



The Crimson White

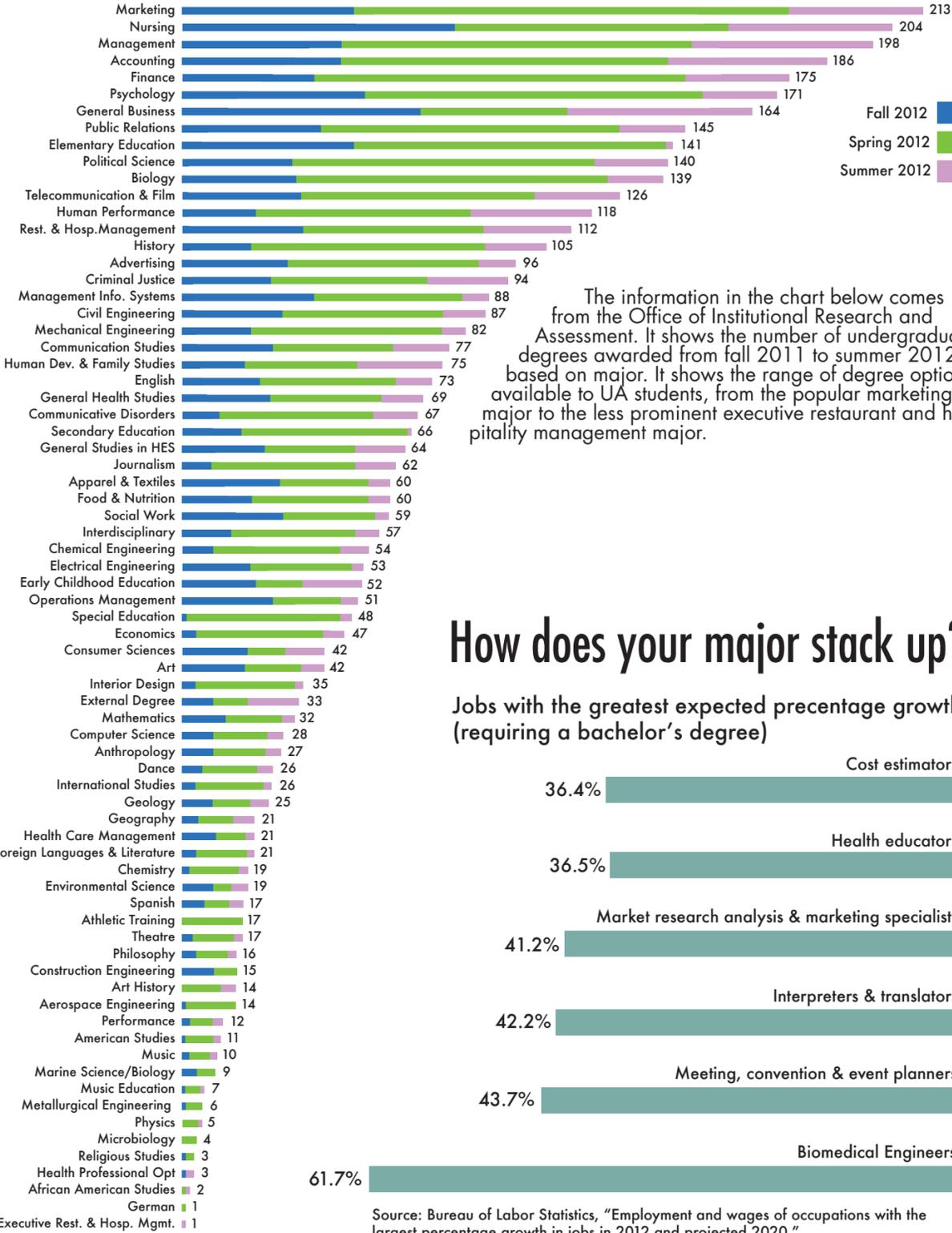
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NEWS | ALABAMA MAJORS

