."

In order to be a good fit for a Quidditch on the Quad snitch, there are several qualities one must possess.



Once the snitch is released, he is allowed to go anywhere on campus. Here, snitches Olivia Grubbs and Lawson Daves run throughout the Ferguson Center Plaza.

CW Photo Illustration | Drew Hoover

"A snitch must have endurance, creativity and be cunning and witty in order to evade everyone," said Olivia Grubbs, a sophomore majoring in microbiology. "I have a feeling the seekers also want the snitch to be creative in order to make it a challenge."

Grubbs said she enjoys running in her spare time and keeps a good pace for long-distance running, thus making her a good candidate for a

snitch. "I wanted to participate somehow, so I volunteered to run," Grubbs said. "There's more motivation than just running when you are a snitch."

Lawson Daves, a junior majoring in vocal performance, said he ran cross country and track in high school and college; therefore, the snitch position seemed fitting for him, as well.

"I'm both nervous and excit-

ed," Daves said. "I'm afraid I might get caught within the first five minutes, but it's just like any other sport where you get a little nervous before the game."

Snitches have free range of the UA campus and are allowed to climb trees, ride bikes, throw water balloons and ride the Crimson Ride in order to avoid capture by the seeker.

"The rules are pretty loose-

ly bound," Grubbs said. "You want to make it difficult, but not impossible to be caught."

Additionally, the snitch must be dressed head to toe in gold or yellow attire to stand out from the other players. The snitch will also have a tennis ball inside a sock attached to his pants that the seeker must grab to win the game.

"A friend suggested I paint my entire body gold," Daves said. "Its still up in the air, but

very possible."

Hardman said he plans to visit the thrift store in hopes of finding snitch-worthy apparel that will make him look as ridiculous as possible.

"I like the acceptance of Quidditch on the Quad and the enthusiasm for it," Grubbs said. "If this idea were pitched 10 years ago, it would have sounded crazy. Now, it's something totally different and fun."

# Learn about potions, get sorted by chemists on Quad

By Courtney Stinson  
Contributing Writer

The American Chemical Society plans to bring the magic of chemistry to Quidditch on the Quad Sunday.

"Who is more magical on campus than the chemist?" asked Kirstin Sockwell, ACS president.

For those who are not interested in "foolish wand-waving" and "silly incantations," the ACS will perform potions demonstrations carried out by chemistry majors with lab experience. The demonstrations will include simple kitchen chemistry, like mixing baking soda and vinegar.

There will also be more complex demonstrations, such as their pH indicator, which changes the color of liquid based on the pH level.

"We want to introduce people to how fun chemistry can be," Sockwell said. "We're showing them chemical processes with a magical twist. Our skit is also meant to discuss the importance of safety when working with chemicals, whether at home or in the lab."

In addition to participating on the sidelines, the chemistry department's Quidditch team, representing Canada, hopes to make it past the pre-

liminary matches and take to the Quidditch pitch on Sunday. The aptly-named Moles – after Avagadro's number – consist mainly of ACS members and other chemists.

The ACS will also have a "sorting" activity, where participants are divided into the four Hogwarts houses from the Potter series: Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw and Slytherin.

"It is a very exciting activity," Sockwell said. "The student will put on the Sorting Hat and will pick a sorting stick at random. The potions chemist will then hold the stick to a flame,

and whatever color the flame turns [red, blue, green or yellow] is what house that student is placed into."

The sorting sticks will be soaked in a mixture of salts and alcohol, then be oxidized by the flame, resulting in the color of one of each of the four houses. Creative Campus will supply sheets for participants to color in their house colors.

Chelsea Plummer, graduate student and team Canada's Quidditch captain, hopes to be sorted into Hufflepuff.

"I have not been sorted yet, but I think it will be very exciting and fun to get sorted," Plummer

said. "Hufflepuff really fits my laidback personality."

ACS was founded in 1876 as a way for scientists to easily share their work. Today, it is the largest scientific society in the world. Its UA student chapter began in January. Though the society's main focus is chemistry, it is open to all majors, and it offers graduate students and undergraduates the opportunity to work together.

