

# The Crimson White

Thursday, November 29, 2012

Serving the University of Alabama since 1894

Vol. 119, Issue 63

CULTURE | FOOTBALL

## Gameday RVers form culture all their own

Fans gather days before a game, celebrate after wins

By Abbey Crain  
Staff Reporter

To many students, RVs are just another burden on Gameday, forcing them off their own parking lots to make way for gargantuan tailgating contraptions. But, for this special breed of tailgaters, Alabama football is more than a team to root for.

Nick Frenz, assistant director of event management and transportation, said on any given gameday there are 390, usually full, RV parking spots spread over campus.

That does not include the 100 free RV parking spots located off campus on McFarland Boulevard. Sheila and Mike Huddleston, Huntsville, Ala., natives and parents to two Alabama alumnae, have been tailgating with their RV for nine years. They got their RV specifically for Alabama football games so their oldest daughter, a former member of Crimson Cabaret, could easily join them in their tailgating activities. They have even gone so far as storing their RV in the Tuscaloosa area to make the trip a little less daunting.

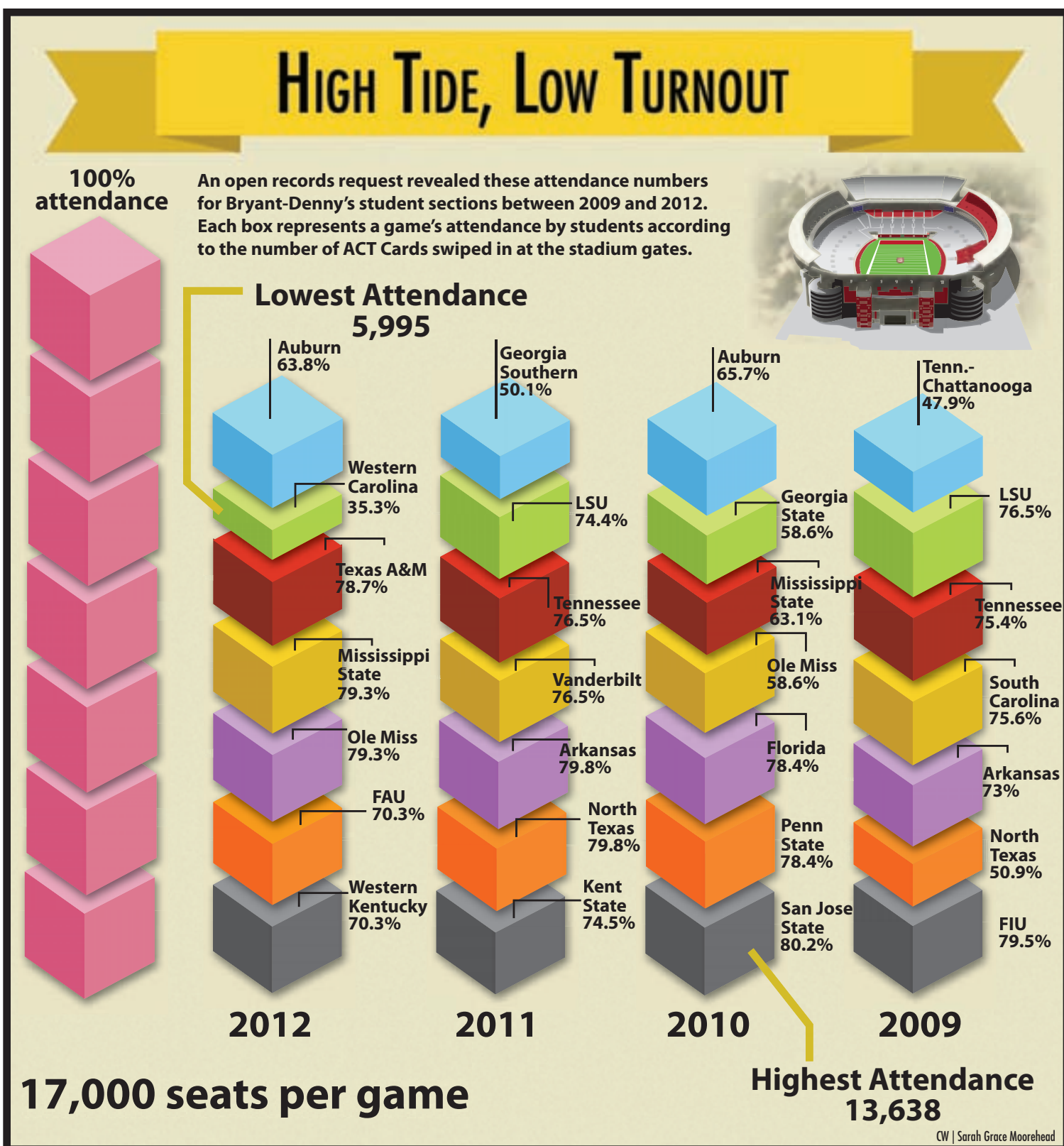
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Because it's so hard to get hotel rooms, we decided to stay to tailgate so we could all enjoy it together.

— Sheila Huddleston

“My daughters were very involved on campus and always wanted to come down and see us and go to the football games,” Sheila Huddleston said. “Because it's so hard to get hotel rooms, we decided to stay to tailgate so we could all enjoy it together. We have friends over there [at the RV lots] and then friends from Huntsville come and everyone brings food and has a good time.”

SEE RV PAGE 9



## Student section hasn't filled to capacity as long as attendance has been recorded

By Marc Torrence  
Assistant Sports Editor

Alabama fans are greeted with a familiar sight as kickoff nears for a football game in Bryant-Denny Stadium. It's as common as seeing the Million Dollar Band on the

field or the pre-game "Tradition" video.

Only this one isn't so inspiring. The upper deck student section, where students are sent once the lower bowl has reached capacity, is never filled and has become an eyesore for many fans. It's a

blemish on what some say would otherwise be the most spectacular sight in college football — 101,000-plus fans packed into one stadium to watch a football game.

The student section has never filled up completely, or even come close, according to information received from The University of Alabama under an open-records request.

Alabama's season opener

against San Jose State in 2010 drew the most students since 2008, when the University started using ACT Cards for football tickets, the earliest that data was made available. Of the 17,000 seats given to students, only 13,638 were filled for the game. That means 3,362 tickets went unused, and the section was just over 80 percent capacity.

SEE ATTENDANCE PAGE 10

NEWS | FOOTBALL

## Students head home for game

Atlanta-area fans skip high hotel, food costs

By Sarah Elizabeth Tooker  
Staff Reporter

Many University of Alabama students have been waiting for the Crimson Tide to return to the SEC football championship, and for a lot of these students, it's because the Atlanta area is what many of them call home.

Chris Bryant, a University spokesperson, said this year's freshman class includes 543 students from Georgia, with 435 of them hailing from the Atlanta area. Total enrollment from Georgia also continues to rise, surging from 2,227 students in fall 2011 to 2,322 in fall 2012.

Attending and winning this game means a lot to most of these students, as many of their high

school friends chose to attend The University of Georgia. One student traveling to the game this weekend, Sean Reach, a junior majoring in operations management, is actually from Athens, Ga., the hometown of the Tide's opponent.

“This game is just as important to me as last year's national championship and this year's too,” Reach said. “I've had to grow up listening to their delusional expectations every year and would love nothing better than to see all my friends' disappointed faces while they watch me celebrate again.”

Some students from Atlanta heading back for the game are excited to avoid the steep hotel room prices and will invite friends

to stay in their homes for the game. Riley Snider, a junior majoring in finance, said all students should make the effort to come, whether they have a ticket or not.

“All of my roommates, as well as many other friends, will be arriving at my house on Friday afternoon for the game,” Snider said. “For those who do not have a ticket, I would recommend tailgating around the Georgia Dome before the game and taking Marta to the Buckhead area to watch it

“I know a ton of people are going to watch the game in Buckhead, and a few of the popular bars there are Stout, Peachtree Tavern and East Andrews.”

— Mary Katherine Sweeney

at the many sports bars around the area. This is where most college kids will be hanging out and cheering on the Tide.”

SEE ATLANTA PAGE 2

NEWS | CITY COUNCIL

## Downtown Tuscaloosa will undergo major renovations

City will break ground on new hotel, PNC building to become apartment complex

By Adrienne Burch  
Staff Reporter

With enrollment at The University of Alabama growing each year, the city of Tuscaloosa has responded with major additions and renovations to the downtown area to help better serve this influx of students.

Ground is expected to be broken on a new upscale hotel in the spring, the city council just approved the renovation of the old PNC bank building to add over 100 apartments to the downtown area, and the Riverwalk area along the Black Warrior River has exploded in recent years with the addition of the Amphitheater and Rivermarket.

“What we are seeing today is the culmination of planning that has been going on for a few years now,” Mayor Walt Maddox said. “We are taking advantage of the growth of the University, and commercial and residential are working in harmony to bring vibrancy to the downtown area.”

Maddox said with the geographic location of the University so close to the downtown area, it is only natural for there to be a synergy between the two. Lee Garrison, Tuscaloosa city councilman for District 4, said he definitely believes student growth has been essential in pushing the city to renovate downtown.

“The student growth has defiantly impacted Tuscaloosa in a positive way,” he said. “Now the city has to respond to these challenges. Downtown is continuing to evolve in a positive way.”

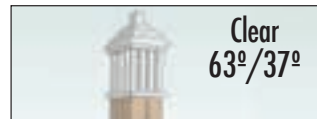
SEE DOWNTOWN PAGE 2



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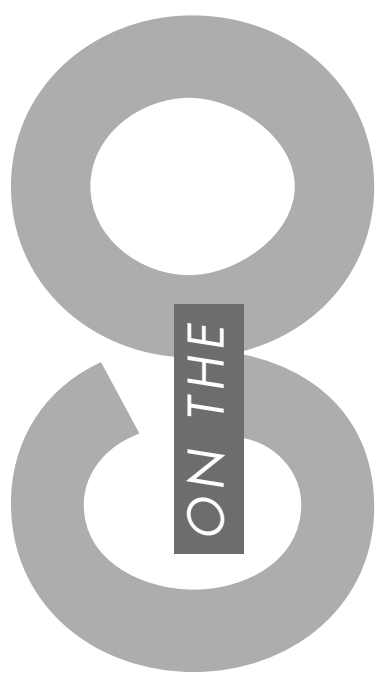
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WEATHER today



Friday 68°/45°  
Partly cloudy





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November 29, 2012

# The Crimson White

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## ON THE CALENDAR

### TODAY

What: Trivia Night  
Where: Willhagans  
When: 8 p.m.

What: CLC Movie Night:  
City of God  
Where: 241 B.B. Comer  
When: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

What: Percussion Ensemble  
Where: Moody Music  
Building  
When: 7:30 p.m.

### FRIDAY

What: Hilaritas  
Where: Moody Music  
Building  
When: 7:30 p.m.

What: 12 Days of Wellness  
Where: Russell Hall Lobby  
When: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

What: Where Are You,  
Christmas?  
Where: Bama Theatre  
When: 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Submit your events to  
[calendar@cw.ua.edu](mailto:calendar@cw.ua.edu)

### SATURDAY

What: Saturday in the Park:  
Ornaments from Nature  
Where: Moundville  
Archaeological Park  
When: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

What: Shenanigans and Beer  
Comedy  
Where: Green Bar  
When: 7 p.m.

What: Theatre Tuscaloosa  
presents Godspell  
Where: Bean-Brown Theatre  
at Shelton State Community  
College  
When: 7:30 p.m.

## ON THE MENU

### LAKESIDE

#### LUNCH

Salisbury Steak with  
Mushrooms  
Home-style Spaghetti &  
Meatballs  
Lima Beans with Bacon  
Home-style Mashed Potatoes  
Grilled Vegetable Pizza  
Spinach Parmesan  
Quiche (Vegetarian)

#### DINNER

Roast Beef  
Turkey Soup with Brown  
Rice  
Linguine with Roasted Red  
Peppers  
Steamed Green Peas  
Roasted Red Potatoes  
Tofu Fajita (Vegetarian)

### BURKE

#### LUNCH

Steak  
Chicken Cacciatore  
Chicken Fajita Pizza  
Baked Yukon Gold Potatoes  
Vegetable Orzo Soup  
Steamed Brussel Sprouts  
Southwest Garbanzo Bean  
Cake (Vegetarian)

#### DINNER

Chicken Creole  
Classic Tuna Salad  
Cinnamon French Toast  
Stewed Okra  
Seasoned Rice  
Carrot Raisin Salad  
Mu Shu Tofu (Vegetarian)

### FRESH FOOD

#### LUNCH

Buttermilk Fried Chicken  
Grilled Sausage with Onions &  
Peppers  
Baked Beans  
Seasoned Rice  
Creamed Spinach  
Summer Harvest Macaroni &  
Cheese (Vegetarian)

## ON THE RADAR

### BP shut out of US contracts; feds cite deadly blast, poor response

From MCT Campus

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration temporarily banned the energy giant BP from new federal contracts, citing the company's "lack of business integrity as demonstrated" by the April 2010 Gulf of Mexico disaster.

