

# The Crimson White

SPORTS | GYMNASTICS

# Power of PINK



Photos courtesy of UA Athletics and CW Files

UA graduate and breast cancer survivor Jessica Bailey will be recognized a second time at the annual gymnastics Power of Pink meet Friday.

## Gymnastics team to support UA alum, cancer survivor during Friday's meet

By Marc Torrence | Sports Editor

Jessica Bailey is no stranger to the bright lights of Alabama's annual Power of Pink meet, but she's not a gymnast and has never competed for Alabama.

Bailey graduated from The University of Alabama last December, despite being diagnosed with breast cancer halfway through her last semester of college. She found support from the Alabama gymnastics team and will be honored for a second straight time before Friday's meet.

"I had just graduated earlier that month, and I had missed out on two months of my last semester," Bailey said of last year, when she walked out with then-senior Marissa Gutierrez during introductions. "It was great to see [Alabama coach Sarah Patterson] and the team bringing awareness to this, to the University and especially young people, since I got diagnosed at a young age."

This is the 10th year of Power of Pink, an annual gymnastics meet that raises awareness for breast cancer and money for the DCH Breast Cancer Fund. Patterson and the team started a tradition five years ago of having each gymnast introduced with a local breast cancer survivor.

While the survivors come from all walks of life,

Bailey was the first UA student to be recognized.

"My favorite part is that when [the gymnasts] step out onto the 'A' and they're introduced, it's not about Diandra Milliner being a national champion," Patterson said. "It's that Diandra Milliner will be with Jessica Bailey."

Bailey had bone cancer twice when she was younger, but she said her breast cancer diagnosis was the most shocking, mainly because of her age.

"This one hit a little closer to home, and it was tough because I had my life disrupted because of it, and I didn't get to do all the things I wanted to at UA," she said. "But, like I said, the support was really great,

SEE GYMNASTICS PAGE 11

# Tide looks for win over No. 6 Florida

SPORTS | MEN'S BASKETBALL

## Gators' 9-game winning streak threatens UA record

### Alabama has not seen home SEC loss since February 2012

By Charlie Potter | Assistant Sports Editor

Coleman Coliseum has been a place of refuge for the Alabama men's basketball team, both this season and in the past. Alabama leads all Southeastern Conference teams with 14 consecutive conference wins on its home court.

The last time the Crimson Tide dropped a home game to an SEC opponent was Feb. 14, 2012, to the then-No. 14 Florida Gators, by a score of 61-52.

Alabama will host the No. 6 Gators Thursday night in Coleman Coliseum, where Florida enters the game on a nine-game



CW | Austin Bigoney

Men's basketball coach Anthony Grant

SEE BASKETBALL PAGE 2

NEWS | MEN'S BASKETBALL

## Students, Alabama Athletics promote '90s themed game

### Groups encourage out-of-state students to attend Thursday

By Andy McWhorter | Assistant News Editor

Even the most sports-unconscious out-of-state student coming to The University of Alabama is likely to have some knowledge of the Crimson Tide football team, but other sports such as basketball, women's soccer and baseball can be overlooked.

To get out-of-state students interested in attending a game outside of Bryant-Denny Stadium, The 49, Alabama's out-of-state student organization, is partnering with Alabama Athletics to promote Thursday's '90s-themed men's basketball game.

Jamaal Walton, director of marketing and promotions for Alabama Athletics, said the partnership between The 49 and Alabama Athletics began last summer when he met

with Douglas Fair, president of The 49, and Kirk Walter, advisor for The 49.

"I had an opportunity in the summer to sit down with Douglas," Walton said. "I met Douglas, and I also met his advisor Kirk Walter, and we basically wanted to do some stuff with these guys just because they seemed like a great group to get with."

The 49 and Alabama Athletics partnership began during fall semester's Week of Welcome.

"We had an awesome opportunity to partner with Athletics for our Week of Welcome event, where they were able to bring some of the women's soccer team, the women's basketball coach and the women's soccer team coaches to introduce themselves and come over to our larger Week of Welcome social over in Bryant-Denny Stadium," Fair said. "We are reciprocating that

SEE ATTENDANCE PAGE 2

## TODAY ON CAMPUS

### Law school

**WHAT:** Law School Fair  
**WHEN:** 10 a.m.  
**WHERE:** Hotel Capstone conference area

### Blood drive

**WHAT:** Red Cross Blood Drive  
**WHEN:** Noon  
**WHERE:** 300 Ferguson Center

### Basketball

**WHAT:** Men's Basketball vs. Florida  
**WHEN:** 6 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Coleman Coliseum

### Campus conversation

**WHAT:** Fireside Chat with Wesley and Katie Britt  
**WHEN:** 6 p.m.  
**WHERE:** 205 Gorgas

INSIDE

### today's paper

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WEATHER

### today

Thursday  
Partly Cloudy  
40°/18°

### tomorrow

Friday  
Clear  
37°/23°



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## NEWSIN BRIEF

### Blend to host community lunches

Blend, a student-founded organization led and governed by UA students, is holding a Blend Days lunch Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Ferguson Center between the lobby and Subway.

Blend members strive to embrace campus diversity and work to bring campus together for long-term, sustainable change. Blend's mission is to increase dialogue among students, faculty and administration about social issues to move forward as a community. The organization hopes to promote genuine intercultural relationships and believes in giving each member of The University of Alabama community the chance to share stories and perspectives and to act to change the status quo.

Blend Days lunch is held every Thursday.



Photo courtesy of John Hammontree



Photo courtesy of Wesley Vaughn



Photo courtesy of West Honeycutt

John Hammontree, Wesley Vaughn and West Honeycutt, UA graduates, started "Sweet Home Politics."

## UA graduates start political blog

By Jessica Smith | Staff Reporter

Three University of Alabama graduates wanted to create a blog or website for the state of Alabama with no bias. With that goal in mind, on Jan. 6, "Sweet Home Politics" was formed.

John Hammontree, Wesley Vaughn and West Honeycutt said they wanted to make a blog like "Sweet Home Politics" because they said the people of Alabama needed a non-biased space for the community to hash out issues. The site is also meant to provide breaking news happening in Montgomery and the state, and to provide accurate, entertaining and insightful commentary.

Hammontree, a May 2010 graduate, is working in San Francisco, Calif., at Text100. After living in multiple cities all over the country following graduating, Hammontree said he wanted to contribute to Alabama's growth in some way.

"West Honeycutt and I had a conversation a while back about starting a blog that would appeal to both sides by offering up a venue for people to come and offer what we consider to be well-written, well-reasoned opinion," Hammontree said. "Also, it can hopefully create an environment where as we grow and get a little bigger, we can post news reports and offer credible rumors and things like that."

Hammontree said the only way to sum up "Sweet Home Politics" is that it is a blog about Alabama politics and policy without the spin of other blogs. It has featured syndicated blogs from Congressman Bradley Byrne and Craig Ford as well as an exclusive post written

by John McMillan, the commissioner of Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries.

The blog has had more than 10,000 page views and 6,000 unique views. Its Facebook page has 400 likes, and it has 200 followers on Twitter. Vaughn, a May 2012 graduate, said the response they have received so far is a pleasant surprise.