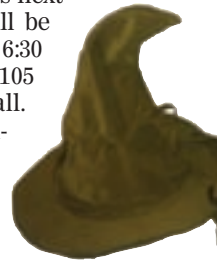
Plummer also hopes Quidditch on the Quad will give chemistry students a way to have fun with their majors. She said she looks forward to taking part in the matches, as well as

the other activities.

"Hopefully, I'll be out on the Quidditch pitch with my team, but if I'm not doing that, I'll be helping out with some potion making," she said. "As chemists, you know we all are potions masters."

The ACS's next meeting will be Nov. 21 at 6:30 p.m. in 2105 Shelby Hall.

The organization is always accepting new members.



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# Quidditch teams prepare to square off

With 73 teams on the roster, competition will be fierce among students



## TEAM HOLLAND

By Robert Moore  
Contributing Writer

In the battle for the Quidditch World Cup, one faithful team has come together in an attempt to win against all others. Team Holland, who will compete against Egypt Thursday, plans to play their hearts out to win the champi-

onship. "When something this awesome and unique comes to UA, you've got to be a part of it," said Marcus Toritorici, a senior majoring in media production. Although the team had its first practice Tuesday, team members have been mentally preparing for weeks. When asked why she joined the team, team member Carly Palmour said she doesn't have a lot of free time during the semester

to play intramural sports, and this was a good way for her to play sports for a few days. And, of course, she loves Harry Potter. The team's goal is to play one match at a time. "[We're] taking a page from the Nick Saban book and not looking ahead, but taking care of the opponent that's right in front of us," Toritorici said. Their strategy is just to

go out and have a good time. Believing that his team had a productive practice, Marcus thinks if the matchups are favorable, his team has a decent chance of winning. Team Holland has made custom uniforms for team members that include their country and the color black, to strike fear in the hearts of their opponents. They will also wear blonde "Goldilocks" wigs to give their uniforms a little

something extra. "We're trying to incorporate yodeling somehow, as well," the team said. Although the team hasn't had much practice and wants to have fun more than anything, some members are going into this event with their eyes only on the World Cup. "I'm playing Quidditch to make men weep," team member Henry Busby said. "Blood will be shed."



## TEAM ITALY: THE MUSICIANS

By Caroline Hiott  
Contributing Writer

Quidditch on the Quad has become, for some, one of the most anticipated events on campus during the fall. This year's Team Italy consists of alto sax players from the Million Dollar Band. The team decided on the name because many of the

tryouts, she and her co-captain chose who should be in which positions. "We [chose] who is good, instead of whoever wants to be on the team," Hendricks said. Drake said most of the players are huge Harry Potter fans, and they are all excited to play something out of the book. "I think it is a really good thing Creative Campus is doing," Hendricks said. Team Italy's jerseys include a logo over the green and black colors of the jersey. The members chose these colors because they wanted to look more like the Slytherin house. With 74 teams signed up in this single-elimination tournament, Italy has practiced every Sunday for the last two months. "We just have to go out there and do our best," Hendricks said. "The game is very much about endurance; we have to keep moving." They are all excited and nervous because the competition has evolved. "Last year, it started out just for fun, but after it started, it has definitely become more competitive, even if it has seemed so just for us," Tomlin said. "We have to have fun, but we also have to win."

**"We just have to go out there and do our best. The game is very much about endurance; we have to keep moving."**

— Jordan Hendricks, beater for Italy

teammates are minoring in Italian. Hallie Drake, a senior majoring in English and one of the chasers for the team, is participating for her second year because she wants to

come back and win this year." Drake said they put up a sign-up sheet at band camp, and many people signed up to try out, even though only fourteen could be chosen. After