The Environmental Protection Agency's decision Wednesday comes two weeks after BP entered into a wide-ranging settlement agreement with the Justice Department over criminal charges in connection with the Deepwater Horizon disaster, which killed

11 men, spewed nearly 20 million gallons of oil into the ocean and turned into the country's worst offshore environmental catastrophe.

The impact of the ban on BP's financial health would depend on how long it lasts and whether it keeps the company from bidding on lucrative federal leases to tap oil and gas in places like the Gulf of Mexico, said Phil Weiss, senior energy analyst for Argus Research. Hours after the ban was issued, the Interior Department announced a lease sale on more than 20 million offshore acres in the

western Gulf. BP did not participate.

"If it happens once, it's inconvenient for BP, but not that big of a deal," Weiss said. "If it happens twice, three times, then the impact starts to escalate. The best way to do deepwater is to get the acreage before it has been explored, when it is cheapest. Deepwater drilling is very important to BP, and that would have a big impact."

The EPA said such suspensions are "a standard practice when a responsibility question is raised by action in a criminal case." It said the

suspension would be lifted when "the company can provide sufficient evidence to EPA demonstrating that it meets federal business standards."

In separate statements, the EPA and BP underscored that the temporary suspension would only affect future contracts, not existing leases to develop oil and gas in the United States, where BP's holdings are vast.

The company issued a statement that suggested it is working with the EPA to get the ban lifted soon.

"The EPA's action is pursuant to administrative

procedures providing for discretionary suspension until a company can demonstrate 'present responsibility' to conduct business with the U.S. government," BP said. "BP has been in regular dialogue with the EPA and has already provided both a present responsibility statement of more than 100 pages and supplemental answers to the EPA's questions based on that submission."

A separate federal civil lawsuit over possible violations of the Clean Water Act, set to proceed in February, could bring penalties in the billions of dollars against BP.

### Atlanta offers spots for ticketless students

ATLANTA FROM PAGE 1

Another student heading back to her Atlanta home, Mary Katherine Sweeney, a junior majoring in chemistry, said she knows a lot of students from both schools will be

traveling to Atlanta, providing plenty of fun tailgates for college students.

"I know a ton of people are going to watch the game in Buckhead, and a few of the popular bars there are Stout, Peachtree Tavern and East Andrews," Sweeney said. "I've already talked to my friends who go to UGA, and they are just as excited for the game. It

will be a great matchup, especially with the national championship on the line."

Maggie Dixon, president of the Alabama Alumni group in Atlanta, invited all students and fans to attend the tailgates they host before and during the game at Hudson Grille in midtown and Twisted Taco in Roswell.

"Hudson Grille is more

concerned with Alabama fans acting too wild, despite the large crowds expected." "I've told all of the alumni that Alabama is classy, and we keep our comments to ourselves," Dixon said. "At the end of the game, the score will speak volumes. I admit I have a distaste for Auburn, but nothing will be more glorious than beating Georgia."

Dixon said she is not

### Downtown grows with student body

DOWNTOWN FROM PAGE 1

One of the largest projects currently underway downtown is the construction of an eight-story Embassy Suites hotel on the northwest corner of Greensboro Avenue and University Boulevard.

The Tuscaloosa City Council approved Kemmons Wilson Inc. contracting company's plans for the hotel last year,

and they are set to begin construction in spring 2013 with an expected completion date in July 2014.

"There is a clear need for an upscale hotel in the city of Tuscaloosa," McLean Wilson, vice president of Kemmons Wilson Inc. said.

The hotel will feature 154 bedrooms, an indoor pool, 5,300 square feet of meeting space and a fine-dining restaurant on the street level.

Councilwoman Cynthia Almond said the process of planning this hotel has been

long, but it will be worth it in the end.

"We will see downtown come to life," she said. "The hotel will be well used."

Garrison said he is also excited about the conversion of the old PNC bank building on the northeast corner of University Boulevard and Greensboro Avenue into apartments.

Heritage Land and Development Co. LLC out of Memphis, Tenn., announced this month they will convert the top eight floors of the building into 100 one- and two-bedroom apartments.

"This will bring more bodies to the downtown area," Garrison said. "The private sector economy will just continue to improve."

Garrison said he believes much of the reason many of the private sector projects are beginning is because of the public investments made over recent years to improve the downtown area. Some of the

public investments include the new Federal Building and improving streetscapes.

"Improving the area attracted these private investors," he said. "Good public and private investments are what make for a solid downtown area."

Garrison said he is also working on plans to better connect the downtown area to The University of Alabama campus.

"We want to make it a seamless connection between the Federal Building and the Strip," he said.

Garrison said this will involve improving sidewalks, streets and utilities in this area. He compared this renovation to the connection made between campus and downtown along Bryant Drive. He also said the city hopes to add public transportation options to carry students from campus to downtown.

One of the major public investments the city has made for the downtown area has also been the revitalization of the

Tuscaloosa Riverwalk area along the Black Warrior River. Wendy Riggs, director of Arts and Entertainment for the City, oversees the Rivermarket, Tuscaloosa Amphitheater and the Transportation Museum.

All three of these attractions have been built over the past two years, with the Amphitheater in its second season and the Rivermarket and museum opening last April. The Tuscaloosa Amphitheater was one of the first attractions brought to the downtown and Riverwalk area in recent years, and it has spurred on much of future growth. The 7,470-capacity venue has brought many big-name headlining acts to Tuscaloosa including Luke Bryan, Kelly Clarkson and The Avett Brothers.

"A lot has changed since the opening of the Amphitheater," Riggs said. "It brought live music back to the downtown area."

The River Walk also recently launched its Holidays on the River project featuring an ice rink open until Jan. 6, 2013, with appearances by Santa, holiday films and train rides.

"We are really excited and hope students take advantage of these opportunities," Riggs said.

Mayor Maddox said the city is not close to finished with the downtown and Riverwalk areas.

"We have been talking about downtown for years, and we're not done yet," he said.

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## Social work students host local health fair

By Judah Martin  
Contributing Writer

The field of social work thrives on human interaction, a quality The University of Alabama's social work department seeks to promote in its students through community involvement.

This is precisely why a group of graduate students from James and Joanne Terrell's Social Work Practice with Communities courses teamed up with the Tuscaloosa Police Department to host the East Tuscaloosa Community Health Fair from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1 at the Jaycees Fairground in Alberta City.

The fair is open to the eastern side of Tuscaloosa and the Alberta City area and will feature free health screenings and information, interactive games, door prizes, family activities and refreshments.

Graduate students played a key role in planning the health fair by establishing a coat drive, securing merchant donations, working with radio and television for public service announcements, and coordinating the general logistics for the event.

"Many of our students have

not had the opportunity to network with a public agency such as [the] Tuscaloosa Police Department, nor work at a community level asking for donations and securing vendors such as The Maude Whatley clinic, the Red Cross and the wonderful area merchants that donated the food," James Terrell said. "This is also a learning opportunity to work and coexist in a group of diverse students with a common goal."

Thomas Sorrells, a first-year graduate student in Joanne Terrell's class, helped to plan the logistics of the fair and worked to bring in local health and social service providers.

"Participation in a project like this benefits students of social work immensely," Sorrells said. "It's a first step out of the classroom and into the real world of organizational, administrative and even political agenda setting. It's training in how to get things done. Most importantly, it's a lesson in what social work is really about at its core: becoming an advocate for those in need."

Sorrells conducted a coat drive with his team and said they will hand them out at

the fair. He said many of the organizations present will be accepting donations.

"The fair is mainly a way to provide the vulnerable and underserved populations of East Tuscaloosa – those displaced or dispossessed by the tornado, the economically disadvantaged, those without access to affordable healthcare – with health screenings and information," Sorrells said. "We hope it will be a lot of fun for all who attend."

Kearsee Gill, a first-year graduate student in the school of social work, also worked to plan the health fair. She said her job is to locate resources for community members in need.

Gill said the term resource encompasses a broad range of services, including housing and medical assistance as well as providing clothes.

"I have chosen not to take the 'I am just a student' attitude," Gill said. "Honestly, I have enjoyed dedicating my time and efforts going business-to-business and door-to-door to see what the community needs. I have learned that no one knows what the community needs better than the community."

## Transfer credit hours keep some students from game

By Colby Leopard  
Staff Reporter

With the Crimson Tide's date with the Georgia Bulldogs in the SEC Championship game looming, this should be a time for students to be excited about cheering on the team. Instead, many students will be watching the game from Tuscaloosa because they didn't receive a student ticket from the University.

Some students who expected to satisfy the hours requirement were disappointed when they realized study abroad or transfer credits didn't count for tickets, though the University accepts them for academic credit.

Daniel Gilstrap, a senior majoring in exercise science from Madison, Miss., thought he had a good shot at getting a ticket to the game because of his upperclassmen status. When he did not get a confirmation email from the University about the SEC Championship game, Gilstrap looked closely at his UA credit hours and realized the classes he took while studying abroad in Australia didn't count towards ticket allotment.

"If you studied abroad, like I did, you can pretty much guarantee you won't get a ticket," Gilstrap said. "The 12 hours I took while abroad are what kept me from being in Atlanta this year cheering on Nick Saban and the boys. It's kind of sad that as a fourth-year senior I don't even have the option to buy a ticket to the SEC Championship game this year, or any of the bowl games our team has been to since the 2009 season for that matter."

Gilstrap said he is disappointed that ticket allotment process is not only penalizing him for studying abroad, but rewarding students that don't graduate in four years.

"I don't think it's fair that if you graduate in four years, you most likely won't get to cheer on the Tide at a game outside of the regular season," Gilstrap said. "There are a lot of students who take five years to graduate now, and they are the ones benefiting from the current system. It needs to be revised so other students who support the University for four years at least have the opportunity to buy a ticket."

Kirby Simpson, a senior majoring in marketing from Montgomery, Ala., is also disappointed to not attend the SEC Championship game.

After attending Auburn University at Montgomery for three semesters, Simpson transferred to Alabama as a sophomore according to his credit hours. Simpson said the hours he accumulated while at AUM did not count towards ticket allotment for the SEC Championship game, and that is why he won't be attending.

"While I may not have started at UA as a freshman, I am still a senior and friends with other seniors that got a ticket to the game," Simpson said. "I feel like I should be in the in-group with them, and we should all be able to attend a game together since this is the last chance we will be able to do so as students."

Simpson blames the University for distributing the SEC Championship tickets unfairly.

"I think the system is designed to look like everyone has a fair

shot at getting a ticket, sort of like a senior privilege, but what the University is actually doing is rewarding those that have paid them the most money in tuition," Simpson said.

Chris Bryant, assistant director of media relations, said 1,920 tickets were allotted to students by the University, 12 percent of the 16,000 total tickets Alabama had to distribute. Of the 1,920 tickets, 80 percent are given to undergraduate students and 20 percent are given to graduate students. In order to distribute the tickets evenly to undergraduate students with the most UA credit hours, students had to have a minimum of 90 hours from the University.

Bryant said the ticket allotment process was designed by the University with the help of the Student Government Association to distribute tickets amongst students fairly.

"The method was developed and is refined with input and guidance from the SGA in an attempt to distribute tickets to students in as equitable a manner as possible," Bryant said.

Gilstrap believes the current ticket allotment system is flawed. He suggested the tickets be rewarded to students based on more than just UA credit hours.

"I don't agree with the process of giving tickets based on UA hours alone," Gilstrap. "We need to establish a point system where students receive a certain number of points for going to all sporting events. Those students who attend a lot of Alabama athletic events, not just football, should have priority to qualify for SEC Championship and bowl game tickets."



### UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES LATE NIGHT STUDY HOURS

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UNTIL FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14 AT 7:00 PM

**RODGERS:**  
24/7 BEGINNING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2 AT 1:00 PM  
UNTIL FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14 AT 7:00 PM

**BRUNO:**  
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DECEMBER 7: 7:00 AM - 10:00 PM  
DECEMBER 8: 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM  
DECEMBER 9-13: 7:00 AM - 3:00 AM  
DECEMBER 14: 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

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MCT Campus

## Common sense solutions for dealing with heavy traffic

By Mackenzie Brown  
Visuals Editor

It seems like every year, the parking debate begins. Students and The Crimson White complain about the lack of parking while Parking Services rebuts that parking is plentiful. In reality, the University is right on track.

On any given day, there are plenty of parking spaces. I went to the Southeast Commuter lot during the middle of the day one Wednesday to see how many spots were left. Not only were there plenty of parking spaces for students, but also enough extra room for the Chilton County Marching Band to park all of their buses and equipment.

Even in West Commuter, while most students try to park in the ten Hoor deck, the gravel lot across Campus Drive and the Wallace Wade parking lot always seem to have empty spaces.

In a June 22, 2011 article of The Crimson White, Chris D'Esposito, assistant director of parking operations said, "Right now, on any given day, we have thousands of open spaces. But chances are, it's not the convenient space you want next to your academic area, your residential area, or your office area, and we realize that. But there are plenty of parking spaces available on campus as it stands right now."