Vaughn said the blog is different than others because they don't have personal agendas. He said the opinion pieces might be biased, but they have no other interest but the author's own.

"West asked John and I randomly last fall if we would be interested in starting some kind of little site just because there's a need for it, and John and I have a heavy history in writing, so we said 'Sure. Why not?'" Vaughn said.

Vaughn said they all sat down in December and started contacting potential writers and came up with a strategy for what the site would be.

"We need to come up with a mission statement I guess, but I would say we have a niche for smart analysis and some reporting," Vaughn said. "A lot of times, we just see that there needs to be better analysis of Alabama politics."

Vaughn said the site is more progressive than most sites in Alabama but doesn't swing to the left or right. It is all over the board. Vaughn said between Hammontree, Honeycutt and himself, they are almost over-qualified to launch a website, and that's why they have had so much success.

"We're really well-connected, and that helps a lot," Vaughn said. "West

[Honeycutt] has been in Montgomery since he graduated, I believe, so he knows a lot of people in the Capitol. I know a lot of people in Birmingham because I'm involved with Birmingham a lot. John basically knows everyone who's graduated from Alabama in the past few years, so that helps a lot."

Honeycutt, a December 2011 graduate, said the success of the blog shows how much of a need there is for such a site. "Sweet Home Politics" is providing a new vehicle for people to provide opinions and have real reporting by eliminating the soft reporting that goes on in many of the larger news outlets in Alabama, Honeycutt said.

"We obviously have a media group and newspapers, but a lot of politicians in Montgomery still feel like they're soft as far as reporting on state politics," Honeycutt said. "We are a home for political opinion for both sides of the aisle."

While the site's three editors said they have been blown away by the success of their blog and the support of their readers, the site is not making any profit currently. Honeycutt said the blog is a hobby for them right now, but the group is going to start offering advertisements and hopes to expand the site even more.

"Right now, it's a hobby," Honeycutt said. "I think the three of us love doing this, and it's something if we all had the opportunity, we would do it full time, but right now the site isn't making enough money for us to quit our jobs."

"Sweet Home Politics" is looking for contributors or letters to the editor for the site. If you want to contribute, send your pieces to [contact@sweethomepolitics.com](mailto:contact@sweethomepolitics.com).

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COLUMN | STATE POLITICS

## Alabama's priorities ignore real issues

By Matthew Bailey | Staff Columnist

Last week, the United States Department of Justice released the findings of their investigation into Alabama's Tutwiler Prison for Women. They laid out an environment where one-third of the staff has had sex with the inmates there, one of the officers fathered a child with an inmate, the women are forced to trade sexual favors for necessities and those who have reported sexual misconduct have been threatened or punished. These are unacceptable living conditions even for some of the most hardened criminals, but many in Tutwiler are not that. Instead, they are non-violent criminals. To make matters worse, the prison officials have known about the sexual misconduct at Tutwiler since 1995.

A study released last year by the National Center for Educational Statistics detailed Alabama's terrible performance in schooling, as well. While many states performed better or about average with the international average of math and sciences, Alabama students performed worse. The only other state to rank in the bottom of math and sciences was, unsurprisingly, Mississippi. That's to say nothing of the fact that Alabama has a poverty rate of 19 percent, a 27 percent child poverty rate and 45 percent of single-parent families with related children below poverty.

None of this is particularly surprising to those who pay attention to Alabama politics,



Matthew Bailey

but very little productive action is taken to combat some of the issues that Alabama faces. The Alabama Legislature has just recently gotten back into session, and, as usual, the bills that are making the most news are not helpful to the average Alabamian. The House of Representatives just passed a bill allowing individuals who have a moral objection to abortion, tubal ligation or human stem cell research to not be forced to perform procedures. Why an individual who opposes those procedures would be doing them in the first place perplexes me.

Another bill in Senate committee would require individuals on welfare to do 20 hours of community service a week. This was based on the representative's drive through a neighborhood that had trash and graffiti where individuals were sitting on their porches. How this

representative knew that these people were on welfare or that it's their duty, rather than the city's, to pick up the trash is beyond me. Why those who receive welfare, rather than corporations that get huge bailouts or farm subsidies, are the only ones targeted seems a bit strange as well. Also, that will surely help the individuals find a job to get off welfare as well, right?

It's also important to remember that the legislature's way of fighting to help Alabamians in failing schools was a giant handout to private schools with no guarantee that students will be able to actually transfer out of failing schools. Instead, it will likely result in public schools getting even less funding and those students who cannot afford to transfer getting an even lower quality education. There's a reason that lawsuits have been filed against it on claims such as equal protection.

The Alabama legislature has a great deal of issues that it could actually be addressing including the regressive tax system, the unconstitutional conditions in Tutwiler Prison, the failing schools or Alabama's high poverty rate. Instead, it has chosen over the years to focus on passing bills that result in more lawsuits, such as the Alabama Accountability Act or its multiple anti-abortion bills or bills that benefit a small amount of Alabamians.

Matthew Bailey is a second-year law student. His column runs biweekly on Thursdays.

COLUMN | STATE POLITICS

## Shiftless and clueless: the state of Alabama politics

By John Speer | Senior Staff Columnist

As I reflect on our state's refusal to expand Medicaid, I must question why Alabama citizens allow our leaders to make ignorant and costly decisions for our state. Is it perhaps because we ourselves remain uninformed, basically selfish and happily clueless as to what we should do to improve our community?

A little less than 48 hours ago, I was happily clueless to the fact that our legislature proposed a resolution in support of "Duck Dynasty" star Phil Robertson. I do not watch "Duck Dynasty." However, given that our state leaders thoughtlessly rejected the expansion of Medicaid and took such aims to support Robertson, I was compelled to examine the origins of all the fuss. Apparently, when asked his opinions on "sin" by GQ interviewers, Robertson focused on homosexuality.

Second, while discussing his coming-of-age story and his various job experiences, he offered his opinions on blacks. He gravely intoned that blacks were happier pre-welfare, working the fields and singing along. No one hated whites. A&E subsequently suspended Robertson from the show. Now, Sen. Jerry Fielding of Sylacauga, Ala., proudly proclaims that these are views many Alabamians share and that this man should not be punished for exercising his right to free speech.

My first reaction is to revoke Sen. Fielding's privileges as state spokesman. My family lines descend from the Sylacauga Ala., area. Both sides worked in fields. Neither recounted to me happy times of singing

“The ignorance of someone from another state is not our concern - ignorance in our own state is.”

alongside the white man as they worked. In addition, none of my family receives public assistance, although Robertson implies all blacks do. Moreover, if my Southern Baptist family were asked about sin, they would most likely focus on greed, violence and lies - not male to male anal sex. Consequently, while I understand Sen. Fielding's desire to uphold free speech, the ignorance of someone from another state is not our concern - ignorance in our own state is.

In lieu of drafting a resolution to protect the 660,000 Alabama residents without insurance from Gov. Robert Bentley's gross negligence, our government throws our support behind a Louisiana reality TV star. If we expanded Medicaid, the federal government would foot the bill for three years, and our state would subsequently need to improve revenue streams to cover the program. Moreover, 191,000 Alabamians who would not qualify for financial assistance and subsidies under the Affordable Care Act would be eligible for

Medicaid coverage.