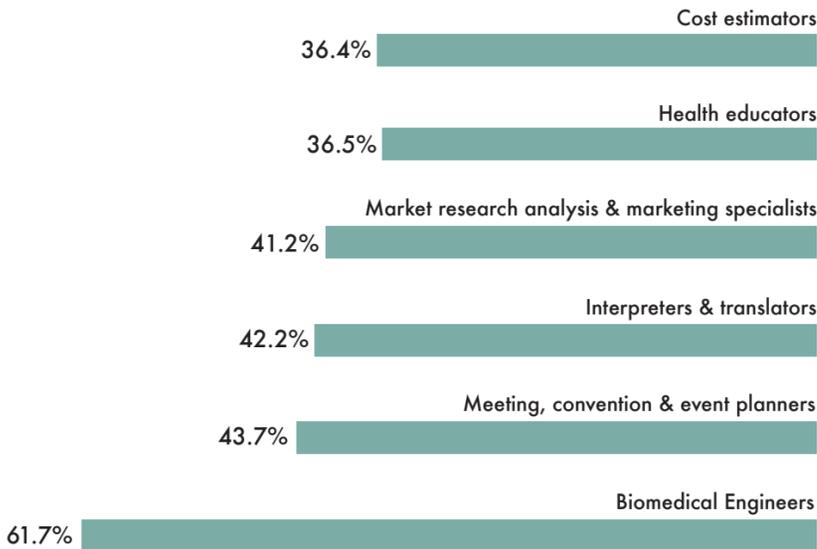
UA majors mirror job growth trends



The information in the chart below comes from the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment. It shows the number of undergraduate degrees awarded from fall 2011 to summer 2012 based on major. It shows the range of degree options available to UA students, from the popular marketing major to the less prominent executive restaurant and hospitality management major.

How does your major stack up?

Jobs with the greatest expected percentage growth (requiring a bachelor's degree)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employment and wages of occupations with the largest percentage growth in jobs in 2012 and projected 2020."

CW | Whitney Hendrix, Data collected by Colby Leopard, Chandler Wright and Adrienne Burch

NEWS | ECONOMY

Economy, costs send some to trade schools

Lower cost of credit hours a major draw

By Ashley Tripp
Staff Reporter

As the economy in Alabama changes and the University's tuition rises, the number of potential students who instead choose to attend community colleges and technical schools might be rising with them.

Amy Brabham, the vice chancellor for Career and Technical Education and Workforce Development for the Alabama Community College System, said the increase in the manufacturing and automotive, especially in the Alabama area, have pushed individuals into more of a technical based career.

ACCS focuses on three things – academics, adult education and workforce development, which encompass what the technical institutions do on the basis of what businesses and industries need, Brabham said.

"We have seen increases in our enrollment and in our technical programs specifically," Brabham said. "A reason why is due to the economic conditions, job changes and lay-offs."

Brabham said the jobs the ACCS recruits from its economic developers revolve around manufacturing and technical skills.

"The increase in the automotive industry has really

changed the complexion of our state," Brabham said. "We're now the fifth largest automotive state in the nation, which was not the case 20 years ago."

Brabham said trying to offset rising costs in the technical institutions is always tough for them.

"In general, it's about four to five more times expensive to run a career tech program than it is an academic program simply because of the equipment and material costs," Brabham said. "The

Technical Education and Workforce Development for the Alabama Community College System, said the increase in the manufacturing and automotive, especially in the Alabama area, have pushed individuals into more of a technical based career.

"We have seen increases in our enrollment and in our technical programs specifically. A reason why is due to the economic conditions, job changes and lay-offs."

— Amy Brabham

instructors are typically high-level experts in their field and to recruit them into our systems is a little more expensive." The ACCS has had to raise tuition \$2 per hour for each credit hour, Brabham said, but the difference between the cost of a technical education and one at a university is still significant.

"It still costs less than half at a community college than most four-year institutions on average," Brabham said.

She said the reasons potential students apply to a technical program depend on the students themselves.

"Our average age of student is between 26 and 27 years old, so usually our enrollment is someone who's worked somewhere before or maybe they're changing careers, and it's a cost factor that encourages them to come because the cost is lower," Brabham said.

SEE APPLICATIONS PAGE 11

SPORTS | WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Alabama falls to Arkansas 91-80

Razorbacks beat Tide at home in triple overtime

By Caroline Gazzara
Staff Reporter

The University of Alabama women's basketball team faltered once more to another conference team, falling this time to the Arkansas Razorbacks 91-80 in triple overtime. The Crimson Tide had all the right moves during the first half, only letting Arkansas lead once, yet lost steam during the second half, and ultimately came back to take the teams into overtime.

Alabama struggled to get a foothold against Arkansas during the second half. With less than a minute remaining, the Tide managed to tie up the game 58-58, sending the teams into overtime.