The true problem lies with the amount of cars within the core of campus. Consider the area between ten Hoor and Alston. Here, cars sit 10 deep waiting for that brief moment to gun it through a break in the pedestrians.

Just in the past year or so, at least two pedestrians have been hit by cars.

One, as reported by The Crimson White on October 20, 2011, was struck while crossing the street near Publix. The other was a long boarder who was struck while crossing the street in front of Alston.

With a pedestrian-centered campus, accidents like these would occur much less. While the University has taken steps toward a more pedestrian-oriented, there is more to be done.

At the University of Virginia, gates close off the main core of campus during the day, then reopen at night and on the weekends. The gates allow emergency vehicles, transit, and some service vehicles to pass, but also break away in case of emergencies.

Gates similar to those at Virginia would solve the daily traffic problem. If these gates were placed between Alston and the ten Hoor Parking Deck, in front of Marr's Spring and at the intersection in front of the Biology Building, it would greatly reduce the number of cars on campus and create a better environment for pedestrians.

In addition to closing off parts of campus, the University should also promote the use of bicycles on campus. The University of New England, for example, gives bikes to every freshman that promises to leave their car at home. Personally, I know that here in Tuscaloosa it is almost necessary to at least own a car, regardless whether or not you use it on a daily basis, but for some, this would be a great alternative to bringing a car to Alabama.

Another way is through a program called B-cycle; it's like Redbox for bicycles. In the University's case, students could swipe their ActCard and a bike would be unlocked from the stand. The student could ride the bike anywhere they want to, then would return the bike to any of the B-cycle stands.

There's also ways for students to help reduce the amount of car traffic on campus, such as avoiding driving from class to class, riding their own bike, using the Crimson Ride bus system, or simply taking the time to walk.

I have nothing against driving. I could not live in Tuscaloosa without my car, but everything has a place and I do not believe that the campus core is a place for driving during the day; instead, it should be a pedestrian place during the busiest times of day. And while it is up to the University to ultimately enforce this, everyone can help by simply not driving right through the core of campus.

By taking these steps, I believe that the University can become a safer and all-around better campus.

Mackenzie Brown is the Visuals Editor of the Crimson White.

## Spending 10,000 hours on what you're passionate about

By Tarif Haque  
Staff Columnist

"Ten thousand hours is the magic number of greatness," said Malcom Gladwell in his 2008 book "Outliers."

I read the book sometime in high school, when my interests varied and my passions had not yet been determined. At 16 years old, Gladwell's thesis was difficult to digest. But I gathered, to be extraordinary at anything – whether it be fiction writing, ice-skating or programming – we've got to put in 10,000 hours of practice. In broader terms, success is more dependent on preparation than innate talent.

At the time, I had just begun taking AP classes and thought myself quite the academic. Though I did well in school, my time outside of class centered on no activity in particular, aside from reading too many

“Success must take into account all these things we do before we find our life's purpose, right?”

coming-of-age novels and playing the occasional Pokémon sequel. It was a naive existence fueled by an education system that emphasized "well-roundedness."

I thought, since my time wasn't being spent perfecting my future work, was it being wasted? Success must take into account all these things we do before we find our life's purpose, right?

The "10,000 hour rule" depressed me. I was no child prodigy in the arts. I didn't play a sport. I didn't even know what I wanted to do with

my life. I was under the impression my interests would just "fall into place."

It's been four years, and I'm still left clueless about my life's purpose. I've come to think of success stories as romanticized notions of greatness that are impractical to live up to. To consume my life with an interest for 10,000 hours feels a little overwhelming. I guess moderation is a bad thing.

I understand what Gladwell was getting at – people aren't just born with a set of natural talents that make them masters of their craft; they've got to put in the work to get them there. What upsets me, though, is that in 20 years, I've not yet found an interest I can put that much time into.

Maybe this is it. I guess it always comes full circle. If I can't find something I'm willing to commit to, then I

won't be successful. Everyone wants to be a savant in something, but maybe it's possible to gauge success by personal fulfillment and not society's expectations. Do I want to be world-class because it'd "be nice" or do I want to be world-class because I enjoy what I'm doing?

In the back of my head, I always knew this was the case, that I'd have to decide sooner or later what to do with my future. I've done that whole getting good grades thing and following the norm. It's time to shift focus.

I encourage everyone reading this to not end up like me. Doing well in school is only half the battle. Find something you love, stop reading this, and go do it.

Tarif Haque is a sophomore majoring in computer science. His column runs weekly.

## Song, video 'Gangnam Style' sign of converging cultures

By Tray Smith  
Senior Columnist

For Alabama fans in Bryant-Denny Stadium, the worst moment during last Saturday's Iron Bowl may have been when "Gangnam Style" played over the sound system.

The same day, the song's music video became the most watched clip in YouTube history.

The Internet sensation tells us a lot about the world we can expect to live in, though, and it's not all bad. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon has even praised the song as a "force for world peace."

Today's college students have been living in an integrated, global economy for their entire lives. When we were kids, our Happy Meal toys came from China. Today, our iPhones do. Soon, more of the movies and songs we watch and listen to may come from overseas as well.

"Gangnam Style" represents the broader convergence of global cultures underway, beyond just the economic realm. Sure, Western European countries and the United States have long shared actors and movies, and American stars have become famous all over the world.

But we have never seen an American-esque hip-hop song produced by a Korean singer

achieve such fame and attention. It is something we should expect to see more of in the future, as information technology gives more artists more platforms from which they can catapult themselves to international stardom.

This transformation will have profound implications for entertainment. Instead of confining ourselves to Western performers, cultural globalization will inevitably produce global personalities in music and film.

This may seem threatening to Americans accustomed to having American entertainers at the center of the entertainment industry. However, foreign entertainers will succeed most by emulating their peers in the United States. We shouldn't fear the convergence of global cultures when our culture is driving the convergence.

The end result will be more talented entertainers capable of producing more high-quality entertainment. "Gangnam Style" also reminds us of the impact information technology has had on entertainment. YouTube isn't just a way for performers to connect with audiences in the United States; it allows performers anywhere to connect with viewers everywhere. Much of the traffic driving "Gangnam Style" is undoubtedly from other countries, making it a truly global



Submitted

phenomenon. There are other examples. Among the nine next-most-viewed YouTube videos, one features Canada's Justin Bieber, one features Columbia's Shakira, and one features Brazil's Michel Telo.

"Gangnam Style" may not seem like the best representation of how globalization is changing cultures, but it offers a window into the future, especially as it relates to the media and entertainment. As millions of people laugh and re-watch the video, it may also truly serve as a force for world peace. After all, why fight people who dance and laugh at

the same things we do? At the very least, we can expect videos with such widespread popularity to continue to transcend national borders and pull international fan groups together.

In the meantime, with "Gangnam Style" already the most played YouTube video of all time, do we really need to listen to it in Bryant-Denny Stadium?

The video may offer many relevant insights for the future, but the song has been played enough.

Tray Smith is a senior majoring in journalism. His column runs on Thursdays.

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# Plans for 1st dog park in Tuscaloosa underway

By Tori Linville  
Contributing Writer

Popular Munny Sokol Park in Northport will soon be the home of the first dog park in the Tuscaloosa area, a project known as T-Town Unleashed developed by Fresh St-Art.

Fresh St-Art, a nonprofit that focuses on bringing art and education to the community through public spaces, will work with T-Town Paws, a Tuscaloosa animal welfare program, and the Parks and Recreation Authority for Tuscaloosa to design and construct the first park of its kind.

The dog park will be located at Watermelon Road and Old Colony Road in Tuscaloosa. It will provide a "safe and accessible recreation area, increase community involvement and be a catalyst for educational programs for the local schools," according to the Fresh St-Art website. Though the plans

are subject to change, the website explores possibilities for every aspect of the park.

Areas will include an educational pavilion, parking lots, restrooms, separate areas for small and large dogs, walking paths, areas for local art displays, educational events and agility training. PARA is in the beginning stages of fundraising for the park with the help of Fresh St-Art, and will provide the land and ongoing maintenance for the park, Gary Minor, the executive director for Tuscaloosa County PARA, said.

"PARA is hoping that this partnership [with Fresh St-Art] will result in increased funding for the dog park," Minor said. "Fresh St-Art is helping with publicity, and right now, we're trying to generate enthusiasm and see if we can get additional support and see if that support can be turned into funding."

The estimated funding goal for the park is around \$1 million, due to pricey water, fencing and electricity rates. The organizations hope to raise several hundred thousand dollars, but there is no time limit to the fundraising, Minor said.

"We've been trying to get a dog park built for quite a while," Minor said. "We currently don't have an official dog park. The big thing is that dog parks are heavily used across the country, and we're kind of behind the times a little bit."

With funding in mind, the Fresh St-Art website has outlined the dog park to minimize soil disturbances and maintenance costs, yet they note over-seeding and additional materials would be considered. Also, the organization has designed off-leash areas to be accessible for those with disabilities.

Lauren Spivey, president of Bama Paws, the University of

Alabama chapter of T-Town Paws, and a junior majoring in biology, said the dog park will be a safe and positive addition to the city.

"I think the dog park is great idea. It would give students a place to take their pets somewhere other than the Quad, which isn't the safest place because of the busy roads around it," Spivey said. "The animals wouldn't run the risk of getting hit by a car, and it would be a great place for larger dogs and their owners to relieve stress."

In addition to safety, the park also fosters community gatherings and educational experiences. Ashley Kennedy, Bama Paws vice president and a junior majoring in marketing, said the park will provide many opportunities for her organization.

"I could definitely see Bama Paws using the park because it would be a great place to get awareness out about T-Town Paws," Kennedy



Plans are underway to create a dog park at Munny Sokol Park on Watermelon Road in Tuscaloosa.

said. "I could see us using the park as a location for a lot of our events, such as adoption events."

Fresh St-Art includes ways for people to donate to their cause. Anyone interested in assisting the fundraising process can make a monetary donation or purchase

an engraved brick or paver for the walking paths. Order forms for the bricks and pavers can be found on the T-Town Unleashed Facebook page.

More information about the park and Fresh St-Art's goals can be found on their website, freshst-art.com.

# Tuscaloosa will host 1st hovercraft race in Alabama

By Marc Torrence  
Assistant Sports Editor

Lake Lurleen State Park has been chosen as the site of a national hovercraft rally, which will include a race between Alabama and Auburn. The race will be held on Saturday, March 16 and open to the public for a \$3 entrance fee.

"One of the requirements was we had to have some sort of land to drive on," Michael Bradshaw, a senior majoring in aerospace engineering, said. "Lake Lurleen was pretty much the only one we could find. And it has a beach, too."

The race is in coordination with Hoverclub of America, which sponsors hovercraft races across the country.

Bradshaw and three other seniors majoring in aerospace engineering, along with a team of underclassmen, are building a hovercraft as part of their senior design project. They contacted HCOA about hosting a race in Alabama earlier in the fall. Auburn created a hovercraft team in 2003 and won second place overall at its first rally.

Kent Gano, racing director of HCOA, visited the Tuscaloosa team in October to discuss the possibility of holding a race in Alabama,

something HCOA had never done before. Gano made a return trip earlier in November and spent the night at a Lake Lurleen camp site.

"People for national hovercraft races come from places as far away as Canada. So, what we do is have places where they can all camp," Hisham Ali, one of the seniors working on the project, said. "It'll be an event where people start arriving Friday, do the setup Friday afternoon, the event will be all day Saturday, takedown, then people like to drive back Sunday."

Lake Lurleen made an attractive destination for a number of reasons. It had the

body of water needed to race on, as well as a beach to use as a starting point. Ali said it's dangerous to start hovercrafts on the water.

"Lake Lurleen had the open lake space," Ali said. "Not only did it have the beach, but a hovercraft race has to start on land. You start on land, you make a circuit [on the water] and then you come back to that land."

The track will be less than a mile long but include multiple laps. The current plan is to have a general race, followed by an Auburn-Alabama only race.

"This is the beginning of a possible region sports event,"

Gano said after his first visit to Tuscaloosa. "This could hopefully turn into a nice little college-type competition every year."

The race will be staffed by marine police and first responders for emergency situations. Some of the underclassmen on the hovercraft team will volunteer with tasks like flags, scorekeeping and timekeeping.

Construction on Alabama's craft began in the fall. The team had parts for the hull donated by a hovercraft enthusiast from Alabama who saw their posts on the HCOA forum.

The team has completed

selection of the engine section and is in the building process.

Their current challenge is creating a duct for the hovercraft fan, which generates the thrust for the craft and creates the air cushion on which the craft flies. Ali created a scale model of a fan using a 3D printer, then mounted it to an RC helicopter motor to simulate the thrust of an actual hovercraft. The team will then use software from the fan manufacturer and apply the simulation numbers to the real model.

Construction is scheduled to be completed in February so the craft can be tested before the March race.