In addition, a recent survey conducted by a UAB economist and the director for public health policy at UAB found that Medicaid expansion in Alabama, which is offered through the ACA provisions, would generate about \$1 billion in state tax revenue after expenses from 2014-20. Some 331,000 people would be affected by such an expansion. Yet, what I find most compelling is the fact that another survey of 601 Alabamians, conducted by the Center for Public Health at UAB, found that although the vast majority of Alabamians neither liked nor understood the ACA, it approved of an expansion of Medicaid coverage.

Now, although I cherish the rights of the ignorant to proclaim their nonsense from whichever corner they choose, I believe our government has a more pressing obligation to focus on matters which affect Alabama citizens. Robertson's ignorance is of no consequence to me and is certainly not a matter which our legislature should deliberate, nor boldly proclaim that Alabamians share. Instead, we should ask the tougher questions.

Why have we not endorsed a measure which would potentially impact a large percentage of our state? Why are we not seeking revenue reform to cover the costs of an already burdened, but extremely bare-boned and restrictive in terms of coverage Medicaid program? These are important questions; Robertson is not even an issue.

John Speer is a graduate student in secondary education. His column runs weekly.

COLUMN | PROTESTERS

## What grinds my gears: going to a dentist's office

By Cody Frederick | Guest Columnist

I really hate going to the dentist. Even before you get there, it's not a fun experience. Then once you get there, there's the dentist, lovely as they often are, poking around with their instruments. The medicine makes you nauseous sometimes, the chairs in the waiting room are ugly, and there aren't any good magazines to read.

Worse still, there's the lingering knowledge that despite the wonders of medical science, there's still a tiny chance something could go wrong. That feeling isn't helped by news organizations squawking for days any time one careless or corrupt dentist messes up and someone gets hurt. Pretty much any time I go, I just want to get my dental work done and get out.

But you know, all of that would be bearable if it weren't for the people who keep shouting at me.

“Imagine if they got signs saying 'Jesus Loves Your Teeth.'”

You're minding your own business, going in to get a common medical

procedure - one people have received forever, one that's safer than tonsil removal - and these guys outside keep waving signs and shouting that I'm making a mistake.

I mean, consider, for a moment, if, like dentistry, other medical procedures were hives of protest.

Imagine if they got signs saying "Jesus Loves Your Teeth" and waved them at patients going in for other medical procedures.

Imagine if other medical procedures had protestors who printed up fake pictures of wax teeth, claiming they were mangled by dental work.

Imagine if they lied to you about the "dangers" of other medical procedures the way they do about dentistry.

Imagine if most people actually had no idea about what goes on in other medical procedures, the way they don't in dentistry.

I mean, come on. There would be outrage if other health care fields were treated like dentistry.

What do they think? That for those who got their teeth knocked out they'll just suck it up? Probably not. Prior to the legalization of dentistry, (seriously, what kind of phrase is that? A perfectly safe medical procedure needs legalization?) people died trying to rip their own teeth out.

And the things they say to me. "Well, you shouldn't have eaten candy," is a pretty common one. This kind of thing shows a remarkable lack of empathy, given the many different reasons people go to the dentist, most of which these people have never even considered. Some dental patients have been through hellish experiences, trauma, accidents that got their teeth knocked out, even assault.

The worst part, though, is that the people who shout things at dental patients are often the same ones working hard to make sure that people don't have access to the things that lessen the need for dentists. Can you believe that a lot of them call for the repeal of programs that provide free plaque control?

I mean, come on. More than half of these people don't even have teeth.

The one saving grace is the buffer zone. It's this little strip of space that dentist office protestors can't cross because if they could, they'd probably force more false information down the throats of dental patients. Recently, the Supreme Court reopened the issue of buffer zones. Can you imagine if the Supreme Court of the United States tacitly endorsed the protest and heckling of other very common, incredibly safe medical procedures?

Look, I understand that these people think they're helping. I just wish they'd consider for a moment that maybe going to the dentist is the best choice for me. And even if they don't, even if they want to continue being worthless scum without a shred of compassion, empathy or understanding for any person or situation outside of their incredibly privileged sphere, I still think they shouldn't protest.

Because common medical procedures - medical procedures that save the lives of countless people every year, that are perfectly safe when well-regulated and legally available - probably shouldn't be a matter of public interest.

Cody Frederick is a junior majoring in history.

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### WE WELCOME YOUR OPINIONS

Letters to the editor must contain fewer than 300 words and guest columns less than 800. Send submissions to [letters@cw.ua.edu](mailto:letters@cw.ua.edu). Submissions must include the author's name, year, major and daytime phone number. Phone numbers are for verification and will not be published. Students should also include their year in school and major. The Crimson White reserves the right to edit all guest columns and letters to the editor.

Last Week's Poll: Who do you think will be the next Alabama quarterback? Showing results for top three.

FSU's Jacob Coker, 24%  
Cooper Bateman, 18%  
Luke Del Rio, 18%

(Other, 40%)

This Week's Poll: How do you feel about your relationship with Siri?

[cw.ua.edu/poll](http://cw.ua.edu/poll)



CW | Austin Bigoney

Town Hall, a program started in the Honors College, brings community leaders to campus to discuss local issues with students.

## HCA offers variety of programs

By Rachel Brown | Staff Reporter

Home to many campus extracurricular programs, The University of Alabama Honors College attempts to create a place where ideas flourish into opportunities that improve the UA campus, community and student experience.

Events are hosted throughout the year and cater to a variety of student interests. The college offers coffee hours, guest speaker events, dances, community service opportunities and career development opportunities.

“The Honors College really houses a lot of motivation and passion,” Emily Broman, executive vice president of the Honors College Assembly, said.

Broman said HCA specifically tries to host events that will bring students together. This semester, the college will host HCA talks, which she described as an “exploratory coffee hour” featuring guest lecturers to discuss research or current events with students. In February, HCA will host

a semi-formal Midnight Masquerade at Cypress Inn for all honors students.

Honors Year One, an organization designated to support freshmen within the Honors College, hosts weekly coffee hours in Ridgcrest, the primary honors housing community on campus.

In an effort to involve students and local community members in a productive dialogue about current issues, honors students founded Town Hall. The program began in Fall 2012 and takes place three times each semester.

“We are trying to find a way to get students actively involved in conversations with community members, the University and state leaders about important issues going on right now that are relevant to students,” said Derek Carter, a coordinator and founding member of the Town Hall events. “We want [students] to be hearing from the people who are making decisions.”

Like many programs within the college, Town Hall is still new and developing every

semester. Ashley Buchanan, a Town Hall coordinator, said one of her favorite things about the program is its organic nature. Coordinators are free to choose topics they feel will be most relevant to students.

“We are still feeling things out and seeing what people want to talk about and what interests them,” Buchanan said.

Most of the programs sponsored by the Honors College began as student ideas. Broman said she estimated the majority of the programs you see in the Honors College now were developed and organized by students.