mates, she admits to being a big Harry Potter nerd, having seen the movies and read the books multiple times. "I really like Hermione," Johnson said. "I really connect with her and feel like she's my sister. I feel like she would have been an engineer in the muggle world." Like Johnson, many of Brazil's team members are engineering majors and fans of the Harry Potter series. Hank Wiggins, a senior majoring in chemical engineering and team Brazil's keeper, started reading the Harry Potter books when he was in fifth grade. His favorite character is Tonks because she can change her hair color, but he also really likes potions. "Potions were always cool to me because I've always liked chemistry, but charms were my favorite part," Wiggins said. "I used to do magic tricks all of the time, so charms always seemed like something I could do. [Harry Potter] is also just a fantastic story, and I'm sad that it's over." Wiggins, who wanted to play Quidditch last year but couldn't ever find a team to join, only knew one person on team Brazil before signing up to play. But so did Gabe Pappanastos, a junior majoring in finance and Brazil's seeker. One of only two non-engineering students on the team, he joined after talking to one of his neighbors who played last year and is playing again this year. "I always wondered what it would be like to play," Pappanastos said. "I didn't have cable growing up, so I watched a lot of movies and read a lot of books. Harry Potter was part of my childhood. I grew up reading the books. [Quidditch] is also a good social activity." Though rookies, this team of engineers has practiced only twice. "Engineers are not the most athletic people in the world, so we've been focusing mainly on strategy [during our practices]," Johnson said. "We really want to make it out of Thursday. We have to play two teams to make it to Saturday, and we really hope we win." For Wiggins, who will graduate in the spring, Quidditch on the Quad is just another way for him to continue enjoying one of his favorite childhood pastimes. "When the last movie came out this summer, I thought, 'My childhood is over now,'" Wiggins said. "But now, there's Pottermore, which I'm excited about. Why not do [Quidditch] my last semester here? It's college. It's silly. And it's my last chance to do it."



## TEAM BRAZIL: THE ENGINEERS

By Stephanie Brumfield  
Lifestyles Editor  
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It's not every day that one gets to play Quidditch, and for many students, this year's Quidditch tournament is giving them the opportunity to do something they regretted not doing last year. The members of team Brazil are no exception. Some stood

on the sidelines during last year's tournament. Others didn't attend the tournament at all. But they're all playing this year, and for them, nothing else matters. Sarah Johnson, a junior majoring in mechanical engineering and the captain of team Brazil, stood on the sidelines taking photographs last year but will play as a beater this year. And, like many of her team-

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### ALBANIA: THE COMPETITORS

By Sophia Jones  
Contributing Writer

A blur of red darts by me to the left. A bludger flashes by my head, as a streak of black hurtles through the air on my right. Like spiders, they creep. Weaving an intricate web of speed, strategy and deceit. Constantly ready to attack. Never taking their eyes off the prey.

The Albanian Acromantulas are back. And this time, they're leaving it all on the field.

"Albania is here to win. And if we are on your schedule you better watch out for us," said junior John McDonough, who played for The Albanian Acromantulas last year and is now co-captain of the team. McDonough plays chaser.

Ally Mabry, a sophomore and Creative Campus intern, founded the Albanian team last year and has been captain and seeker for the team both years.

"I'm Albanian and I love muggle Quidditch," Mabry said. "I thought it would be awesome to have a team, so I got some friends together. Last year was rough because none of us had ever truly played Quidditch before. A lot of things were unorganized. Now that we know what's going on, we have a lot better feel for it."

In the Harry Potter series, Hagrid's giant spider Aragog is a member of the "acromantula" species, huge spiders that are highly intelligent and capable of human speech. They possess a set of giant fangs, which they use to eat live prey. "I wanted our team's name to be an [allusion] from the books," Mabry said. "From

before I could even remember, my mom used to read me the first Harry Potter book as a bedtime story. Harry Potter has been a part of my life since I could remember."

The Acromantula's colors are red and black, like that of the Albanian flag, and their uniform features a spider.

"Spiders have many legs and joints, and in The Albanian Acromantula's game there are a lot of different angles we will come at you from," McDonough said.

Chris Izor, a senior, Creative Campus intern and keeper for the team, said he is the best for the position of keeper because he is "tall, shameless, and can swat things out of the air well."

"We are going to win," Izor said. "We have a really intense team with really strong players who are familiar with how the game works, and we've been practicing since five weeks ago."

Both Mabry and Izor feel that if their team were to embody one of the characters from the Harry Potter series it would be Luna Lovegood.

"We are a quirky group of people. Not all of us knew each other coming into this but we are surprisingly intense and work well when pressure is on," Izor said.

Paul Grass, a junior and beater for the team, will be playing in his first official Quidditch match at the preliminary rounds tonight.

"The Acromantulas have definitely come together as an odd group of people, but we have discovered out of the ordinary solutions for how to play Quidditch," Grass said. "We have grown together in this sport. We're ready. It's on."