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# Saying 'Hey Y'all' could win students an iPad Mini

By Morgan Reames  
Contributing Writer

Get ready to hear one of the South's most famous colloquialisms a little more this week as One Team One Bama, a collaboration between The First Year Experience and office of Housing & Residential Communities, kicks off a civility campaign that encourages students to interact with one another in a positive way.

"Hey Y'all" is an initiative meant to introduce the concept of One Team One Bama to campus," Mary Alice Porter, First Year Experience and Parent

Programs coordinator, said in an emailed statement.

The Capstone Creed is an agreement every student signs upon admission to The University of Alabama that states they will promote honesty, fairness and respect as well as strive for excellence. The Creed is a driving force behind the "Hey Y'all" program.

"We think that students are aware of the Capstone Creed but aren't encouraged to live by it in their daily lives," Porter said. "By focusing on the Capstone Creed, we hope to challenge students to live by a higher standard as members of

the UA community."

On Nov. 29, members of the campaign team will be set up across campus, giving students the opportunity to sign a pledge to reach out to their peers and say hello.

"I think it's a really nice idea," Sammy Piller, a junior majoring in fashion retail, said. "It's a good way to get students to talk to one another."

The group will also be handing out T-shirts that display the slogan "Hey Y'all" for students to wear while reaching out to others.

"I think it's an interesting marketing strategy," Piller

said. "I'd probably wear the T-shirt, if it has a pocket."

Porter said the pledge cards will help students commit to reaching out to others across campus.

"I think signing the pledge cards is simply the first step in encouraging students to talk to their peers," Porter said. "By signing the card, they are holding themselves accountable to building a stronger community at UA in at least one way."

When signing the pledge, students will agree to say hi to their neighbors or invite them over for a movie, sit with someone eating alone, ask at least

five people how their day went, or reconnect with an old friend.

"Through this campaign, students will pledge to make a difference on campus by taking those first, simple steps," Porter said. "The campaign goes beyond students saying hi to one another."

Not everyone is as enthused about the idea.

"I think it's a strange way to meet people, but at the same time it's a good opportunity to reach out," Destiny Farrow, a freshman majoring in music theory, said.

From Dec. 3-7, students will get a chance to be

rewarded for their good deeds.

By submitting a picture of themselves living out the Capstone Creed on the One Team One Bama Facebook page, they will have an opportunity to win an iPad mini.

Students are encouraged to post photos of themselves displaying good character across campus while wearing their "Hey Y'all" T-shirt.

Farrow said the program can have a lasting impact in the lives of many students.

"Some people are just too timid to put themselves out there to make friends," Farrow said.

## Volunteers building dream playground for community

By Morgan Taylor  
Contributing Writer

The Tuscaloosa County Park and Recreation Authority and United Way of West Alabama are working with KaBOOM!, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to building playgrounds for children, and PNC Bank to rebuild a playground in an area affected by the April 27, 2011 tornado.

The organizations are collaborating to plan and fund the rebuilding of the Rosedale Park.

About a month ago, KaBOOM! offered a "Design Day" to the children of Rosedale in which each child was given a large sheet of paper to draw their dream playground. The groups then took the children's sketches and together came up with the money to fund the playground, with PNC as the main contributor, said Richard Davis, the special project manager for Tuscaloosa Park and Recreation.

The Rosedale community and the organizations working on this project are asking anyone over 18 years old to come out to the vacant lot next to Rosedale Baptist Church on Monday, Dec. 10 from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. to help rebuild the playground. No special skills are required, and breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Adults and children of all ages are also invited to the ribbon cutting, which will follow the seven-hour building spree.

"I believe this is a great way to serve the community and really make a difference," Davis said. "And if they can only come out for a few hours, we are allowing volunteers to do this."

With the Rosedale Court housing development opening during the first week of December, the children who will be living in the development will have a playground to play on, Ruth Gaddis, director of the early childhood initiative of United Way of West Alabama, said.

"People don't realize play is very important in the development of children," Gaddis said.

The playground will include three different sizes of slides, a drawbridge and a rock wall. In total, the playground will be 2,500 square feet, Davis said.

"This playground can be a place where these children feel safe and are able to run and slide and swing," Jennifer Hamner, playground planning committee member and member of Rosedale Baptist Church, said. "It can be a place where families can have birthday parties and look out to what once was, what is, and what will be."

Volunteers can also help with site preparation - assembling the playground and cutting the wood - Dec. 7-8 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

On build day, Dec. 10, volunteers will be putting together the playground, assembling two small shelters, assembling benches and planting trees and shrubs, Davis said.

## New SGA program accepting used textbooks to benefit student veterans

By Morgan Taylor  
Contributing Writer

Every semester some student veterans, dependents and survivors have a hard time buying books for class.

Thanks to a new Student Government Association program, "Textbooks for Troops," students can donate their used books to returning veterans.

"I'm hoping that students will gain a sense of pride in knowing that their donations will go to the well-deserving men and women that have served this great country and now have returned to further their education," 2nd Lt. Dawit Solomon, director of veteran and military affairs for the SGA, said.

More than 800 University of Alabama student veterans, dependants and survivors claim funds from the G.I. Bill, which offers free tuition for those who attend an in-state public school.

The only complication to the G.I. Bill is that the funds

very often do not arrive on time, which forces some to go without books or to pay out of pocket.

"Through 'Textbooks for Troops,' student veterans will be able to spend money on daily living expenses rather than overpriced textbooks," Meagan Bryant, executive press secretary of SGA, said.

Until Dec. 15, "Textbooks for Troops" will allow students to donate textbooks they no longer need to help ease the burden on some veterans.

SGA, Campus Veterans Association and the Phi Mu Delta fraternity started the program to improve student success by "Serving Those Who Have Served Us."

Returning to civilian life, especially student life, can be stressful and hard for student veterans and their families, Solomon said.

Organizers claim this program makes the adjustment that much easier.

"Through this program I'm

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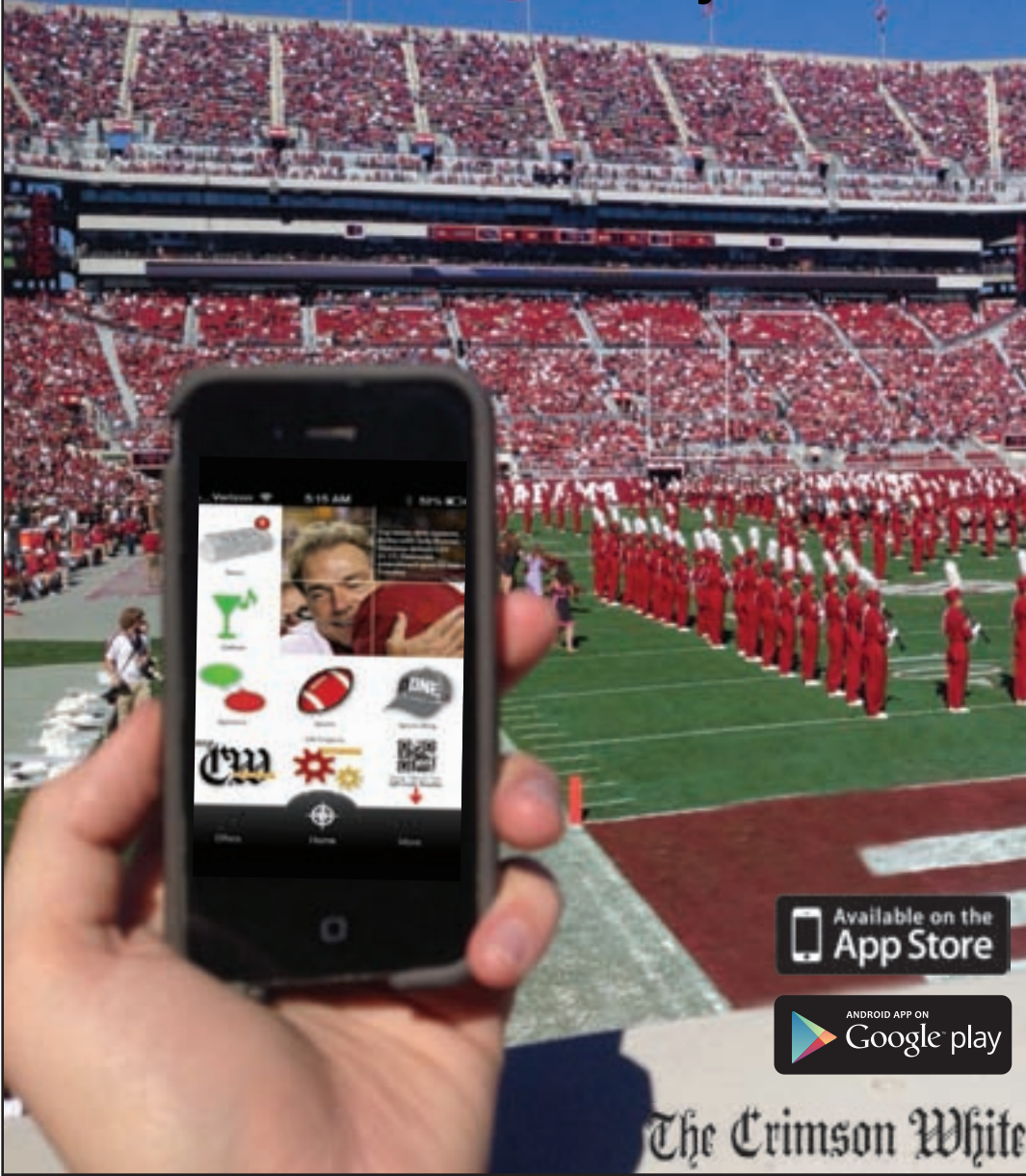
There are several locations students can go to donate:

- The SGA office in the Ferguson Center
- The Office of Veteran and Military Affairs in B.B. Comer Hall
- Gorgas, Bruno, Hoole, McClure and Rogers libraries.

hoping to get the message out that the sacrifice they [student veterans, dependents and survivors] and their families made for our country will never be forgotten," Solomon said. "And that a The University of Alabama and the student body has their back."

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# UA Engineers developing improved ankle prosthetics

By Angie Bartelt  
Contributing Writer

Most people do not question walking, or how exactly the body functions to accomplish daily movements, but amputees cope with the struggles of walking and the use of prosthetic limbs everyday.

Xiangrong Shen, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, is working to develop better ankle technology in prosthetic limbs, as the ankle produces more energy needed for walking than both the knee and hip joints.

After receiving a grant of \$564,000 from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Shen teamed up with fellow researchers at Vanderbilt and the Georgia Institute of Technology

to begin working on the ankle. Shen and his team, including John Baker, a mechanical engineering professor, and Samit Roy, the William D. Jordan professor of aerospace engineering, work with graduate as well as some UA undergraduate students in their advanced research.

Although there is already a previous device used in above-the-knee limb replacements, no technologies have been created to address ankle problems.

"Right now there is a lag in robotic engineering," Shen said. "I think that the people with limb issues can absolutely benefit from robotic technologies, especially with newly constructed limbs."

The ankle prosthesis Shen is working on mechanically powers the ankle joint with-

“It is gratifying to help amputees, especially veterans of war in need. This is a useful application of my work. Aerospace is one aspect of what I do, but this work will benefit others.”

— Samit Roy

out forcing the amputee to use more unnecessary energy. The two key components of this development are the liquid fuel called monopropellant, an energy storing medium that allows the prosthesis to store energy for everyday use.

The other necessity is the sleeve muscle actuator, an artificial muscle that replaces the motor movements, developed to resemble the natural human skeletal muscle. The researchers will use their multi-camera motion capturing system to monitor the subject's move-

ments with the prosthesis. The select undergraduate students involved with Shen work in his lab developing exoskeleton robotic legs that can help people with lower limb weaknesses.

"It is gratifying to help amputees, especially veterans of war in need. This is a useful application of my work. Aerospace is one aspect of what I do, but this work will benefit others," Roy said. "I don't see myself only working with aerospace technology; I want to use my work wherever it is needed."

While hard at work on this project, Shen and his team have had to explore ways to artificially create the natural approaches of fuel management, storage, as well as thermal insulation and heat management.

The main goal is to create

something that closely resembles the human body and its natural motor functions for those who lack such abilities.

"This is a relatively new system," Shen said. "There are some problems in putting the prosthesis into clinical use because the components of the prosthesis are still being developed. In our research, the long-term goal is to develop powered prostheses with comparable appearance and functionality of human limbs."

Shen and his associates hope to have this project ready for medical use by 2016.

## 'Elf' to be shown at Ferg as a part of dead week stress relief

By Katherine Langner  
Contributing Writer

The week preceding finals is called Dead Week for a reason. To combat the stress and exhaustion the pre-finals-week studying brings, the Student Government Association worked with The Counseling Center and University Programs to plan this year's annual Stress Free Daze program.

Stress Free Daze is a two-part event on Dec. 2 and Dec. 6 geared toward providing students with a break from studying.

"We wanted to provide an official relaxing study break for campus," Courtney Coleman, a senior majoring in operations management and the University Programs event programmer for the event, said.