“I would say 95 percent student ideas, but 100 percent faculty support. The faculty support is immeasurable,” Broman said.

Students with ideas for programs and events are encouraged to seek out the support of the Honors College.

“The Honors College is a diverse group of people,” Buchanan said. “All of the programming that goes on is outside of regular academics, so you get interesting topics with a diverse group of kids.”

## NEWSIN BRIEF

### Network outage scheduled

There will be a scheduled network service outage Sunday, Jan. 26, from 7 a.m. to noon, according to the Office of Information Technology.

The outage is expected to affect most network services, including Internet access, for both the general campus network and RESNET. A skeleton [www.ua.edu](http://www.ua.edu) page will be available during the outage.

The outage is part of the OIT’s efforts to modernize its data center.

### Forza Financial selecting interns

University of Alabama freshmen, sophomores and juniors are encouraged to apply for a Forza Financial internship.

Interns will have the opportunity to work on projects in Forza’s department of finance, operations, investments, academics or communication. Interns will be required to attend at least two office hours per week, where they will answer phone calls and communicate with clients.

The deadline to apply for the internship is Jan. 31. For more information or to apply for the internship, visit [forzafinancial.com/internship](http://forzafinancial.com/internship). Students in all fields of study are welcome to apply.

### Open bidding to end Jan. 23

The Alabama Panhellenic Association will continue its continuous open bidding process until Thursday, Jan. 23.

All sororities with membership under chapter total will be able to issue bids during the process. Sorority membership must also be under campus total, which is currently set at 360 members.

To be eligible to participate in the continuous open bidding process, prospective members must be full-time, female students at The University of Alabama enrolled in classes for the Spring 2014 semester. They must also have never been initiated into a National Panhellenic Conference. Women who participated in Fall 2013 formal recruitment and received a bid but either declined it or broke their pledge are also ineligible to apply.

There is not a specific grade point average required to participate in the continuous open bidding process, but it is recommended that prospective members have at least a 3.0 GPA.

On Friday, Jan. 24, the Alabama Panhellenic Association will distribute bids to all women who receive one or more from a chapter.

To register for the continuous open bidding process, go online to [alabamapanhellenic.org](http://alabamapanhellenic.org). There is no cost to participate.

To find out more about the Alabama Panhellenic Association, visit its website at [uapanhellenic.com](http://uapanhellenic.com).

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# Pre-Law Palooza continues through Sunday

By Taylor Zimmerman | Contributing Writer

Pre-Law Program Week, also known as Pre-Law Palooza, began Tuesday and continues until Sunday. The week's events and programs are meant to provide students interested in attending law school with the opportunity to learn more about the study of law and to mix and mingle among professionals and law school representatives.

The week kicked off Tuesday with a Pre-Law Student Association meeting and continued Wednesday with a Future Black Law Students Association Networking function and Mock Admissions Workshop. The Law School College Fair will be held Thursday, and the week will end with the Practice Law School Admissions Test on Sunday. Students do not have to be involved with the Pre-Law Professional studies program to participate in any of the events.

"For students applying to law school or even those thinking about law school, these events offer the opportunity to speak with people making law school admission decisions and people who have worked or are working in the legal profession," Wendy McMillian, director of pre-law advising, said.

Many students interested in attending the Pre-Law program events are able to see what the events have to offer and what they can learn.

"I'd like to learn more about law school, so I'm glad that UA is giving students this opportunity," Jason Atchison, a senior majoring in criminal justice, said. "I'm not a part of the Pre-Law program, but I've always wanted to go to law school. Now that I know about Pre-Law Week, I think it's important to go

to any event possible, meet people and get connections – a great way to get ahead of others."

The Law School Fair takes place Thursday from 10 a.m.-1:45 p.m. at the Hotel Capstone. Though the University has one of the top law schools in the country, students are encouraged to come and learn more about other schools as well.

"Because the Law School Fair will have 55 law schools from around the country attending, this is a terrific opportunity for students to speak with the admissions representatives and get a sense of the environment of the different schools," McMillian said. "This is helpful as students are making decisions about where to apply for law school and what schools may be the best fit for them."

The University provides students the opportunity to take the PLSAT for free Sunday, Jan. 26, at 7:30 a.m., though registration, which opened Jan. 13, is mandatory in order to participate.

The LSAT is a required assessment test that must be taken by all students wishing to go to law school. It is highly recommended that all students interested in attending law school take the PLSAT to prepare them for the LSAT.

"Many students will take the PLSAT without any preparation to see what the test is like and the best way for them to prepare," McMillian said. "Taking the PLSAT without any preparation also provides a good baseline score for students so they can then measure how well they are progressing once they begin to seriously prepare [for the LSAT]."

Students can register for the PLSAT at [prelaw.ua.edu](http://prelaw.ua.edu).



CW | Austin Bigoney

The Pre-Law Program Week's Law School Fair will be held Thursday at 10 a.m.

# Unlocked UA to host Alabama charter schools forum

By Josh Mullins | Contributing Writer

Unlocked UA, a student organization working to educate students on campus about the complexities of the issue of equitable education, is hosting an Alabama Charter School Forum Jan. 27.

"The name 'Unlocked' has many different meanings, but perhaps the most central is our belief in unlocking equitable educational opportunities for all students. The doors to a high-quality school are too often locked for children in underserved communities," David Phelps, president of Unlocked UA, said. "Our members have a wide range of views on almost every educational issue, so we are committed to informing, inspiring and mobilizing a truly diverse community of advocates."

## PLAN TO GO

**WHAT:** Alabama Charter School Forum  
**WHEN:** Monday, Jan. 27 at 7 p.m.  
**WHERE:** SERC 1013

The Alabama Charter School Forum is intended to educate students and the community on a topic seated deeply in recent educational reform.

"The goal of hosting the forum is to help the University of Alabama community join the conversation about charter schools in an informed way. Some students don't know what charter schools are. Many students don't know that charter schools are illegal in Alabama. I would argue that most students

don't know why," Justin Heck, director of marketing of Unlocked UA, said.

The forum will host Emily Shultz, education policy director for Gov. Robert Bentley, and Amy Marlowe, research and information systems manager for Alabama Education Association, to discuss the topic of charter schools and answer the questions students may have. Though the issue of charter schools will be the main topic of the forum, Heck said Unlocked UA has no intentions of picking a side for the debate about the merits of public versus charter schools.

"Our goal isn't to support or condemn either side of the charter school debate. We want the UA community to understand both sides and then to be able to form their own opinions," Heck said. "Through the dialogue of the Alabama Charter School Forum, we

can begin to ask these questions and hopefully leave with a few answers."

Phelps said the organization's primary focus is building a strong sense of community and working toward a more equitable education system.

"We have an exciting semester calendar planned to include discussions on relevant educational topics (race, assessment, teacher pay, etc.), documentary screenings, trips to local schools, fundraisers for teachers and even a symposium with potential internship and career opportunities," he said. "We do not just build events. We build a community."

The Alabama Charter School Forum will be held Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. in 1013 SERC. Refreshments will be provided. For more information on Unlocked UA, visit [unlocked.ua.edu](http://unlocked.ua.edu).