"We had it in our hands the whole time," coach Wendell Hudson said. "The things we had control of could've been better if we had played as a team. Both teams played hard. We played hard, worked as hard as we had ever worked and played smartly."

Alabama, (12-11, 2-9 SEC)



Alabama lost to Arkansas 91-80 after reaching triple overtime Feb. 10.

challenged Arkansas throughout the entire game. The Tide had a consistent 4 point lead throughout the first half. During the second, Alabama trailed by eight points but came back in the end.

During the three overtimes, the Tide never lost steam. Junior guard Shafontaye Meyers helped secure the

team into overtime but said the loss wasn't easy to swallow.

"We didn't finish," Meyers said. "It's kind of tough. It's heartbreaking cause we fought and then the last overtime got away from us. It's a tough loss."

SEE BASKETBALL PAGE 2

NEWS | DORM LIFE

Students keep pets in dorms despite University-wide ban

Recent graduates tell stories of housing cats, dogs on UA's campus

By Madison Roberts
Staff Reporter

After buying a puppy for \$20 on the Strip one night, Nick Brown kept Chief, a young cross-breed, in his Ridgcrest South dorm room.

"After we bought the dog, we kept it in our dorm room for about two weeks and left it with my friend when we went out," said Brown, a freshman majoring in finance.

According to The University of Alabama housing and residential community living standards, possession of pets is prohibited, except for service animals or a freshwater fish in a tank that is no more than 10 gallons.



Frank the cat lives in Ridgcrest South.

CW | Caitlin Trotter

SEE PETS PAGE 3



INSIDE today's paper

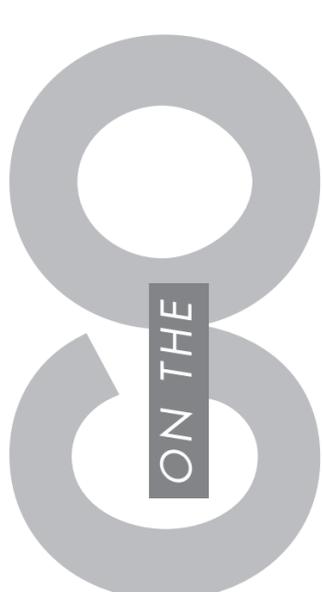
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WEATHER today



Chance of T-storms 61°/45°

Tuesday 54°/46°
Chance of T-storms



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ON THE CALENDAR

TODAY

What: French Conversation Table

Where: Ferguson Center Starbucks

When: 5 - 6 p.m.

TUESDAY

What: Study Abroad Fair

Where: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

When: Ferguson Student Center 2nd Floor

What: Mardi Gras Ball

Where: The French House

When: 7 - 10 p.m.

What: Bama Art House presents 'It's a Disaster'

Where: The Bama Theatre

When: 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

What: Harbor Training

Where: Women's Resource Center

When: 2 - 4 p.m.

What: 'Ain't Misbehavin''

Where: Bean-Brown Theatre

When: 2 - 4 p.m.

What: Application for SGA candidates due

Where: Ferguson Center Room 356

When: 5 p.m.

Submit your events to
calendar@cw.ua.edu

ON THE MENU

LAKESIDE

LUNCH

Cumin Roasted Pork Loin
White Rice
Broccoli
Fried Okra
Sweet Potato Fries (Vegetarian)

DINNER

Beef Burgundy
Lima Beans with Bacon
Mashed Potatoes
Mexi-corn
Four Tomato Basil Cavatappi (Vegetarian)

BURKE

LUNCH

Pulled Pork
Baked Beans
Sautéed Vegetables
Corn Fritters
Vegetable Quesadilla (Vegetarian)

DINNER

Country Style Meatloaf
Mashed Potatoes
Steamed Peas & Onions
Black Bean & Corn Salad
Grilled Vegetable Pizza (Vegetarian)

FRESH FOOD

LUNCH

Grilled BBQ Pork Chops
BBQ Pinto Beans
Arroz Con Queso with Rice
Black Bean & Corn Salad
Hearty Lentil & Potato Soup (Vegetarian)

ON THE RADAR

Change of commanders in Afghanistan starts clock on end of US war

MCT Campus

KABUL — Inside the heavily secured headquarters of the NATO-led forces here, the man who could be the last commander of America's longest war will officially take charge Sunday of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan.