The first event on Dec. 2 is a matinee showing at 2 p.m. of the holiday comedy film, "Elf." Snacks and candy bars are provided, as well as face painting. Organizers say this event is geared more toward faculty members and their children.

The second event takes place on Dec. 6 from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. in the Ferguson Center and includes another free showing of the movie "Elf" that will be available to students.

There are additional free amenities planned such as entertainment, gaming tournaments, massages, manicures, prizes, food, and counseling sessions provided by the Counseling Center.

Stress Free Daze will also provide tutoring and group review sessions, as well as a community service opportunity through Tuscaloosa One Place.

"We wanted to add a twofold purpose to our event," Coleman said. "Participants will have an opportunity to give back to the community through our project with Tuscaloosa One Place for families in need during the holidays, and they can receive help in various subjects in a

stress-free environment with our study sessions."

While doors open at 8 p.m., it might be smart to arrive early, Coleman said, since the event is expecting around 400 or more students to attend.

"Last year I studied so hard during Dead Week, I was completely burnt out by the time finals week rolled in," said Megan Whitten, a sophomore majoring in business. "I'm going to use Stress Free Daze as something fun to look forward to while I'm studying."

Whitten thinks the Stress Free Daze program will provide a much needed break for many students and loves all the different amenities the program is providing.

"They have so many great things offered," Whitten said. "The only next best thing they could do is take my test for me."

“I'm going to use Stress Free Daze as something fun to look forward to while I'm studying.”

— Megan Whitten

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## Theatre Tuscaloosa presents Broadway's 'Godspell'

Musical brings parables to Tuscaloosa through song, dance, performance beginning Friday, Nov. 30

By Kristen Feyt  
Contributing Writer

Theatre Tuscaloosa will be presenting an interpretation of the Gospel according to St. Matthew through the musical "Godspell" starting this Friday, Nov. 30.

"Godspell" was written by Stephen Schwartz and John-Michael Tebelak and originally opened on Broadway for the first time in 1971. The musical tells the story of Jesus and his followers according to the book of Matthew. The narrative, based on a set of parables, is enacted through singing, dancing and acting.

The director and

choreographer of the musical, Abe Reybold, said the collaboration of the performers makes his rendition of the show spectacular.

"It's the cast that makes it so special," Reybold said. "There's incredible singing, there's wonderful dancing and the teamwork of the cast is what brings everything together."

Natalie Riegal, a student in The University of Alabama musical theatre track, plays the part of Peggy and sings "By My Side."

"This has been one of the most collaborative fun casts I've ever worked with," Riegal said. "In our own heads, we all had our vision that began to

overlap that created this amazing project."

For Riegal, performing in "Godspell" is will be a lifelong dream come true.

"It's been one of my dream roles for a long time," she said.

The cast consists of 10 actors - five women and five men. Will Erwin, also a member of the University's musical theatre track, plays the part of Jesus. He said he really connected with his character, and the role helped him view life from a different stance.

"You can never be too nice to someone," Erwin said. "Helping someone out is never taken for granted. It's really just showing their compassion to everyone."

The cast has been rehearsing since early October, learning the music and choreography to all of the songs, as well as memorizing their lines and stage directions.

"The best thing the audience can expect is just having fun, enjoying the show, and really being drawn in," Riegal said. "Not only as an audience that came to watch this musical, but to become part of our world that we've created on stage."

Tickets for "Godspell" can be purchased online at [www.theatretusc.com](http://www.theatretusc.com). The production will run Nov. 30 through Dec. 9 at the Bean-Brown Theatre at Shelton State Community College.



Photos by Porfirio Solorzano

Theatre Tuscaloosa will perform "Godspell" at Sheldon State Community College.



## Students who struggle with isolation in college are not alone

By Courtney Stinson  
Staff Reporter

If you have ever watched a classic college movie, like "Animal House" or even "Revenge of the Nerds," you are familiar with the norms that college is a place of constant partying, relationships, and friendships that last a lifetime. But for some students, the reality of college is a far cry from the party on the silver screen and can be a place of isolation and loneliness, despite the prevalence of student organizations, greek life and parties.

During her first year at The University of Alabama, Kevyn Armstrong-Wright, a sophomore majoring in English and history, struggled with feelings of isolation as she tried to find her place in a sea of people. Though Armstrong-Wright met a lot of students in her first semester, she

had a difficult time developing meaningful relationships after being close to the same people for so many years in her small hometown.

"It takes a while to develop concrete, meaningful relationships like those I had left behind," she said. "That in itself made me feel alone and sort of apathetic to the social part of college."

Forming new relationships can be daunting for students who have had the same group of friends for much of their lives, but college years also provide an opportunity to develop relationships that are based on shared interests rather than simply proximity.

Mary Meares, an associate professor of communications, suggests students be proactive in forming relationships by joining clubs and making connections with people with similar interests.

Though social networking

sites like Facebook have, at times, been vilified for weakening social skills and connections, Meares said it can be used to supplement social interaction, but not substitute for it, by allowing students to learn more about others and giving them more topics about which to talk.

For Armstrong-Wright, dealing with feelings of isolation was difficult, and feeling like everyone else was having a great time in the social scene only made it more so.

She said it is important to remember not everyone is having a great time all the time, and partying is not the only way to have fun. Comparing your social lives to others' and basing expectations on glamorous Hollywood portrayals of college life can also add to feelings of isolation if you feel your social life does not measure up, she said.

"So my solution was just forcing myself to do that — talk to people, initiate relationships, be a good friend. Most likely, other freshmen are feeling the exact same way and if you open up, they will too."

— Kevyn Armstrong-Wright

Armstrong-Wright was eventually able to overcome her feelings of isolation by figuring out what she wanted in her social life and learned how to invest in relationships and make them meaningful.

"As the year was coming to a close, I had figured out who I wanted to spend time with for the most part," she said. "So my solution was just forcing myself to do that — talk to people, initiate relationships, be a good friend. Most likely, other freshmen are feeling the exact same way and if you open up, they will too."

Studies show many students are not alone in the fight against isolation, but these feelings of loneliness are a difficult issue for some people to address.

However, isolation is not confined to just college campuses. In 2011, the Census Bureau reported that the number of single person households had risen to around 28

percent. Though living alone does not necessarily indicate feelings of isolation, a Cornell University study showed the number of close friendships people report is two, down from three in 1985.

Even after having time to find their place and develop relationships, older students can also face isolation as classes become more demanding and social calendars are impeded by jobs, internships and extracurriculars.

Amber Smith, a junior majoring in English, faced this problem after adding a part-time job to her already busy class schedule.

To cope with feeling isolated by her busy schedule, Smith takes time to appreciate brief moments with friends by catching up between classes.

"I'm a huge fan of hugs," she said. "And while it's never as much time as I'd like to spend with all the wonderful people

in my life, it makes me feel pretty special and connected when I know my friends are not only as busy as I am, but are willing to take even a few minutes out of their day to catch up."

Smith also finds that older students face pressures like paying bills, which, combined with the stress of classes, can make it hard for students to invest in relationships, but she is getting better at making time for friends.

"With my own scheduling, I find myself trying harder than I ever have to invest in a relationship I have with my friends and family," she said. "I think I've called my mom and sister more often this semester than any other, and I've gotten better at actually planning time with friends."

Isolation can also make students feel like they lack support, but Meares suggests seeking out faculty for support and guidance during stressful times like finals, as they can offer advice and connect students who are facing the same problems.

"A lot of times other people are feeling the same thing, so you feel like you're isolated and you're the only one experiencing that," Meares said. "And a lot of time that's not the case at all."

## UA Safe Zone offers awareness, support for LGBTQA community

By Megan Miller  
Contributing Writer

UA Safe Zone, an on-campus organization, strives to educate University of Alabama students about lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer needs, as well as providing these individuals with support and increased awareness to other students of their presence on the University's campus.

The program, founded at the University in 2002, also focuses on assisting with LGBTQA needs, fostering a university climate where all individuals have the right to be treated with dignity, respect, and self-worth, and advocacy for safe environments.

"Safe Zone is a program that strives to create safe spaces on UA's campus with regards to sexual and gender identity and expression," said Noah Cannon, president of Spectrum and coordinator of UA Safe Zone.

Safe Zone partners with Spectrum and Capstone

Alliance, two other LGBTQA student and faculty support groups, to host events to educate the student body.

While this organization is about LGBTQA needs, it is also about the education of students, faculty and staff on the University's campus. The organization works collaboratively with other groups on campus and provides educational materials and programming regarding LGBTQ needs and concerns.

"Safe Zone offers monthly trainings that provide reliable information on sexual and gender identity and expression as well as instruction on how to be an ally to the LGBTQ+ community," Cannon said.

Trainings are open to faculty, staff and students, and at the end of each training session, participants have the option of becoming a Safe Zone ally.

"Safe Zone allies make up an established, visible network of individuals on campus, recognizable by the Safe Zone sticker or button," Cannon

said. "Trainings also focus on making classrooms and curriculums LGBTQ+ friendly and inclusive."

Brooke Miller, a senior majoring in public relations, became Safe Zone certified while completing requirements to become a resident advisor.

"Training opened my eyes to issues and problems I was unaware of, especially in regards to housing," Miller said. "I'm now more sympathetic to students that encounter these situations."

Safe Zone and its allies are becoming a prominent support group around campus.

"For many LGBTQ+ students such as myself, the Safe Zone emblem is the first sign of support you see when initially stepping onto campus," Cannon said. "It is invaluable to have that visible sign of support from your professors and RA's."

The Safe Zone office is located in the Women's Resource Center in the South Lawn Office building. Students with concerns or complaints about LGBTQA harassment or exclusion are encouraged to contact Safe Zone via phone, email or in person at the Safe Zone office.

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# App allows students to share campus secrets

By Marcus Flewellen  
Contributing Writer

Whisper, a rising new social networking app at The University of Alabama, now allows students to share secrets, meet new people and express themselves to the Crimson Tide community.

"You download a picture, write your secret on it, and then it goes out for the whole world to see," UA student Lesley Dumas said. "But it is completely anonymous. Whisper is a bit like Six Billion Secrets or Post Secret. It's a place where people can tell anyone anything they want without actually being judged for it."

Even if students are not willing to anonymously post any of their deepest, darkest secrets, Dumas and fellow Whisper user Chris Chirino, a senior majoring in counseling and interpersonal psychology through New College, said students don't have to share secrets to enjoy the app.

"I don't really post," Chirino said. "I mostly just look at content."

"Even though I know no one will know it's me, I'm still a chicken," Dumas said. "I'm an observant person, so things like this interest me. You learn something about

everyone and most of these posters could be some of the same people we pass every day, sit next to, or have a conversation with."

UA students can also have their posts displayed on Whisper on University of Alabama, a Facebook page specifically designed for UA students.

"I think it's somewhat popular," Chirino said. "There's definitely a lot of content."

While some students use Whisper to share lighthearted secrets; most use the app to acknowledge their problems.

"What I get from Whisper is the realization of just how many people live their lives in guilt, secrecy and unhappiness," Chirino said. "From posts about suicide to self-hatred, it makes me sad to know so many out there live with this every day."

However, Whisper provides a positive environment and outlet for students dealing with depression, loneliness and self-esteem issues. Dumas recalls only one time where she has seen someone harassed after sharing their secret.

"A user on the UA Facebook page was accusing some frat boys of being gay," she said. "Some words were exchanged, but it died down.

It's still shocking to know people aren't as accepting as you expected."

Even though Chirino visits Whisper on a regular basis, he isn't sure that he would recommend it to other students.

"I think it's a unique opportunity for people who don't want to go public with things on their mind," he said. "But I'm a firm believer in the therapeutic process. Our University has some wonderful resources such as the Counseling Center and the Women's Resource Center that I think users encountering troublesome thoughts should utilize."

Dumas, however, is a big fan of the app.