## NEWSIN BRIEF

### Maryland professor to lecture at Summersell Center

Richard Bell, associate professor at the University of Maryland, will give a lecture Jan. 27 titled "On the Road to the Dismal Gulf: Free Blacks' Journey into Slavery." The lecture will be hosted by the Frances S. Summersell Center for the Study of the South. It starts at 6 p.m. in 38 Lloyd Hall. This event is free and open to the public.

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5. The student section includes seating in Sections S (row 25 and up), T, U, V, W, X (row 19 and up), FL-W (floor section W), FL-J (floor section J), FL-K (floor section K).
6. The student section will be closed when it reaches total capacity of 2,600 students. There is no overflow capacity for the student section.
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COLUMN | FILM

## Oscar nominations showcase competition in race for ultimate prize

By Drew Pendleton

For all movie fans, the chilly months of January, February and March are the time where the buzz from 2013 films winding down their theatrical runs begins to transfer to upcoming 2014 ones. This year, many of those films currently finishing their time in multiplexes find themselves in the heat of awards season, and several are in the race for the ultimate prize: the Oscars.

In the nominations announced on Jan. 16, three films etched themselves into the position of potential front-runner for Best Picture: David O. Russell's star-laden crime caper "American Hustle," Alfonso Cuarón's space drama "Gravity" and Steve McQueen's slavery epic "12 Years a Slave." In total, "American Hustle" and "Gravity" are tied for the most nominations with 10 apiece, with "American Hustle" gaining notoriety for garnering nominations in all four acting categories, a feat last achieved by Russell's previous film, last year's "Silver Linings Playbook." (Three of that film's nominated stars – Best Actor nominee Bradley Cooper, Best Supporting Actor nominee Robert De Niro and Best Actress winner Jennifer Lawrence – appear in "American Hustle," with Cooper and Lawrence earning supporting nods in this year's race.) "Gravity" also adds lead actress contender Sandra Bullock, while "12 Years a Slave" contributed three actors to the



Amazon.com

'American Hustle,' 'Gravity' and '12 Years a Slave' have all made their way into the running for Best Picture.

competition, with lead actor Chiwetel Ejiofor, supporting actor Michael Fassbender and supporting actress Lupita Nyong'o earning nods from the Academy.

Amid the buzz from the Oscar nominations and the results of major awards shows such as the Critics' Choice, Golden Globes and Screen Actors' Guild, front-runners in the acting categories have taken shape as well. Continuing his career revival, Matthew McConaughey has emerged as the front-runner for Best Actor for his performance as Dallas electrician Ron Woodruff in the Best Picture-nominated "Dallas Buyers Club." Although he faces competition from Ejiofor's unjustly enslaved free man in "12 Years a Slave," Christian Bale's slick con man in "American Hustle," Leonardo DiCaprio's sleazy stockbroker in "The Wolf of Wall Street" and Bruce Dern's performance as a booze-addled father in "Nebraska," his chances look good at this point.

McConaughey's co-star, Jared Leto, has become the overwhelming favorite to win the supporting actor prize as Ron's cross-dressing partner in crime and fellow AIDS patient. Leto faces challenges from Cooper in "American Hustle," Fassbender's vicious plantation owner in "12 Years a Slave," Barkhad Abdi's debut turn as a Somali pirate in "Captain Phillips," and Jonah Hill as DiCaprio's despicable partner-in-crime in "The Wolf of Wall Street."

In the Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress categories the

race is still unclear. Although Cate Blanchett's performance as a Manhattan socialite suffering a nervous breakdown in Woody Allen's "Blue Jasmine" has won her the majority of the awards throughout the awards season, Amy Adams has the potential to take the award, but only time will tell if the film itself has enough support to push her over Blanchett. Other nominees in Best Actress include Bullock, Judi Dench as a mother searching for her son in "Philomena" and Meryl Streep as a pill-addicted widow in "August: Osage County."

In supporting actress, the race has boiled down to Lawrence and Nyong'o. While Lawrence won the Golden Globe over Nyong'o, Nyong'o took home both the Critics' Choice and Screen Actors' Guild prizes over Lawrence. It'll be a race to the finish as the two films battle it out. Whichever actress wins here on Oscar night could be an indication of which film will win Best Picture. Rounding out the Best Supporting Actress category are June Squibb as a long-suffering wife in "Nebraska," Sally Hawkins as Blanchett's well-to-do sister in "Blue Jasmine" and Julia Roberts as Streep's strong-willed daughter in "August: Osage County."

Finally, in the Best Picture race, front-runners "American Hustle," "Gravity" and "12 Years a Slave" are joined by "Captain Phillips," "Dallas Buyers Club," the tech-romance "Her," "Nebraska," "Philomena" and "The Wolf of Wall Street."

## 'The Bob and Tyler Show' debuts at Green Bar

By Tara Massouleh | Staff Reporter

Bob Baker and Tyler Marshall, two of Tuscaloosa's biggest personalities from the popular local podcast "Trivial Pursuits," have ventured outside the realm of the recording studio with their new live comedy show appropriately named "The Bob and Tyler Show."

"It's an excuse for us to get on stage and tell our dumb jokes and get a few laughs," Baker said. "Hopefully it's evolving into something that we can be proud of, something that we can show people outside of Tuscaloosa at some point."

Baker, who graduated from The University of Alabama with a degree in telecommunication and film in 2006, said much of "The Bob and Tyler Show" audience is comprised of people just like him and his counterpart.

"It's a lot of post-graduates," Baker said. "It's people who have finished college but haven't yet flown away to their next destination. Townies is the nomenclature, and we're one of 'em."

Marshall said "The Bob and Tyler Show," which is hosted at Green Bar, started out as "Trivial Pursuits Live" and followed the same format as the podcast. The first half of the show was comprised of an interview with a Tuscaloosa-centric guest – usually a local business owner, musician or comedian – and the second half of the show featured the guest playing a game in which they answered unusual trivia. Baker said after two months of following the podcast's format, the show evolved into something different.

"We realized if we were given such a stage to do a production, we should explore it and see what other things we could do," he said. "We're both TV junkies, and we enjoy bad television oftentimes. 'The Bob and Tyler Show' is now essentially a variety show exploring different television formats."

"The Bob and Tyler Show" has already successfully explored the game show format and produced a Christmas special show. Next, the show will take on the realm of late night talk shows. Baker and Marshall said they also have plans to produce shows



Submitted

Friends since high school, Bob Baker and Tyler Marshall now host "The Bob and Tyler Show."

in the style of telethons and daytime talk shows.

Marshall said he enjoys doing "The Bob and Tyler Show" as opposed to "Trivial Pursuits," which ran for roughly a year and produced 30 podcasts, because the live show provides more of an outlet to be creative with different television formats.

"It's always changing," Marshall said. "I think we're still trying to figure it out a bit, but it's fun to have those parameters and see if we can make it funny in our own weird way."

Another advantage to doing a live show is the freedom to explore the visual jokes that they were previously unable to try in the audio-only podcast format, Baker said. They use an on-stage television with graphics and sound cues in an effort to make the show seem like a live television production, but without any cameras.