Marine Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr. will replace Marine Gen. John Allen, who is expected to become NATO's supreme allied commander in Europe.

With the United States committed to removing its combat troops from Afghanistan by the end of 2014, Dunford's assignment will include winding down an American presence that stretches back to just after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Already, the number of American bases is shrinking, and the U.S. involvement in combat, as shown by the number of dead and wounded, is dropping. Several of the coun-

Tide has 5th loss in a row in overtime

BASKETBALL FROM PAGE 1

It was Alabama's fifth consecutive conference loss. The Tide felt confident going into this game because Arkansas also had previous conference losses. But even so, the team still enjoyed the game due to the competition between the two teams.

"It got fun," Meyers said. "It was a good game. We fought and it was very interesting."

Diasha Simmons led Alabama, scoring 21 points. "Shafontaye Meyers is a big shot taker," Hudson said. "She might not make them but there's no question that it's going to be a good shot. We had really good screens and got her to get that shot off. She stepped up and made that shot. Everybody looks at the final score and what I look at is what got us to that point."

Nikki Hegstetter started her first game for Alabama, scoring 4 points. Jasmine Robinson scored 14 points and Shafontaye Meyers added 11.

"Everybody looks at the final score and what I look at is what got us to that point," Hudson said.

The Crimson Tide gets a week off to practice and prepare for its next game against Auburn on Feb. 17 in Auburn. The Tigers are also 2-9 in conference and coming off of an eight-game losing streak. The Tide will tip off at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

tries that have fought side by side with the United States already have withdrawn their forces or intend to soon.

The United States and its allies have said they'll leave some troops behind to train and support Afghan security forces, but Dunford's assumption of command marks the beginning of the end of America's war in Afghanistan.

It's unlikely to be a smooth glide to the exit, and Dunford acknowledged that during his Senate confirmation hearing.

"I recognize that much work needs to be done and the challenges will be many," he said. "But with continued focus and commitment, I believe our goals are achievable."

He holds a pair of master's degrees, one in government from Georgetown University and another, in international relations, from Tufts University. Those can only help in a role that is often as much statesman as commander. But his calm approach and diplomatic skills will inevitably be tested by Afghan President Hamid Karzai, a sometimes prickly and unpredictable ally.

Among the problems Dunford inherits are helping to train and support an Afghan force that has little in the way of a supply chain and no significant air support of its own. There are other simmering issues with Karzai, such as control over detainees.

Also critical is providing

proper support for the pivotal presidential election scheduled for April 2014. That election would give the country its first president who is not Hamid Karzai since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion. Among Afghans and the international donors that account for nearly all of the nation's economy, the success of that election is widely seen as a bellwether of the nation's future.

And then there is the actual war. The Taliban have been hit hard since a U.S. troop surge in 2010. U.S. casualties are at their lowest point in years, but that is at least partly a reflection of Afghan units taking the lead more often, and Afghan casualties have been rising.

U.S. leaders say that among the positive things Dunford inherits are a marked improvement recently in the abilities of the Afghan troops. That allowed Obama to say last month that Afghan forces will take the lead sooner than expected, and that by spring they will do so across the country. Coalition forces including U.S. troops would still be fighting beside the Afghans, he said, "but in a training, assisting, advising role."

Meanwhile, so-called green-on-blue incidents in which Afghan security forces attack their NATO allies remain a serious threat, though measures instituted under Allen to reduce them seem to have had an effect.

The scheduled pomp and speechifying of the handover Sunday is unavoidable. But it is at odds with Dunford's under-the-radar style. Past commanders of the International Security Assistance Force, the official name of the NATO-led forces in Afghanistan, have included some of the nation's highest-profile military leaders, such as Army Gens. David Petraeus and Stanley McChrystal.

Dunford brings a reputation as being low-key and unflappable, even under rocket fire. He was nicknamed "Fighting Joe" after leading a Marine regiment during the 2003 invasion of Iraq in a style that not only was thoughtful and decisive but also carried little regard for personal risk. He led firefights from an unarmored Humvee, and during one rocket-propelled grenade attack he ran back and forth between his tanks to communicate with his commanders.

He hasn't sought attention from the media, and until President Barack Obama nominated him for the Afghanistan post in October, he was little known outside the military. In the Pentagon, though, Dunford is highly regarded. His rise through various leadership roles was so quick that he basically skipped the rank of major general. His last job before Afghanistan was deputy commandant of the Marine Corps.