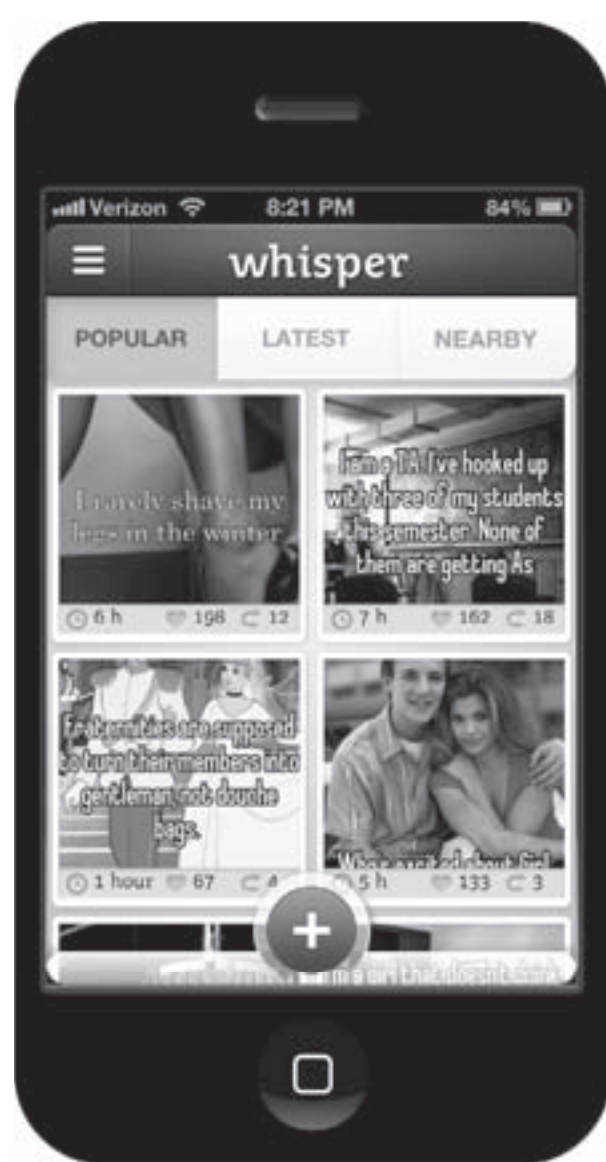
"Again, it's a place where you can post anonymously



Whisper App

Users can post secrets on Whisper.

and not have to worry about being judged about it," she said. "Yeah, there might be some names and all, but no one knows who it is. Chances are, if you are feeling left out, you can submit a picture about it and people will tell you places to go and offer to hang out. Whisper reminds me that there are others out there that feel the same as I do."



# Swamp Cabbage to perform at local Acoustic Night

Blues-rock group brings Florida everglades to the Bama Theatre for show on Sunday, December 2

By Francie Johnson  
Contributing Writer

Both culturally and geographically, Tuscaloosa is far from the wetlands of southeast Florida. But Walter Parks, vocalist and guitarist of Swamp Cabbage, plans on musically transporting this audience straight to the bayou during the band's performance Sunday, Dec. 2, at the Bama Theatre.

Swamp Cabbage will be participating in Bama Theatre's Acoustic Night series, an event showcasing local and out-of-town singer-songwriters to the Tuscaloosa community.

"I think of Swamp Cabbage as sort of the soundtrack that

might go along with travels into [southeast Florida], especially into the marshes and the swamps," Parks said.

Parks, along with bassist Jim DeVito and drummer Jagoda, formed Swamp Cabbage in 2001. Since then, the band has released three albums of original work. This June, the trio released an album full of swamp-ified 70s cover songs titled "Drum Roll Please."

"What we wanted to do with the cover record was do these songs in way that they'd never been done before," said Parks. "It's essential that we interpret everything honestly through this trio format - guitar, bass and drums."

Swamp Cabbage draws inspiration from a variety of Southern musical influences, including Texas blues, Southern rock, funk, soul and a wide variety of other genres. The band incorporates the beats of New Orleans parade music as well as the grooves of Appalachian fiddle music and the soul of Southern gospel music, tying all of these musical styles together to create their swampy, blues-rock sound.

Before Swamp Cabbage, Parks built his career playing guitar alongside Woodstock legend Richie Havens. Parks credits his background touring with Havens as being the one of the cornerstones for

developing his gnarly, funky musical style that he would later incorporate into Swamp Cabbage.

Parks said Havens encouraged him to branch out and discover his own identity as a musician.

"Richie encouraged me to try to find my own voice," he said. "He wanted to give me the space to play his music with my own influence. And what I've tried to do with Swamp Cabbage is to try to inspire the band members that we have in the group to have influence over the Swamp Cabbage sound, but in their own style as well."

Through the band, Parks hopes to continually reinvent and revitalize the way

he creates music.

"There's nothing more boring to me than just listening to standard treatments of anything," Parks said. "I feel like I was put on this earth to try to do something unique with my musical talents."

Swamp Cabbage will be performing with special guests Have Mersey during Acoustic Night.

Kevin Ledgewood, publicity for the Bama Theatre, said Acoustic Night attracts a wide variety of music lovers due to its diverse performers, smoke-free environment and early starting time of 7:30 p.m.

"The fan base for Acoustic Night has grown steadily over the years to standing-room only crowds, including those with varied musical tastes and a wide variety of ages," Ledgewood said.

Ledgewood said past

Acoustic Nights have featured artists from all over the country, as well some European acts.

This Sunday won't be Parks' first time in Tuscaloosa, or even at the Bama Theatre. He has previously performed at the Bama Theatre with Havens and as a solo act, and he said he is excited to play there again.

"I feel like the people in Tuscaloosa really get me, I feel like they really get my music," Parks said. "Every time we see Tuscaloosa on the calendar, it gives me a smile, and I just can't wait to come back to town. We're really looking forward to it."

Acoustic Night will be on Sunday, Dec. 2 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. There will be a \$5 cover charge that goes toward the bands, and the Bama Bar will be open. For more information, visit [bamatheatre.org](http://bamatheatre.org).

## COLUMN | GAMING

# Wii U marks the end of generation, start of another



MCT Campus

By Nathan Proctor

This is the way the generation ends. Not with a bang but a whimper. Plagued by misinformation, technical hiccups and an inability to recapture the groundswell of support for the Wii, the Wii U stumbled out of the gate and effectively rung the death knell for this console cycle.

Not far removed from the hype clogging retailers around the release of the Xbox 360 and the PS3 during this console cycle, nor the absolute hysteria surrounding the Wii's launch, the reception of Nintendo's newest platform is telling where this generation stands. Where the average lifetime of a console has generally averaged five years, counting from the Xbox 360's 2005 release, this generation is approaching an elderly 8 years old.

The system outpaces its

contemporaries with twice the RAM, an equitable strength in GPU and cavernous disk space. This alone is astounding given Nintendo's recent take of "style" and "innovation" over "fidelity." However, hitting those three checkboxes does not a next-gen system make.

The Wii U struggles with a low CPU, raising concern from developers across the board. Additionally, system specs and back-end design result in the hardware's best-looking games matching mid-tier midgeneration titles off the Xbox or PS3 at best. Whether Nintendo refuses it or not (and they have), visual upgrades have been, and for some time will be, the key

component of console and generation jumps. The Wii U has caught up but not surpassed its counterparts, and a year away from the powerhouse boxes expected out of Microsoft and Sony, it's less impressive - another reminder that PC gaming and the graphics tech market are blowing by our current console standards.

However, the twists of the GamePad and evolution of the Wii's use of motion and audio are interesting. As with the Wii and its motion-based source of innovation, the Wii U's flexible second-screen GamePad's use at launch may be more proof-of-concept than effective, and many may use the tool as a gimmick rather than a source of inspiration at first. Despite this, the technology is sound, and the implications, showcased in Nintendo Land's mini-games or

ZombiU's brilliantly manufactured tension, are potentially exciting if the device's strengths are used well.

This said, much of the quality seen at launch, and thus far, on the horizon, comes in the form of ports. While great for one-console Wii owners who'd missed out on your Call of Duties

and Mass Effects, they are wholly unimpressive and unlikely to please or coerce anyone outside of this select audience. Until developers begin to deliver on the Wii U's promise, secondhand and graphically choppy ports are all consumers have to look forward to, as long as this generation lasts. This said, something like Batman Arkham City - Armored Edition is still excellent. The game hasn't changed, except for a few obligatory tacks-ons and a sloppier frame rate. In my mind this does not earn in the "definitive edition" Nintendo and Rocksteady PR label it has.

Combined with Nintendo's general inability to understand what the Internet is, (see: stilted multiplayer setup, one-console restricted data, non-universal Nintendo ID's, etc.) I cannot find a reason to be overly enthusiastic or define this system as anything more than the "Wii-add-on" their poor early advertising led many to believe it was. The problem: \$300 is a hefty asking price for such a proposition.

It's usually the arrival of a new console that ushers in the new and does away with the old. However, the sheer length of this cycle has allowed hardware to truly show its age. Whether the pall-bearer or plastic casket, the Wii U has effectively laid this generation to rest.

## Friendship fostered by UA's RV culture

RV FROM PAGE 1

The Huddlestone attend all home games when possible and try to attend every Tennessee and Auburn game. During home Iron Bowls, the Huddlestone come the Wednesday before the game and have Thanksgiving in their RV, complete with smoked turkey and side dishes.

"We look forward to it every year and it's a tradition now," Sheila Huddlestone said. "We bring the smokers and all the sides and decorate for Thanksgiving. No football talk until after we begin the Iron Bowl stuff."

For the Huddlestone, tailgating has not only introduced them to another league of fandom, but a lifelong friendship. The Huddlestone met Amy and Scott Bradley, originally from Arab, Ala., by way of coincidental RV parking spot assignments. The two families first met five years ago at a home game and have been parking their RVs next to each other and coordinating tailgate food ever since.

"[The Huddlestone] were

just so friendly and outgoing and we made a great friendship there," Amy Bradley said. "We do have friends around us that we talk to every week, but not like the Huddlestone. We visit each other's homes. I think that's a lifetime friendship."

The Bradleys usually come down Friday in their RV, bought especially for tailgating, and leave Sunday afternoon.

"It's so fun and always upbeat," Amy Bradley said. "A couple of weeks ago, when we were beat by Texas A&M, I had so many friends call and say, 'Y'all must be devastated.' Losing has never messed up our tailgate. Win, lose or draw, we're always sticking with the Tide. We love the atmosphere. All the kids make us feel young."

Both families will not be able to make the SEC championship this Saturday, but they can't wait until next year's first home game to start the tailgating season all over again.

"You get a lot of best friends come August, and new family members," Amy Bradley said. "It's like winning the lottery; they all want to come down. I wish everyone could experience it just once."

**“ You get a lot of best friends come August, and new family members. It's like winning the lottery; they all want to come down. I wish everyone could experience it just once. ”**

— Amy Bradley



## No excuse for empty student section seats

ATTENDANCE FROM PAGE 1

And only 69.4 percent of student tickets were used in 2012, the lowest rate since 2009.

Western Carolina was the least-attended game by students in 2012, with just 5,995 students showing up. Auburn was the second-least with 10,851. The highest-attended game of the season was Ole Miss (13,486) followed by Mississippi State (13,483) and the Tide's home opener against Western Kentucky (13,459). Alabama's only loss of the season to Texas A&M was viewed by 13,385 students, while 11,959 attended the Tide's game against Florida Atlantic.

The second-highest attended game by students since 2008 was Arkansas in 2011 (13,564), followed by Penn State in 2010 (13,522).

The "Game of the Century" between No. 1 Alabama and No. 2 LSU on Nov. 5, 2011 drew just 12,646 students.

Bryant-Denny expanded from 92,012 to 101,821 seats for the 2010 season. Student seating was increased from 15,000 seats to 17,000 and all tickets are sold before the season, said Doug Walker, associate athletics director for media relations.

Pre-expansion, the most-attended game was the 2009 season opener against Florida International (11,929). More students saw that game than Alabama's last-second victory against Tennessee that season (11,315), Julio Jones' late touchdown to beat LSU later in the year (11,481) or the Homecoming game against South Carolina (11,339).

No game in 2008 cracked the 11,000-mark, including the season opener against Tulane (10,929) or Alabama's 36-0 win over Auburn (10,481), which broke a six-year losing streak to the Tide's cross-state rival.

Walker said the University has not had discussions about reducing the number of tickets given to students and that the lower bowl does not let in more students than there are seats.

"Alabama could play the Steelers in the Super Bowl at Bryant-Denny Stadium and the upper deck of the student section wouldn't fill up," said Tommy Deas, sports editor of the Tuscaloosa News. "There are certainly enthusiastic football fans among the student body at Alabama. But there's not as many of them as there are tickets, apparently."

The lack of attendance is part of a general trend of apathy among UA students, which also includes leaving early during blowout games. For a school whose victories have come at an average margin of 31 points per game, it's easy to see why students could become lethargic toward sitting through a blowout game.

Still, a half-empty student section is not exactly aesthetically pleasing for outsiders, Deas said.

"I thought for awhile that maybe the library was closing early so they were rushing to go get their studying in, but I've since decided that was not the case," he said. "You hear a different excuse every week. People were saying that [there weren't enough exciting home games], and then undefeated Mississippi State comes in and the upper deck's about half-filled or two-thirds-filled."

But it was worse before the stadium expanded. In 2009, the year before Alabama won its first national championship under head coach Nick Saban, just 68.4 percent of student tickets were used. A mere 63 percent went used in 2008.

Deas said entitlement plays a key role in the lack of enthusiasm he's seen from students.

"Students think that just because they get tickets, they don't have to use them," he said. "I just don't understand that when you go to a school with a program like Alabama football – the program is, right now, the best in the country. Yet the only people that seem to be apathetic about it are the people that attend school there."

However, plenty of students feel otherwise. Katie Norris, a senior majoring in human development, has been an Alabama fan all of her life and can't imagine doing anything but going to every game and

staying the entire time.

"That is the way I was raised," she said. "I never left a game with my family, so I will never leave a game as a student. I lived through the Shula years with my parents, and my dad would never let us leave the game, even when we were getting demolished. It was so important that we stayed the entire game to him, and I respected that."