### SARAH PALIN'S ALASKA: THE ENVIRONMENTALISTS

By Stephanie Brumfield  
Lifestyles Editor  
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Jackie Clay and Brett Hannan have been best friends for 15 years, despite the fact that Hannan moved to a different city when the two were younger. What kept them together? Well, Harry Potter did.

Clay and Hannan, now roommates, grew up reading Harry Potter together. They waited in long lines together for the book premieres, sat in theatres together for the movie premieres and, when they couldn't be together, shared their thoughts about the newest Harry Potter books over the phone. And now, they're playing Quidditch together.

Clay, a senior majoring in nursing and biology and co-captain of Sarah Palin's Alaska, played Quidditch last year, though under a different team name and with different team members. Alaska's members were chosen randomly, like their team name, though many team members

are also involved in UA's Environmental Council.

"Our goal is to get past the preliminary rounds," Clay said. "Last year, we lost to Sweden, the team that eventually won the tournament, in the second game on Sunday after going to overtime. We're playing them again on Thursday, and we're hoping to redeem ourselves."

But Clay said her team doesn't plan to be overly competitive. They've practiced only once, and she said it was more of a team meeting than a practice to make sure everyone knew the rules.

"We're not even that athletic; we're just passion-

**We're not even that athletic; we're just passionate about Harry Potter.**

—Jackie Clay, Co-Captain of Sarah Palin's Alaska

ate about Harry Potter," Clay said. "I'm excited to see how good we are. We might suck it up, but we don't care... A



lot of us are just doing it for fun. It's not going to be too intense."

Hannan, a senior majoring in nutrition, is looking forward to being around other Harry Potter fans.

"The energy is going to be amazing," Hannan said.

and going to the movie premieres with her," Hannan said. "I was really sad when the last book came out. I tried to drag it out because I didn't want it to end, but I only got to four days before I finished it."

As far as strategy goes, Sarah Palin's Alaska doesn't have one, though they chose their positions based on their strengths. Those good at dodging became beaters, while those good at throwing became chasers.

Clay said she might be the seeker, but she could also be a beater.

"I'm skinny and small," she said. "But I have good aim and could be really good at pegging people."



### ISLE OF MAN: THE HONORS STUDENTS

By Ashley Chaffin  
Assistant Lifestyles Editor  
alchaffin@gmail.com

Isle of Man, a Quidditch team representing the Honors College Assembly, was one of the final eight teams before losing in last year's Quidditch on the Quad event.

"It's a lot of the same team," said Seth Kennedy, captain of Isle of Man and a junior majoring in economics and Spanish,

"except the players who graduated - and our seeker from last year became a Creative Campus intern, so he's not playing with us either, but we added a few people."

Kennedy, who said he wasn't one of the founders last year, wanted to make sure HCA had a team this year, so he stepped up to be captain.

Kennedy recruited his friends and other members of HCA to make up for those who

couldn't be on the team this year. The team is made up of mostly juniors, with one senior and one graduate student. He said they weren't that selective in making up the team.

The Isle of Man uniforms will be all black and say "Man Up" on the back. In the week leading up to Quidditch on the Quad, Isle of Man held their first and only practice, as well as a scrimmage against the Mexico team.

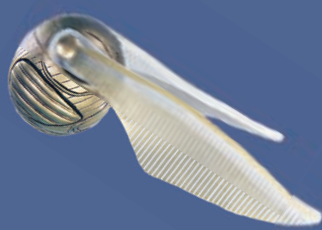
Kennedy said the scrimmage was really beneficial because most of the team hadn't played in a year, and they were able to find out which strategies worked and which ones didn't.

"At the scrimmage, we discovered a lot of strategy points, or what we thought to be useful things," Kennedy said. "It was good in that we got to see our

**I'd like to play on Sunday - if we lose on Sunday, that's cool with me.**

—Seth Kennedy, Captain of Isle of Man

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# Muggle Quidditch becoming a worldwide sensation

By Ashley Chaffin  
Assistant Lifestyles Editor  
alchaffin@gmail.com

As 74 teams play in Creative Campus's Quidditch on the Quad tournament this weekend, 100 teams from across the world will compete in the Quidditch World Cup in New York City.

J.K. Rowling brought Quidditch to the imagination of children all over the United States in 1998, but it was Middlebury College that took the game from their imaginations and onto a playing field in 2005.