Afghan forces have almost reached their troop strength

goal of 352,000. About 66,000 U.S. troops remain, down from the surge peak of about 100,000.

The timetable for reducing the size of that force is still unclear. Also, Obama has yet to announce a decision on how many — if any — will remain after 2014. None will, he said last month, if the Afghans won't agree to give them immunity from prosecution, which has been an issue in discussions with Afghan leaders over U.S. troop levels and has killed the possibility of any U.S. troops remaining in Iraq. Any who do remain in Afghanistan would have only limited roles with training and counterterrorism missions.

The job Dunford is taking has been both difficult and star-crossed. Army Gen. David McKiernan was fired, and McChrystal resigned after a Rolling Stone magazine article in which comments attributed to McChrystal and his staff undercut Obama and other senior civilian leaders. And Allen's nomination for the NATO command in Europe was held up when his named was briefly tied to an infidelity scandal that ended Petraeus' career as CIA director. Petraeus also had been the U.S. commander in Afghanistan.

Allen served 19 months in the post. If Dunford makes it all the way to December 2014, he would be the longest-serving, as well as potentially the last U.S. commander of the war.

Duke University fraternity under fire for Asian-themed party

MCT Campus

DURHAM — A Duke University fraternity has been suspended from its national affiliation after complaints about a themed party last week that featured Asian stereotypes.

About 200 Duke students gathered Wednesday to protest the Kappa Sigma party, which was held Friday. The party originally was called "Asia Prime" in social media posts that featured references to drinking sake and an exaggerated, stereotypical language, such as saying "Herro" instead of "Hello."

In response to student complaints, the fraternity changed the party theme to "International Relations" two days before the event. Still, photos from the party showed mostly white students wearing sumo wrestler costumes and chopsticks in their hair.

That was enough to inspire

Duke senior Ting-Ting Zhou, president of the Asian Students Association, to help organize Wednesday's protest.

"My parents gave up everything they had in China to come here to give me a better life: their language, their culture, their educational recognition, their careers," Zhou said. Other students "can pretend to be Asian for this one night, for this one party, but I have to be Asian my whole life. It trivializes me! It makes me feel like less than a human being."

The national Kappa Sigma Fraternity suspended the Duke fraternity's charter Wednesday pending an investigation, which should be finished in about two weeks, said Mic Wilson, national executive director. The Duke chapter must cease all operations and activities until the investigation is complete, Wilson said. Then, he added, the national board of directors will decide whether action needs to be taken.

"We certainly do not condone" the party, Wilson said. "Kappa Sigma is a very diverse organization, and we celebrate that. We have members from every walk of life, every culture, and we have a lot of brothers in our fraternity who are Asian-American."

Larry Moneta, Duke's vice president of student affairs, said the university is investigating the party but that it does not appear that the fraternity violated any specific university policy.

But that doesn't mean the fraternity's actions were acceptable, Moneta said.

"(We) continue to advise them and turn this as much as we can into a learning opportunity," Moneta said. "This is a persistent battle against ignorance that students arrive with, that students develop, and that is reinforced in various cultural conditions on and off the campus. This is nothing unique to Duke."

At Wednesday's protest on the lawn in front of Duke Chapel, students stood around a sign several feet high that bore the message "Race is not a party."

"A common counterargument we get is, 'OK, if it had been an 'America' party, which people do hold, then it would be OK,'" said Xiaohan Cai, a junior public policy major who participated in the protest. "But that's not a marginalized group, so the context is very important."

According to Duke's website, 22 percent of the undergraduate population was Asian-American in 2008.

This isn't the first time Duke's Kappa Sigmas have been in trouble. In the early 2000s, the chapter, affiliated with the national fraternity since 1873, lost its charter because of alcohol and social violations, Wilson said. The fraternity was only re-chartered, and thus allowed back onto Duke's campus, in April 2011.

Early graduation dates don't help job search

University officials said year-round recruiting can negatively impact alumni, entrance to job market

By Kyle Dennon
Contributing Writer

Each December, many UA students complete their degrees and graduate a semester earlier than the traditional four-year plan. However, according to UA officials, finishing a semester early does not necessarily benefit a graduate's job search.

Travis Railsback, executive director of the UA Career Center, said most companies recruit year-round.