The lack of attendance is especially troubling for fans and alumni that are on long season ticket waiting lists.

"It really hurts to see empty sections of the stadium especially when the demand is so high," said Christopher Andrews, a lifelong fan that did not attend Alabama, but has been on a waiting list since 2006. "And for me personally,



CW | Austin Bigoney

Empty seats in Bryant-Denny are causing unrest among Crimson Tide fans.

knowing I will probably be buying from ticket brokers for the next decade."

Some of them feel the seats could be allotted to fans who have waited years for tickets, rather than students who decide not to show up at all.

"I know myself and plenty of

other alumni that are willing and able to pay the season ticket prices – if only we had the option of purchasing the tickets," said Robby Sanford, who graduated from the University in 2008 and said he has been on a waiting list to purchase tickets since. "To know that

we would purchase the tickets and actually attend the games – it's infuriating to see empty sections because others simply chose not to sit there."

Students have the option to donate tickets to a donation pool or transfer them to another student. There is a

half point penalty for students who do not do so by a certain time and a 1.5 point penalty for those that do not use their ticket by halftime. Students with three or more points are ineligible to buy postseason tickets as well as tickets for the following season.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Tide heads to Wisconsin for 2nd road game with confidence

By Mary Grace Showfety  
Staff Reporter

Alabama women's basketball (5-0) will take on Wisconsin Saturday in its second road trip of the season.

Thus far the Tide has proven to be a force to be reckoned with, as it is just one of three teams in the Southeastern Conference to remain undefeated, behind Georgia and South Carolina.

But the Tide continues to hold its focus, not letting the excitement of a strong start distract from the long road still ahead.

The Tide is prepared for the new set of challenges it can and will face as it heads to Wisconsin, sophomore Briana Hutchen said.

"I know they are a Big Ten

team so that would be an awesome win for us," Hutchen said. "They have great shooters and they're a very physical team. They're definitely going to do a lot of back door cuts and a lot of things that I think we're able to defend. They have a slower pace of game, so I think we'll be able to speed it up a lot."

The Tide has made defense a prime focus this year, hoping to keep up the pressure on every opponent.

"It puts us in a different environment from being at home," Meghan Perkins said. "We've only played one road game and

it was kind of a tough one." In its first road game this season, the Tide traveled to Houston, Texas, winning by just nine points.

"We were able to overcome some stuff [in Houston] but this will be another test for us to see where we're at and what we need to work on and improve on," Perkins said.

Last Sunday, Alabama defeated Southeastern Louisiana at home 97-62. Not only was the defensive effort solid, but the Tide was also able to execute with ease on offense.

Head coach Wendell Hudson has harped on taking the open

and simple shot this season, and last weekend the team did just that.

"When you have 25 assists that means that everyone was making that extra pass, looking for a teammate and no one was forcing shots," Hudson said. "How many times do you play in a game where you have 25 assists? We are not just trying to win games. We are trying to become a better basketball team."

Now in his fifth season as head coach, Hudson believes this year belongs to the Tide.

The team has been taking it one game at a time and plans to continue that way.

"I think we can mainly improve on the little things," Hutchen said. "I think we have tackled most of the big challenges most teams face."

Hutchen and Perkins said rebounding has been an issue for the team that has not

gone unnoticed. Perkins said the team practices rebounds every day at practice in hopes of improvement.

The Tide is prepared to bring its own energy to Wisconsin as it hits the road this weekend. As for keeping up its spotless record and team chemistry, the team is confident in itself.

"We can only go up," Perkins said. "We can't go backward; we can only go up."

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

## Women's team off to 6-2 start, home games begin Friday at Rec Center

By Aldo Amato  
Staff Reporter

While one national championship-winning Crimson Tide team concluded their home season this past weekend, another national championship team opens up at home Friday.

The Crimson Tide men's and three time national champion women's wheelchair basketball teams will take the court at the Rec Center for the first time this season Friday night. The men's team will take on the Lakeshore club team from Birmingham while the women's team will play both Auburn and Lakeshore.

Women's head coach Charlie Katica said he's been impressed with the team up to this point.

"We are playing well so far," he said. "We're 6-2 so far and have only lost to a couple men's teams so I think we're off to a good start. Our defense has improved a little bit over the past couple of games so that has been impressive."

Katica said what he has been most impressed with this season is the leadership and unity

showed by the upperclassmen on the team.

"One thing I try to focus on is team unity," he said. "The seniors have done a great job creating team unity, and they are playing well together, and it definitely shows on the court."

The men's team has also gotten off to an impressive start, not dropping a single game all season. Senior shooting guard and co-captain Mark Booth said that the team's fast start can be attributed to the amount of seasoned players on the squad.

"I think a big part of our strong start is that we have a nice core of guys who have played for years," he said. "So I think it is just the fact that we have collectively gotten better each year."

Despite moderate success, the men's team has yet to win a national title like their female counterparts. This is something Booth said drives him each and every day.

"For me the biggest incentive has been the girl's banners in the gym," he said. "They also have their pictures down the

hallway of the championship teams and the pictures and it drives me to want to win one."

For students who have not attended a wheelchair basketball game, Katica said it is pretty much the same except a lot more physical.

"I feel that people have a preconceived notion of what they expect," he said. "But I think they will take away a lot from it. The game is full of contact and speed."

Booth said he agrees with Katica's description of the game.

"It is essentially like a regular college basketball game," he said. "Everything is the same but the one main difference is the dribbling and contact."

With three national titles under their belt, the women's team hopes to garner more attention as they seek a fourth national title this season.

"After last year, I think they are real hungry to get their fourth," Katica said. "That was the first thing they said after coming back from Paralympics. So I think we're a lot more focused this year."

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FOOTBALL

# SEC Championship just another game for Alabama

By Zac Al-Khateeb  
Staff Reporter

Saturday's edition of the Southeastern Conference Championship has already been making headlines in the Southeast, as well as the rest of the college football nation.

The game will mark the SEC's biggest game of the year, the de facto semifinal game before the national championship, and a first-ever championship matchup between two of the conference's most prestigious programs in No. 2 Alabama and No. 3 Georgia.

Pundits have spent hours comparing the two teams, marking perceived advantages in the fact Alabama's played in more national titles, while Georgia has played in more conference title games. Similarities have been made from

top to bottom for both teams as well, from the quarterback play to the impressive running back tandems for each team.

Those same pundits - and many more - have also spent a good deal of time comparing the Tide and Bulldogs to the No. 1 Notre Dame Fighting Irish, and reflecting on the chances of what could be a matchup between two historic football programs.

With all the hype surrounding the game, it would be easy for the Tide to get caught up in the moment and allow itself to look at the game in terms of the "big picture." For head coach Nick Saban, however, the game is, as always, simply the next one on his team's schedule.

"I think the big challenge here for the players is just be who you are," Saban said. "Don't

surrender to all the hype around the game, or what everybody's saying about the game. The challenge is to play your best football; focus on the things you need to do."

The message has remained the same all season for the Tide, and this game, despite its championship implications, national and otherwise, has had no noticeable effect on the players during practice this week.

If Alabama has approached the game as business as usual, the Bulldogs fall on the opposite side of the spectrum, allowing themselves to get hyped for the game. For ESPN college football analyst Desmond Howard, the game will offer the Bulldogs a chance to get over the hump and make themselves a nationally relevant program again.

"I think that Georgia, they need

to get to that next level," Howard said. "And you need to get over that hump, and that's the hump they're trying to get over."

"I think Georgia, they've got something to prove. A part of that team, they just can't make it to the next level."

Despite their business-like attitude heading into Saturday, the Alabama players still understand the enormity of the game and the dangerous opponent they'll be playing in Georgia. In fact, the Bulldogs may represent the team's biggest threat of the season.

Indeed, if Georgia isn't Alabama's most dangerous team faced all season, they're at least the most similar. Alabama and Georgia are comparable in nearly every major statistical category this season, both offensively and defensively.

Some of those comparisons can be made between the quarterbacks - where McCarron and Georgia senior quarterback Aaron Murray are the top two quarterbacks in passer efficiency in the nation - to the running back tandems, which have been

highly effective for both teams.

Howard said he believes the outcome of the game will rely on the play of the quarterbacks, giving the edge to McCarron and the Tide.

"I think that McCarron has the edge because he's performed better in big games than Murray," Howard said. "Murray may have the stats because they throw more and all that, but at the end of the day, they're going to win whoever performs better on the big stage. And this is a big stage."

How both teams' defenses perform will also have a huge effect on the outcome of the game. Both teams have comparable stats in defensive pass efficiency, total offense allowed and passing defense. One area where the Tide has a clear advantage, however, is in the rush defense. Alabama allows a paltry 77 yards per game on the ground, whereas the Bulldogs give up 163.4 per game.

And even with the Bulldogs' impressive tandem of freshman running backs in Todd Gurley and Keith Marshall, senior defensive lineman Jesse Williams said practicing against Eddie Lacy and

T.J. Yeldon will help the defense keep its opponents rushing yardage to a minimum.

"We play against quality backs pretty much every week," Williams said. "It's easy for us to get better playing against Eddie and T.J. It's helpful having those really good guys back there."

Despite Alabama's better overall defensive statistics, Howard said one Bulldogs player, Jarvis Jones, can play a huge role in his team's success Saturday.

"Jarvis Jones is a hell of a player," Howard said. "He has a motor that never stops, he's athletic, he's a pass rusher, I think he's pretty good in coverage and he's a good tackler. He's one of the best at his position."

Despite all the hype surrounding the game and the comparisons made between the two teams, McCarron said the game, as usual, will simply come down to how his team plays.

"It's just another game," McCarron said. "That's the biggest thing I think everybody needs to remember. Don't make the game bigger than what it is. It's just another Saturday."

MEN'S GOLF

## Crimson Tide recruits Irish player

CW Staff

Alabama men's golf head coach Jay Seawell announced the signing of Irish Amateur Champion Gavin Moynihan to national letter of intent for the 2013 recruiting class Wednesday.

"I am excited to have Gavin as a part of the Alabama golf family," Seawell said. "He is the Irish Amateur Champion and one of the top players in Ireland. With the way Irish golf is going worldwide right now, I think he is someone who can step right in for us

and do the things we need to help us continue our pursuit of winning championships."

Moynihan hails from Dublin, Ireland, and boasts a long list of impressive accomplishments. He won the 2012 Irish Amateur at The Royal Dublin Golf Club and followed that victory by capturing the Peter McEvoy Trophy at the Copt Heath Golf Club.

He was a member of the European Junior Ryder Cup in 2012 and played for the Irish Men's National Team at the World Amateur this past October in Turkey. He

won the 2012 Faldo Series European Final and finished third at the Junior Players Championship in 2011.

Moynihan also won the Irish Order of Merit Award in 2012. He finished third at the 2012 Irish Boys Championship and 92nd in the British Amateur while boasting a 73.04 stroke average during the 2012 season.

Alabama gets its 2013 spring schedule underway Feb. 17-19 at the Puerto Rico Classic at the Rio Mar Country Club in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico.



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Anderson windows, doors, misc. bldg. materials, trucks, trailers, equipment. Online bidding only. Ends Dec. 4th, 6 p.m. For details <a href="http://www.GulfBayAuctions.com">www.GulfBayAuctions.com</a>. Pete Horton, 213. Ph 1-251-600-9595. (R)</p> <p><b>BANKRUPTCY &amp; ESTATE</b> auction. Saturday Dec. 1 @ 10am. 6877 Gadsden Hwy, Trussville, AL 35173. Guns, 78 Vette, pickup &amp; service trucks, rv, trailers, boats, jet skis, tools, computers, furniture, household. DFarmer793, Heritage Realty &amp; Auction, 1-800-445-4608, <a href="http://www.HeritageSales.com">www.HeritageSales.com</a></p> <p><b>SERVICES</b></p> <p>DIVORCE WITH or without children \$99. Includes name change and property settlement agreement. Save hundreds. Fast and easy. Call 1-888-733-7165, 24/7. (R)</p> <p>HughesNet Gen 4 is here! Now faster than ever! Superfast 10mb download for only \$49.99 per mo. Free installation and first month free for new customers! 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# ESPNU broadcasting live from the Red Shed

By Marquavius Burnett  
Sports Editor

ESPNU Campus Crew is hosting a UNITE viewing party at The Red Shed beginning at 9:30 p.m. Thursday. One of UNITE's co-hosts, TV personality Marianela Pereyra, will be at The Red Shed to air live coverage of the event.

UNITE, ESPNU's first live, late-night entertainment show, incorporates sports, social media, and pop culture and airs live on weeknights at midnight ET/ 11 p.m. CT on ESPNU. Hosts for the show are comedian Reese Waters, former Florida State and NFL quarterback Danny Kanell, and Pereyra.

"It's fast paced, and we like to push the envelope with sports, humor and pop culture," Pereyra said. "It's a really fun hour of television."