In the six years since the first muggle Quidditch match was played, it has exploded into a worldwide phenomenon.

The International Quidditch Association, which has taken the rules set down by Middlebury College and created a league of Quidditch teams, was formed on Nov. 11, 2007, the same day the first inter-

collegiate match was played between Middlebury College and Vassar College. IQA was incorporated in 2010.

There are 396 official and unofficial teams in the United States alone, and 22 other countries have at least one official or unofficial team.

Of the 483 teams listed on the IQA website, only 129 are recognized as official Quidditch teams. To become an official Quidditch team, the team must be recognized by their institution, college or high school and must pay the yearly dues, which vary in different countries. Unofficial teams are recognized as community teams and cannot use their institution's name, colors or logos.

The Quidditch World Cup, held on Randall's Island in New York City, marks the fifth annual World Cup. The amount of teams participating in the World Cup has nearly doubled every year. The first was the match between Middlebury

and Vassar, the second attracted 12 teams, the third had 21, and the fourth had 43.

This weekend, 100 teams will compete to try to beat Middlebury College, who has won all five Quidditch World Cups.

Five of the competing teams are from the SEC, including one of its newest members, Texas A&M. Going into this weekend's World Cup, both Texas A&M and LSU are ranked in the top 10. Florida is ranked 21, and Kentucky and Arkansas are unranked.

Seven of the 100 teams are from outside the United States, four are from Canada, and there is one each from Finland, New Zealand and Argentina.

As the IQA grows every year, so does the Creative Campus Quidditch on the Quad event here at Alabama. You never know...in the coming years, we might see some of the players who play on the field Sunday playing for a World Cup.

## Teams Around the World

<b>USA:</b> 396	<b>China:</b> 1
<b>Canada:</b> 35	<b>Finland:</b> 1
<b>Australia:</b> 13	<b>France:</b> 1
<b>United Kingdom:</b> 11	<b>Germany:</b> 1
<b>Brazil:</b> 3	<b>Mexico:</b> 1
<b>India:</b> 3	<b>Netherlands:</b> 1
<b>Italy:</b> 3	<b>New Zealand:</b> 1
<b>Ireland:</b> 2	<b>Philippines:</b> 1
<b>Spain:</b> 2	<b>Portugal:</b> 1
<b>Taiwan:</b> 2	<b>Russia:</b> 1
<b>Argentina:</b> 1	<b>South Africa:</b> 1
	<b>Sweden:</b> 1

## SEC Schools with Quidditch Teams

- Florida
- LSU
- Arkansas
- Kentucky
- Texas A&M

## 2011 Top 4:

- 1 - Middlebury College
- 2 - University of Kansas
- 3 - Arizona State University
- 4 - Emerson College

# Last year's Quidditch on the Quad saw strong turnout



CW | Drew Hoover  
Team Sweden [far right] won last year's inaugural Quidditch on the Quad tournament. Above and Left, Chasers attempt to score. Last year's event had more than 1,500 attendees.

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BEHIND THE SCENES

# Creative Campus shares a magical experience

**Naomi Thompson**  
 Junior, psychology  
 Alter ego: Nymphadora Tonks

Being a core member of the Quidditch on the Quad planning team has been a joyous and somewhat paradoxical experience. First of all, we love Harry Potter; we grew up with him. It gives us a way to escape reality and live in a fantastical dream world where we don't need to worry about school and drama.

However, the point of Quidditch on the Quad is to bring that fictional world to life, so we find ourselves in a bit of a quandary. We are constantly reminding ourselves, "Siriusly, y'all. This is QUIDDITCH."

Sometimes, you just get so worried about all the little details because it feels like so many people are depending on you to make this magical thing happen. When you get worried that the brooms won't be delivered on time, you just have to remember that people will be running around with the brooms between their legs, not cleaning the halls of the White House.

Ultimately, the joy comes from seeing excitement on students' faces when you tell them that butterbeer is going to be available on the Quad. It comes from delirious late nights

filled with Riddikulus Harry Potter puns and good friends. The creativity that my coworkers and friends display when planning a real-life version of Diagon Alley or finding ways to celebrate the magic of literacy is so inspiring.