"There's a certain synergy between us and our audience where we play off of them and feed off of what's going well and what's going bad," Baker said.

### PLAN TO GO

**WHAT:** The Bob and Tyler Show "Up All Night" featuring The Ne'er-Do-Wells

**WHEN:** 10 p.m.

**WHERE:** Green Bar

Marshall echoed Baker's comments about the role of the audience and its importance in the success of a live comedy show.

"In the audio-only podcast that we used to do, you can tell your jokes, and you don't really get that immediate reaction from it," he said. "It's kind of fun to write our jokes and try to be funny and see if we actually get laughs out of the crowd."

Baker and Marshall's close friendship has contributed considerably to the success of their podcast and now live show, they said.

"Tyler is one of my best friends," Baker said. "That's why it works, because it's 'The Bob and Tyler Show.'"

The two have known each other since high school and have been writing together for about eight years.

"We know how each other work," Marshall said. "A lot of times our friendship has provided a really funny chemistry on stage. We've even made out on stage before."

Marshall said the show brings something different and exciting to the Tuscaloosa community.

"It's a thing you can do on a Thursday, Friday or Saturday night that's not going to watch a band play," he said. "It's going to see this weird absurdist comedy show that you don't have to pay for. I've never seen it done before here."

"The Bob and Tyler Show" will take on late night talk shows in their next show, titled "Up All Night" at Green Bar Thursday starting at 10 p.m. The show will feature musical guest The Ne'er-Do-Wells.

## Seniors, alum suggest UA bucket list

By Elayne Smith | Contributing Writer

When asked about his college experience, Chris Joiner, a 2013 alumnus, does not recount the time spent in his classes or the library. Joiner said spending the night at Coleman Coliseum for football tickets, getting fries at Quick Grill and going to the cliffs at Lake Nicol are some of his most memorable moments at the Capstone.

Joiner said these experiences and traditions like trying to get onto the roof of buildings, visiting "old" Bryce Hospital in Northport and trying to discover the tunnels under Gorgas all served to help make memories before he graduated.

"I regret the times I've sacrificed time with my friends for something I thought would help me get a better job or put something on my résumé that didn't really matter in the end," Joiner said. "We're all so busy that it's so easy for us to say no to fun things. Make sure to balance and make time for those things because it's just as important to relax and have fun."

Zac Cochran, a senior majoring in criminal justice, said students

should eat a national championship BLT sandwich, which boasts 15 pieces of bacon, at Rama Jama's before leaving the University. Cochran also said he recommends graduating seniors find the hole-in-the-wall places like the barbecue restaurant Brown Bag in Northport.

"These experiences add a little excitement," Cochran said. "You can go through life not really trying other things, but be open minded, and you'll be surprised and have fun. College isn't just about learning by the book. It's about living."

On top of going to Rama Jama's, Andre Fedd, a senior majoring in general health studies, said students have to go to a gymnastics match and the art museum on campus before they graduate. Fedd said he also attended a softball match and found it was a different experience than football games, but it was entertaining to watch something that does not get a lot of recognition.

"Enjoy college while it lasts," Fedd said, "It's important to know about your surroundings because it is a part of why you chose the area and the University."

Amy Deeble, a senior majoring in speech pathology, said she suggested going to the Kentuck Art Festival and a wheelchair basketball game. She said these events were a one-of-a-kind experience because they are unique to Tuscaloosa and campus. Deeble said she saw the wheelchair basketball team working out and decided to go to a game.

"It's important to explore things even if you think it's something you're not interested in just to check it out because you might find a new passion," Deeble said. "If you have the time, go for it. You have nothing to lose."

Lynne Adrian, chair of the American studies department, also said students should go to a gymnastics match, eat at City Cafe and just try eating something new. She said the traditions at The University of Alabama are all part of the college experience.

"College is partly about trying new things," Adrian said. "If students enjoy it, they feel connected. Later in life, when talking with other alumni, you can talk about and relate to these experiences."

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COLUMN | TELEVISION

## Oscars, Super Bowl a chance to welcome, recognize champions

By Hannah Widener

Comedian Whitney Cummings does a bit where she says, "I don't ask you why you're wearing a football jersey to watch the game. Last time I checked, you're not on the bench, and 'we' didn't lose. You don't see me wearing scrubs when I'm watching 'Grey's Anatomy' saying, 'Wow, I'm really glad we saved that guy. That was really close.'" When I first heard her say that, something clicked for me. The Super Bowl and the Oscars are the same exact thing.

Sure, Julia Roberts will never throw the perfect spiral, and Peyton Manning won't ever thank the Academy for best guest starring role in an Oreo commercial, but these two star-studded events are almost identical.

While the red carpet may not be rolled out for the Broncos or the Seahawks, fans adorning either side of the stadium still give a warm welcome to these men as they strut down the green carpet. Flash bulbs burst just to catch a glimpse of a true star as they emerge, in hopes that they won't let them down. This is their year. This is your year, and victory is so close you can taste it.

Dressing for the Oscars has become a game in its own right, with stylists fighting down to the nail for the coveted title of best dressed. If the question "Who are you wearing?" isn't asked, then as an actor or an actress you might as well not be walking down the red carpet at all. Each movie star is scrutinized for how they look, and if it's not close to perfection, then why are they in the game?

Quippy one-liners and awkward announcement bits offer the same breaks in the program as funny commercials featuring Betty White during the Super Bowl. For the Oscars, the halftime show takes place at the beginning, only there it's called an opening number. This year, Ellen Degeneres will be hosting, which means endless dancing and a night of plenty of laughs.

If you are still not convinced that the Oscars and the Super Bowl are the same thing, let me ask you this. Why do you watch the Super Bowl? Is it for the hilarious commercials? The halftime extravaganza? Or the chance to see men duke it out over this silly little game we call football?

We watch because we need to believe in something that is bigger than ourselves. Life can be hard, and the choices we make aren't always the right ones. But with this game, there can only be one winner and one loser.

There can only be one best picture and one best director. None of it is in our control, but we still watch anyway. So, come February when the Super Bowl party invites start pouring in and my friends start asking me why I'm throwing an Oscar party a few weeks later, I'll know exactly what to tell them: The Oscars and the Super Bowl are the same. We're just rooting for different millionaires.



Submitted



CW File

Smith Hall's Science Sunday will bring together patrons of all ages to learn more about the history of Alabama.

## Science Sunday to host 3-D printing

By Grace Hagemann | Contributing Writer

Smith Hall will host its first Science Sunday of the year this weekend, featuring events such as 3-D printing demonstrations, arts and crafts and a lecture by Dana Ehret, curator of paleontology for the Alabama Museum of Natural History.

The University of Alabama's engineering department will demonstrate 3-D printing of fossils and showcase new prints at the event. Jamey Grimes, an art professor at the University who assists the engineering department with the 3-D printing projects, said the process of 3-D printing is practical in the field of paleontology.

"We are helping develop exposure and public interest to new technology and to the things that are in the museum, but rather than just building toys, there is real, practical application in the field of paleontology that this kind of technology applies to," Grimes said.