The ESPNU Campus Crew is a student group affiliated with ESPNU that executes

promotional events and campaigns to build brand loyalty for ESPN. The Campus Crew is in its third year at The University of Alabama. The Crew's most recent project has promoted ESPNU's UNITE. In an effort to build awareness for the show, the Crew has utilized social media and planned two campus events revolving around UNITE.

The first event took place at the Ferguson Center on Tuesday, November 27th. The Crew passed out pizza to people who "liked" or "followed" UNITE's Facebook page or Twitter account. The event was also planned to create awareness for the UNITE viewing party at the Red Shed on November 29th.

Thursday night, Campus Crew will be handing out prizes to participants who "like" or "follow" UNITE on Facebook and Twitter and utilize #Bama4UNITE on social media. There will be a

billiardstournamentandamememcontest, where participants submit an original caption to a picture. Winners of the billiards tournament and meme contest will win an ESPN prize, and the meme contest winners will get the chance for their caption to appear on UNITE.

Katie Simers, a senior majoring in marketing, is a crew leader. She said for the students questioning whether to come, "What do you have to lose?"

"It's going to be an awesome event," Simers said. "It gives students an opportunity to be on TV and to interact with ESPN the brand. They get to see a real production, and they get a chance to win prizes."

There will be no cover charge on Thursday night at The Red Shed.

Connect with UNITE on social media:

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ESPNUnite](http://www.facebook.com/ESPNUnite)  
Twitter: @UNITE  
#Bama4UNITE

# Member of Swedish team will join golf team for 2013

WOMEN'S GOLF

CW Staff

University of Alabama women's golf coach Mic Potter has signed another outstanding junior golfer to a national letter of intent with Mia Landegren inking with the Crimson Tide for the class of 2013.

Landegren hails from Bridgewater, Conn., where she won the 2012 Connecticut State Women's Amateur this past August finishing 2 strokes over par with a tournament record 146. She also holds dual citizenship in the United States and Sweden, her father's country of origin, and helped the Swedish National Team win the 2012 European Girls Championship after a fourth-place finish in 2011.

"We are very excited to have Mia join our program," Potter said. "She is a member of the Swedish

National Girls team that won the European Girls Team Championship, and she played very well in that event. We feel like Mia is used to playing at a championship level and will bring that to our team."

Landegren attends Shepaug Valley High School, which does not have a girl's golf team, so she plays the No. 1 position for the boy's team and serves as the captain. She earned All-State honors at the CIAC Boys Division IV Golf Championship, finishing fourth in the state in 2012. She also helped lead Shepaug Valley to the New England High School Championship as a freshman.

Landegren captured the 2012 AJGA Killington Junior Golf Championship that included a 6-under 64 en route to the victory. Her 64 was tied for the lowest score

in an AJGA event in 2012. She was second at the 2012 FCWT Red Tails, carding a 2-under 142 after rounds of 72 and 70.

She posted a third place finish at the 2011 Connecticut State Women's Amateur and 11th at the Connecticut Women's Open, where she was third among amateurs. She also qualified to play in the 2011 U.S. Women's Public Links Championships at Bandon Dunes.

Landegren also helped win the Swedish National Team in the 2009 and 2010 Tinius Cup. She represented the state of Connecticut in the 2011 United States Team Championship and finished 11th individually in the 2011 German Girls Open Amateur.

Mia is the daughter of Erik and Patti Landegren. She is a triplet, along with sisters Emma and Hanna.

# MARKETPLACE

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13 Tater  
14 Hard to believe  
15 Wine quality  
16 Campground sound #1  
19 Devilish toon  
20 Maine-et-Loire male  
21 In-crowds  
23 Campground sound #2  
27 Curt refusal  
29 Hot time in Maine-et-Loire  
30 Renaissance painter  
31 Like a spot in "Macbeth"  
33 Pac-12 team  
35 "Pretty Woman" co-songwriter  
37 Some comedy sketches  
42 Nov. voting time  
44 Streaker in a shower  
45 Remote power source  
48 City near Yorba Linda  
50 Track contests  
51 Campground sound #3  
55 "Honor Thy Father" author  
56 Sargasso Sea spawner  
57 Forest's 2006 Oscar-winning role  
60 Campground sound #4  
64 \_\_\_ baby!  
65 Swimmer with cups  
68 POTUS backup  
67 Hightail it  
68 Pays (for)  
69 West Point team

**DOWN**  
1 Subtle "Over here ..."  
2 Polynesian capital  
3 WWII German missile nickname

**11/29/12**  
By James Sajdak  
4 Log shaper  
5 Mount Everest?  
6 Capital on the island of Luzon  
7 Texter's "Holy cow!"  
8 Mario Brothers console  
9 16 oz.  
10 Jordin Sparks/Chris Brown song covered on "Glee"  
11 Desires from 12 "liad" wise man  
17 Blood typing, e.g.  
18 Wrestling pair  
22 Calypso offshoot  
24 Years in old Rome  
25 Chit  
26 Crunch source  
27 Promise before a parson  
28 Hawk's cause  
32 British travel feature, in the past?  
34 Clean and then some  
36 Philip \_\_\_ 18th-century Italian saint

**Wednesday's Puzzle Solved**

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38 \_\_\_ Tass  
39 Pass target  
40 Fair-hiring abbr.  
41 Mary AARP mems.  
43 Rep. counterpart  
45 Play a part, or play part  
46 Genesis mountain  
47 Heel-click follower

49 Dating stumbling block, perhaps  
52 Jai alai basket  
53 Pollux or Arcturus, to an astronomer  
54 Brings down  
58 Judge  
59 Cosby/Culp TV series  
61 www access  
62 Revivalist's prefix  
63 Actress Gardner

**HOROSCOPES**  
**Today's Birthday (11/29/12).** Creativity, family and romance are recurring themes this year. Socially, you're on fire. It's especially hot between you and someone special this winter. Vamp up your fitness routine for vitality. Practice with organization and balance for ease and flow. To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.  
**Aries (March 21-April 19)** -- Today is a 8 -- Set your rearview mirrors, put your hands firmly on the wheel, and then full speed ahead! You inspire others to take action; be proud of that. Express your passion.  
**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** -- Today is a 9 -- Invest in research and technology. New opportunities open up; it's likely you'll want to change your mind. Hardships continue strengthening passion. And you win.  
**Gemini (May 21-June 20)** -- Today is a 9 -- Carry the torch of greatness. Don't let small problems stop you from achieving your goals. Link up with a strong partner. Allow yourself to be sexy.  
**Cancer (June 21-July 22)** -- Today is a 6 -- You're worrying about it too much. You can really handle the circumstances, even if it requires help from others. Your passionate side comes to the rescue. There's a brilliant discovery.  
**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** -- Today is a 9 -- Group input is especially helpful now. Don't be afraid to put down roots. Passion is heightened in private. Do what you love, and love what you do. You look marvelous!  
**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** -- Today is a

8 -- The pressure you feel helps you be more productive and profitable, but don't let it affect your health. That's your more important asset. The game you create inspires optimism.  
**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** -- Today is a 9 -- Your friends give you a boost, but you must believe in yourself, too. A female provides an artistic touch and plenty of charm. Accept a romantic challenge.  
**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** -- Today is a 6 -- You have more than enough encouragement, and romance, too, if you know where to look. Keep searching and you will find the answer. Optimism rules. Get the contract down in writing.  
**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** -- Today is a 8 -- Whatever you do, it's better with the help of someone you trust. Continue to push ahead in the areas important to you. You're not always about fun and games, but that doesn't mean you cannot enjoy it.  
**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** -- Today is a 8 -- There's no time to waste. The trick is to accomplish goals without losing track of ideals, and while making time for love and passion. It's a good time to diversify.  
**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** -- Today is a 8 -- You get carried away by fascination. Don't get so distracted you forget your responsibilities. Your friends are there for you. A new opportunity for passion arises.  
**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** -- Today is a 9 -- Revisit the idea you were working on and make it profitable. Others are happy to have you on their side. Inspire them. If you've done the homework, you'll prosper.

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3	9	6			5			4
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SWIMMING AND DIVING

## Pursley rests swimmers before trip to Georgia Tech

By Caroline Gazzara  
Contributing Writer

The Alabama swimming and diving team will travel to Georgia Tech this Friday for its upcoming invitational, hoping to overcome the difficult situations it has previously faced. After a loss to LSU, the Crimson Tide hopes rest and long-term goals will overcome the target on its back.

Swimming blogs and major universities have all set their eyes on the Tide, pegging it as the team to beat. After a great fall recruiting season, the team knows all eyes are on it; however, it isn't worried. The Tide wants to swim through the competition toward the conference championships.

Head coach Dennis Pursley knows how important it is to focus on the competition, but also to

improve certain aspects of training in order to achieve long-term goals.

"Our focus right now is not so much on the one-loss record, though obviously we want to win as many as we can and score as many points that we can, but we're kind of outgunned against a lot of the competition," Pursley said. The Georgia Tech Invitational will hopefully show the Tide's strengths and improvements it

has made since its last meet nearly a month ago. The three-day meet will consist of multiple individual events as well as relays. Divers will also compete in the meet.

Strategically speaking, the Tide is trying something new this season, hoping to decrease event times. Instead of continuing its heavy training regiment, Alabama has been resting and taking it easy for the past two days. Pursley is using this short-term process to

help raise Alabama's standings.

"This is the first time we are doing a little bit of rest before a competition," Pursley said. "We're backing off the heavy training basically. It's not anywhere close to a full rest for peak performance, but we're hoping it's going to be enough that we can see significant improvement from anything they have done in the season up until this point."

After a series of previous inju-

ries that are compromising some of the Tide's best swimmers, rest may be the best option. The top female swimmer and one of the top male swimmers are out due to a concussion and muscle tear. Limiting their time in the pool, the Tide knows these compromises could be crucial but is optimistic it can pull a win.

"We have had a lot of frustrating fluke injuries, as everybody does, but that's life," Pursley said.

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COLUMN

## Saban raises concerns about future playoff system

By Billy Whyte

In a lot of ways, the current BCS system is atrocious. While it may work out for the national championship game this year, in giving the SEC champion a bout against Notre Dame, it still remains an inconclusive way of figuring out the best team in the nation. Thankfully, we will be moving toward a four-team playoff heading into 2014, but as flawed as the BCS is, there is another issue that is about to become a lot bigger heading into 2014: the effect of the conference championship games.

Nick Saban raised an interesting point earlier this week when discussing the BCS system. Saban pointed out the SEC championship game is a huge disadvantage for whatever team loses, as essentially the loser of the game won't have a shot at a BCS bowl game even after winning its division and finishing in the top two of the conference. For example, this year either Alabama or Georgia will be passed over for a BCS bowl for Florida, even though Alabama and Georgia both won their respective divisions and Florida did not. So in

effect, it's almost a punishment for going to the SEC championship game.

Of course, Alabama and Georgia are playing for a national championship appearance and Florida is not, so obviously the Crimson Tide and the Bulldogs are at an advantage by playing in the SEC championship game. But being in the conference championship game isn't always an advantage. Last year undefeated LSU had to additionally beat Georgia for a guaranteed national championship berth, while a one-loss Alabama got in without having to play an extra game.

And let's assume that this year there was a four-team playoff and we had no conference championship games. The four teams competing for a national championship would be Notre Dame, Alabama, Georgia and Florida. Now if you include conference championship games, then the four would be Notre Dame, Alabama/Georgia, Florida and Oregon. Just by making the SEC championship game, Alabama or Georgia would not be in the playoffs, while Florida and Oregon would benefit by not

winning its division and not having to play in a conference championship game. In this scenario, it doesn't seem right that Florida is guaranteed a spot in the playoffs by not winning the SEC East while Georgia is at risk by winning it.

To take this even further, if Stanford had lost to UCLA and Oregon won its division, then by winning the division the Ducks would have to beat UCLA just to make the four-team playoff, compared to not having to play an extra game and automatically making it by not making the Pac-12 Championship game. And the team that would benefit with Oregon losing a conference championship game would be Kansas State, who wouldn't have to play a conference championship game. Even Notre Dame, who definitely deserves to be in the national championship after going undefeated, benefits by not having to play in a conference championship game, as if the Irish did and lost, then Notre Dame wouldn't be in the BCS title game.

There is also an idea that only conference champions should be allowed to make the

national championship game or the upcoming four-team playoff, which if you take this year as an example, is also an absurd idea. Potentially, the six BCS conference champions, along with a one-loss Alabama or Georgia, would include a two-loss Oklahoma, a two-loss Rutgers, a three-loss UCLA, a five-loss Wisconsin, and a six-loss Georgia Tech. This year may have more postseason suspensions than most, but the point remains: Only Alabama and Georgia in this scenario are top-10 BCS ranked teams at the moment and would be the only conference champions to appear worthy of going to a national championship game or a four-team playoff. And how would a team like Notre Dame fit in to the equation as an independent?

So Saban raises an interesting point - conference championship games do and will create a lot of issues. But that's the thing about college football: Regardless of the format, there is no one right way to settle anything, and regardless of how the BCS, playoffs, or conferences are set up, there is always going to be controversy.

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