This project is so unifying; it's amazing how Harry Potter breaks boundaries and categories, allowing diverse groups of people to face off on the Quidditch pitch with no other motive than to win the World Cup. It's truly a magical experience, pun intended.



**Katie Fraley**  
 Senior, secondary education language arts  
 Alter ego: Mafalda Hopkirk

My mother tells everyone that I was devastated when I never got my Hogwarts acceptance letter by owl post on my eleventh birthday. Although I usually laugh at this joke, it's a reluctant laugh, because we all know it's true.

It's been ten years, and I'm still holding my breath for an invitation to some sort of Hogwarts graduate program. Point being: I grew up constantly rereading the books, dressing up at premieres, visiting fan websites, subscribing to podcasts and

researching all of the intricacies of the fandom.

I quickly became "the Harry Potter girl" at school, and I never thought I'd get to go to a large Harry Potter event. When I made a joke along these lines at Creative Campus last year, Hank Lazer pointed me over to Alexandra Tucci, and that began one of the best experiences of my geeky little life.

It still amazes me that I get to sit in meetings where we talk seriously about the legality of bludger-

cloak contact and whether staged Dementor attacks are "too much."

Although it felt pretty real when we watched the final forty-seventh team application come in last year and realized this may be a success, it didn't really hit me until I was on the Quad and heard Denny Chimes play "Hedwig's Theme." I swear, the eleven-year-old in me was so overwhelmed that I teared up a little.

I would be ashamed, except don't we all hope that our childhood dreams will come true?

**Hunter Holt**  
 Junior, English  
 Alter ego: Horace Slughorn

I began my adventure with Harry Potter in the third grade at my elementary school's Scholastic book fair. With the premiere of "Deathly Hallows Part 2" in July, my eleven-year journey with Harry seemed to come to an end.

Throughout this decade, though, my favorite memories with the series were the ones I shared with my sister. Even though she is twelve years older than I am, she loved Harry Potter - considered to be mainly children's literature - just as much as I did. She took me to the book releases at midnight and always challenged me to see who could stay up the latest and finish the book first.

After we attended the movie premieres together, we would always critique the films with a sense of elitism - "Hermione doesn't wear pink!" or "Why did they burn the Burrow

down?!"

For Christmas one year, she purchased the British editions of the books for me, and, as we both read through the final book, we texted each other and expressed how heartbroken we were over Dobby's death.

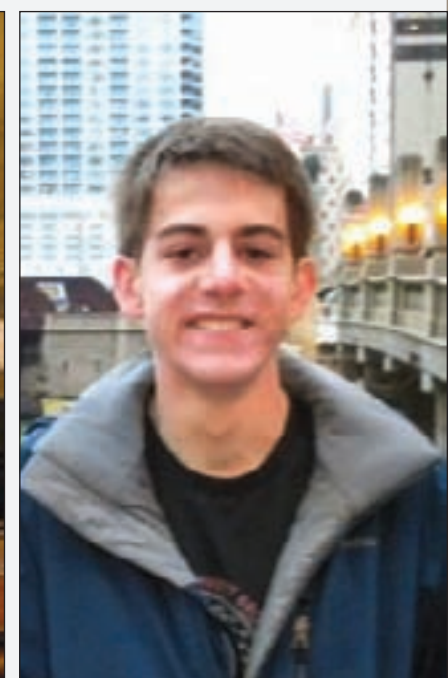
When we saw the final movie together this past summer, we both found it somewhat silly how we were in tears at our realization of the series officially coming to an end.

After working on Quidditch on the Quad for two years, though, I have realized that this event is a reflection of what my sister and I shared over the past decade. Harry Potter played an important role in how my sister and I established a meaningful relationship with one another - something that extended beyond our love of Harry and

literacy.

Similarly, Quidditch on the Quad provides our University with a means to build cross-campus relationships in the spirit of healthy competition. The event brings students together from all parts of campus - the law school, Million Dollar Band, Japan Club, Alpha Psi Omega, etc. - in a celebration of literacy, athletics, international culture, and, of course, our shared love for J.K. Rowling's creative genius.

In this way, my adventure with Harry Potter has not ended, as the collaborative epicness of Quidditch on the Quad promotes inclusion and represents how our experiences with art can live on forever. I am just thankful to have been a part of such connective magic at Creative Campus that certainly makes my sister say, "Rowling Tide, y'all."