The Hodges Meteorite, a popular specimen at Smith Hall, has been scanned and printed in preparation for the Science Sunday event.

"We have a really nice scan of the Hodges Meteorite that is famous for hitting a woman in Sylacauga, Ala.," Grimes said. "Not a lot of people get to play with meteorites. Maybe now they can."

The engineering department will also bring additional 3-D printers to the event to facilitate demonstrations. Its printers will be designed for a better demonstration of how an image is printed in the 3-D format.

"We will have some demonstrations and will bring in the more portable MakerBot printers that help visualize the process for people that aren't very familiar with it, because a lot of what we want to do is educate the public and expose them to what we're talking about," Grimes said.

### PLAN TO GO

**WHAT:** Science Sunday**WHEN:** Sunday, 1-4:30 p.m.**WHERE:** Smith Hall, Alabama Museum of Natural History

Science Sunday is intended to showcase the paleontology collections on campus and to promote the different activities with which the department is involved. Ehret will also give a lecture on the fossils of the Alabama Black Belt region.

"It's going to be about fossils from the Alabama Black Belt. So we actually own 160 acres of property down in Dallas County, and we go down there and actively collect fossils," Ehret said. "[The are is] historic for finding really good fossils."

Allie Sorlie, the Alabama Museum of Natural History's education outreach coordinator, said in addition to the 3-D printing, there will also be paleo-themed arts and crafts for kids, but all are welcome and encouraged to participate.

"There will be activities for kids mostly, but anyone is welcome to participate," Sorlie said. "This is a great way for the community to see what the University is doing and also for the community to learn a little bit more about the state that they live in and its history."

Sunday's event is free and open to the public.

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# Pink Box Burlesque begins season in town



By Grace Hagemann | Contributing Writer

## PLAN TO GO

**WHAT:** The Pink Box Burlesque  
**WHEN:** Saturday at 8 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Green Bar

The Pink Box Burlesque, a local burlesque troupe focused on traditional burlesque and pin-up culture, is making its first stop in Tuscaloosa of 2014 at Green Bar Saturday.

"We are a Vaudeville-based troupe with comedy, live jazz, singing, dancing, burlesque and other special surprises," Mama Dixie, the owner of the troupe, said. "The shows are two hours of entertainment with a brief intermission."

She said the troupe plans on delivering a special show this weekend called "Seven Wonders of the World."

"It is the first show of our seventh season, and, at its creation, we had seven performers on the slate," Dixie said. "We've since added a surprise guest, but we hope the audience will forgive us for it."

Since the Pink Box Burlesque's start in 2008, the troupe has seen a steady increase in members and fans.

Alex Freeman, bar manager at Wilhagan's, said he has seen The Pink Box Burlesque advance since the early days of the troupe and saw his first show six years ago. He said he has enjoyed watching the troupe grow.

"It has gotten bigger, and so has the fan base," Freeman said. "I have been to 10 or 11 of the shows at least."

Freeman said the acts the troupe puts on are an interesting mix of comedy and edge.

"Their show varies. A lot of it is traditional stuff, like when women will come out in old school bustiers. Also there is

sometimes comedy. Sometimes there is dance. Sometimes there is theatre performed, too, that gives an edge to it," Freeman said. "Almost as if to make you enjoy it but make you just a little uncomfortable at the same time."

The Pink Box Burlesque is currently performing throughout the Birmingham and Tuscaloosa areas, making stops at venues like the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex and the Black Market Bar in Birmingham, as well as the Bama Theatre and Green Bar in Tuscaloosa.

The diversity of venues is a plus for the troupe, since performers enjoy

both performing for large audiences on stage and in more intimate bar settings, Dixie said.

"We split our time in Tuscaloosa between the Green Bar and the Bama Theatre. We've been performing at both for seven years," she said. "The bar shows are more intimate and playful. The audience is right there. The Bama Theatre shows have the benefit of the large stage. We like the variety."

"Seven Wonders of the World" is a 21-and-older event, and cover is \$10. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the show starts at 8 p.m.

It has gotten bigger, and so has the fan base. I have been to 10 or 11 of the shows at least.

— Alex Freeman

The Pink Box Burlesque, a local burlesque troupe, will begin its seventh season at Green Bar Saturday.

## Weekend Band SCENE

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GREEN BAR	Bob and Tyler	Battito	Pink Box Burlesque
RHYTHM & BREWS	Lava Lamp	Reckless	Snazz
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"Always, Patsy Cline" follows the tale of the musician's relationship with her biggest fan.

# Bean-Brown Theatre hosts 'Always, Patsy Cline'

By Cole Booth | Contributing Writer

## PLAN TO GO

**WHAT:** "Always, Patsy Cline"  
**WHEN:** Friday, 7:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Shelton State Community College, Bean-Brown Theatre

"Always, Patsy Cline" will bring the famous country musician Patsy Cline's relationship with her biggest fan to life this weekend at the Bean-Brown Theatre on Shelton State Community College's Martin Campus.

Starring Sara Catherine Wheatley as Patsy Cline and Lauren Wilson as Louise Seger, Cline's biggest fan, "Always Patsy Cline" will beshown for the second year in a row in Tuscaloosa.

Emily Herring, assistant professor of musical theater at The University of Alabama, has performed in multiple showings of "Always, Patsy Cline" across Alabama. She routinely portrays Patsy Cline.

"Louise is one of her biggest fans. She just represents that housewife that was at home, cooking, cleaning and listening to Patsy on the radio. She found her escape through listening to Patsy on the radio," Herring said. Louise is telling the story of how her memories of Patsy affected her and also about when the two actually met at a honky-tonk. Patsy actually spent the night at her house."

The show features some of Cline's most popular songs, including "Crazy," "I Fall to Pieces" and "Sweet Dreams," among the 27 total songs.

Wheatley, the actress who will play Cline in this series, said she is a fan of Cline's discography and the show in general.

"I always feel so grateful to be able to sing the music when I have the chance to do this show. The music is pretty spectacular. I never get bored of singing this music," Wheatley said.

Wilson, who will perform the role of Seger in the musical, is a longtime collaborator with

Theatre Tuscaloosa. This will be the fourth time she has played this role.

"Louise is not a hard character to get into when you've grown up in the South and you have a lot of colorful relatives and memories to draw on to help build the character for you," Wilson said.

The story of Seger and Cline also has some relevance to the modern day fan-star relationship, Wilson said.

"I think it's a very interesting story, because back in the time of Patsy Cline, you really could meet a star of her caliber accidentally like that," Wilson said. "I think nowadays, this story is so sweet because you get to live through that character as she gets to meet the person she is most fond of in the whole world. It's almost a fantasy for college-aged kids to think about, 'Oh gosh, what if that happened to me?' I don't think it could even happen these days."

Wheatley said she prefers not to linger on the end of the pair's friendship but on the joy it can bring to those who hear the story.

"It's a lot of fun. It's really high energy. The audience has a great time. It's always great to do these shows that bring so much joy to people," Wheatley said.

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COLUMN | AUSTRALIAN OPEN



Novak Djokovic (above) lost to Stanislas Wawrinka in the quarterfinals of the Australian Open. MCT Campus

# Great matches, upsets provide plenty of drama in tennis open

By Elliott Propes

The Australian Open had one of its most memorable matches last year.

No. 1 Novak Djokovic faced No. 17 Stanislas Wawrinka in the fourth round. The two-time defending champion had the fight of his life against Wawrinka. After splitting the first two sets, the match came down to a final fifth set, where no tiebreaker is allowed. Djokovic outlasted his opponent 12-10 in the set to advance and eventually win his third straight Australian Open. The match was later voted as the best match of 2013.

This year has brought back even more excitement in Melbourne, Australia.

One year after the five-set classic in 2013, Wawrinka found himself in the same spot, facing Djokovic once again. It was the quarterfinals, and Wawrinka came into the match ranked No. 8. He was looking for revenge against the tournament favorite. Wawrinka had a 2-15 record against Djokovic, but he knew after last year he had a chance of dethroning the No. 2 seed.

Wawrinka was playing excellently and showed no signs of being intimidated.

“ This weekend, the Australian Open will make history. ”

Again, the first four sets were split to force a final set. Serving at 7-8, 30-40, Djokovic pulled a forehand wide and lost match point with a volley wide. Wawrinka threw his hands in the air and completed his revenge with a 2-6, 6-4, 6-2, 3-6, 9-7 victory.

Wawrinka's upset was not the only of the week. American No. 1 Serena Williams lost to No. 14 Ana Ivanovic in the fourth round. Since then, defending champion No. 2 Victoria Azarenka and No. 3 Maria Sharapova have also lost.

On the men's side, No. 5 Juan Martin Del Potro fell early in the second round, No. 4 Andy Murray lost to No. 6 Roger Federer in the quarterfinals, and No. 3 David Ferrer also lost in the quarterfinals.

Finally, there is a chance for someone new to win

a major.

The last time someone won a major outside of Federer, Djokovic, Nadal, Del Potro and Murray was 2005. No. 7 Tomas Berdych and No. 8 Wawrinka will play each other for a chance at the final. The winner will face either No. 6 Federer or No. 1 Nadal in the final. Both Berdych and Wawrinka are eager for their first major, but they have to face each other before they can face Nadal or Federer.

The women also have two surprise players in the semifinals. Nineteen-year-old Canadian Eugenie Bouchard has come from nowhere and will play No. 4 Li Na, while No. 5 Agnieszka Radwanska will play in the other match against No. 20 Dominika Cibulkova. Out of the four women, only Li has a grand slam title.

This weekend, the Australian Open will make history. Five players have the chance to win their first major. Federer is looking to add to his major title record of 17. Nadal is looking to gain a step closer to that record and get number 14.

After all the great matches and upsets so far in this tournament, there is no reason not to expect more. I know I'll be watching.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Coker granted release from FSU

Florida State quarterback Jacob Coker has been granted a release from his scholarship at FSU and will transfer to another program. Coker will not participate in spring practice with the Seminoles and will be able to play at his next institution immediately.

Alabama is a heavy favorite to land Coker, and Nick Saban reportedly visited Coker at his home in Mobile, Ala., Tuesday. During his high school career at St. Paul's, Coker served as AJ McCarron's backup.

### Jansen named Player of the Week

Sophomore tennis player Maya Jansen has been named the Southeastern Conference Player of the Week after the first week of the 2014 season, the league announced Wednesday. Jansen went undefeated in singles at the Wildcat Winter Classic, facing opponents from Northwestern, DePaul and Iowa to claim the tournament championship.

### Alum selected as Basketball Legend

Former Alabama men's basketball star Eddie Phillips was one of 14 men to be selected as 2014 Allstate Southeastern Conference Basketball Legends. Phillips attended Alabama from 1979-82 and is the Crimson Tide's second all-time leading scorer with 1,937 points. The 14 honorees will be recognized at the SEC Men's Basketball Tournament in March at the Georgia Dome.

Compiled by Charlie Potter

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



CW | Lindsey Leonard

The Crimson Tide look to improve on their 8-10 record with wins over ninth-ranked Kentucky and Georgia this week. The Tide are currently 1-4 in conference play after a home win vs. Auburn.

## Crimson Tide tested in SEC road games

By Nick Sellers | Staff Reporter

Most college basketball programs would not be familiar with consecutive road games against ranked teams as soon as January. After falling on the road to No. 10 South Carolina 77-51 Sunday, Alabama (8-10, 1-4) will visit another top-10 team in the No. 9 Kentucky Wildcats (15-3, 3-2) Thursday before returning home Sunday to face Georgia (14-5, 2-4).

Junior Briana Hutchen said the back-to-back trips to Nebraska and Duke in November helped prepare the team for this weekend.

"I think that we're more prepared than any team in the country because we play such great programs beforehand, and it got us experience," Hutchen said. "Especially being a young team, it got us experienced playing on the road against tough teams, so it doesn't really faze us as much. It's something we've prepared for, we've done before, and it's just another game."

Kentucky will mark the third overall road

### PLAN TO GO

**WHAT:** Alabama vs. No. 9 Kentucky  
**WHEN:** Thursday, 6 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Memorial Coliseum in Lexington, Ky.  
**RADIO:** Crimson Tide Sports Network, 790 AM

**WHAT:** Alabama vs. Georgia  
**WHEN:** Sunday, 2 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Foster Auditorium  
**TV:** CSS  
**RADIO:** 790 AM

game against a top-10 team, as Duke was No. 2 when the Crimson Tide visited Cameron Indoor Stadium Nov. 17. Alabama previously faced the Wildcats in Foster Auditorium Jan. 2 to open SEC play.

Though the game ended in an 85-63 loss for the Crimson Tide, Hutchen said she believes the team will be better prepared for the rematch.

"Definitely just taking more care of the ball and being more prepared for the travel," Hutchen said. "That's probably the first team since Duke that really pressed us hard the entire game, and I think just takeaway from that, our experience and looking back at film and seeing what we did wrong and just learning from it, and hopefully we'll apply those things that we learned."

Kentucky is currently tied for fourth in the country in scoring with just under 89 points per game. That mark, the best in the conference, goes along with senior Samarie Walker, who leads the SEC in rebounds per game.

Coach Kristy Curry talked before the game about the Crimson Tide's lack of success on the road against SEC teams.

"When you look at our team, we've got the one senior, [Shafontaye Myers]. She's won five

conference games on the road in her career," Curry said. "Everyone else on that bench has won one. That's another situation and another experience we've got to learn how to do. And at some point, you get tired of it not going for you. You've got to step up and do something about it as a player."

Although the Crimson Tide's lone SEC win came at home against Ole Miss Jan. 12, Curry admitted playing in venues such as Kentucky's Memorial Coliseum is something special.

"I think that if you're a basketball fan, if you're a basketball coach, you're going to love playing in those environments," she said. "You know, there's no better feeling as a coach to watch your players win on the road. And that's something, you know, that you want to see your players do and you want to help them do."

After Kentucky, the Crimson Tide will return home Jan. 26 to face Georgia. The Bulldogs are coming off consecutive conference wins against Arkansas and Florida.

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