"Quidditch on the Quad is an opportunity for our campus to have a day of pure fun and unashamed silliness."

- Alexandra Tucci



**Alexandra Tucci**  
 Senior, international studies and advertising  
 Alter ego: Minerva McGonagall

Ever since I first heard about muggle Quidditch, I knew that I wanted to bring it to our college campus. There was something so deliciously ridiculous - so extraordinarily silly - about the whole idea of humanoid snitches and grown people running around on broomsticks.

When I first pitched the idea of having a Quidditch event that celebrated the magic of literacy to my fellow Creative Campus interns, we all worried that not enough UA students would be interested in participating. Merlin's beard, were we wrong!

It never ceases to amaze me what a cultural phenomenon Harry Potter is for our generation. We literally grew up with Harry Potter, anticipating the newest book release or the next movie premiere. Standing on the quad last year, watching legions of students laughing and chasing quaffles, dodging bludgers and being immersed in Harry Potter was an incredible experience.

My dad was in the military when I was growing up, so every two to three years, I can remember packing up my Harry Potter books in big, brown moving boxes. Unpacking them in my new, empty room, I'd be immediately comforted knowing that no matter how scary it was going to be to go to a new school with no friends, I could always escape to Hogwarts with Hermione, Ron and Harry.

That's what reading was for me - an escape. And maybe its because I watched too much Reading Rainbow when I was a kid, but I honestly believe that reading has the power to open up entire new worlds for all of us.

That's one of the reasons why I am so proud of the work we're doing at Quidditch on the Quad. 100 percent of the proceeds from T-shirt sales and team registration are going to the Tuscaloosa County Reading Coaches Alliance. These reading coaches help elementary school students across the

region reach their full reading potential and get up to their grade level.

My other favorite part about working on Quidditch are the moments of absolute ludicrousness - when I'll be checking the broomstick budget or contemplating the best way to campaign for snitches, when we call up Denny Chimes to talk about the Harry Potter theme song or hear about teams practicing with their capes on, when we plan out minstrels and paint giant signs advertising butterbeer, when we see that about 1,000 students signed up to play and that, of course, Eli Gold will do a voice-over for our promo video.

Quidditch on the Quad is an opportunity for our campus to have a day of pure fun and unashamed silliness, because being a student is stressful, and we all have so many serious things in our lives. Sometimes it takes the imaginary to remind us of the reality that we live in a magical, wonderful world.

**Meridith Shook**  
 Senior, art history and Spanish  
 Alter ego: Hermione Granger

I was one of those children whose parents were wary of the Harry Potter books for the first few years after they were published. I remember wondering what the pages of the shiny copies of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" that I saw in bookstores contained.

One day, my parents finally relented, and I excitedly checked out my first Harry Potter book from the library. Usually, books that receive that much hype do not live up to my expectations, but that time, that one time, a book did. The world of Hogwarts, Diagon Alley and Azkaban engrossed me - it was everything I had dreamed of and more.

Like most other children, my sister and I would buy each book at its midnight premiere, and one of us would read it immediately before giving it

to the other one, so absorbed that we often forgot to go to sleep.

When I began college, however, I lost touch with Harry Potter, and it wasn't until the initial months of my internship with Creative Campus during my junior year that my love for the wizarding world was rekindled.

When the Quidditch project was first pitched to the intern body, I was skeptical, but I signed up to be responsible for coordinating volunteers and snitches. I don't think I fully realized at the time how much work it would be to email each interested volunteer or snitch personally, but it wasn't long before I was spending hours each day simply emailing and scheduling personnel for the matches.

While Quidditch on the Quad involved a massive amount of work

last year and this year as well, it is so thoroughly worth every minute. To receive such a positive response to the event and to know that our planning team literally makes people's wildest dreams come to life makes the Quidditch tournament one of the most rewarding endeavors I ever have undertaken.

This year, Quidditch on the Quad means even more to me. After losing everything in the tornado this spring, I unexpectedly found solace in the aftermath in the Harry Potter series. The books' themes - courage, the power of love over loss and death, the triumph of good over evil - resonated with me, and I took comfort in J.K. Rowling's writing. I expect that the simple words "Expecto Patronum" will continue to give me strength for many years to come.