"We see strong recruiting both during the fall semester for the December grads and during the spring for the May grads," he said.

During the period of time when December graduates

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We see strong recruiting both during the fall semester for the December grads and during the spring for the May grads.

— Travis Railsback

would likely be looking for employment, between Aug. 1, 2012 and Dec. 31, 2012, 1,300 jobs were posted on Crimson Careers, the University's online recruiting system. As of Feb. 7 of this year, 547 jobs had been posted.

Railsback also said there is no advantage to graduating early or disadvantage to graduating late from an employer's perspective.

"No, I really don't think

there is. What an employer is going to look at is the student's body of work in its entirety," Railsback said. "Certainly you're not marked in a negative way for going a little extra. It's not uncommon."

Brett Horsley, a December 2012 graduate, said the smaller graduation class doesn't necessarily equate to higher job availability.

"It's a myth that the smaller graduating class gives you

an advantage," Horsley said. "Companies know the graduating classes will be smaller and do not make available as many entry-level positions."

However, Horsley said he sees some benefit in graduating in December.

"A very important advantage of graduating in December is having the extra free time during the would-be spring semester to interview with numerous companies and critically weigh your options with less pressure," Horsley said.

Adam Mills, who also graduated in December, is currently completing an internship with Southwest Airlines and said early graduation provides a great opportunity for students

to complete internships. Mills said he had an easier time finding an internship for the spring semester than for a summer internship.

"When you graduate in December, I feel like you're cutting through a lot of people, because there are fewer people graduating at that time," Mills said. "I feel like I had a better shot at this internship this time than during the summer. The majority of people I work with have graduated."

Railsback said this is fairly uncommon at the University, but it follows national trends.

"Nationally, when the economy took a dip, there were actually companies that were hiring students, post graduation, into internship roles,"

Railsback said. "Here at The University of Alabama, we haven't seen a lot of that. It's much easier to get an internship while you still have student status."

Some December grads, like Amanda Hayes, who graduated with a major in communicative disorders, use the following spring semester to decompress from their time in school.

"Since most graduate programs for what career I am seeking only take new students in the fall and summer, I am working full-time at a daycare and enjoying my time off from school during this spring semester in hopes to be accepted in the summer," Hayes said.

Internet age makes online internships more popular

Working digitally opens up options nationwide, but impersonality may affect networking experience

By Sarah Robinson
Contributing Writer

Jacinda Green did not have the time or money as an undergraduate to manage an internship far from home. She thought her heavy course load and part-time job limited her search to companies in Tuscaloosa.

After searching internships.com, Green, who majored in public relations, found a virtual internship with a company in Massachusetts that would allow her to work from home. All she needed was a computer and internet access.

Virtual internships allow interns to work with companies from a remote loca-

tion. According to internships.com, 33 percent of employers hire virtual interns.

Joey Price is the CEO of Jumpstart:HR, a human resources company in Washington, D.C., that offers a virtual internship program to people of all fields and career interests. He said he started VIP in hopes of expanding opportunities for college students and professionals in transition who are denied entry level positions because of their lack of experience.

He said there will be times when students will have to communicate with employers in a virtual world, and the VIP program gives them the necessary exposure.

"We live in a time when a lot of companies collaborate digitally. Giving students a chance to work in virtual environment will set them up to be successful," Price said.

Kara Apel is the managing editor for University Chic, an online magazine written by college women that offers "up-to-date on the latest trends, resources, news and advice to help you make the most of your college experience," according to their website. Apel works with the company's publisher to hire interns for the online magazine publication.

She said quality communication skills are essential for virtual internships to work.

"You have to learn to communicate well via email and phone. Someone quick to respond shows good work ethic," Apel said. "We have had to let people go, because they were not responsive or doing their work."

Online internships also demand self-determination, which may not come natural to some, Apel said.

"You have to hold yourself accountable for getting the

work done because you don't have set hours or an adviser. That can be a little bit harder for people to adjust to if they are not used to it," she said.

Green said she landed her virtual internship with Cultural Zest, Inc., a non-profit organization that gives insight to different cultures. It didn't present financial burdens and fit well into her schedule, she said, but it also didn't give her the full

experience. Since she only had to promote the site through social media and blogging, she didn't get a chance to make the connections she was expecting.

"It was good experience, but if I would have done internships in an office, I would have gotten more out of it," Green said. "I would have gotten the chance to meet with people in person and make more connections."

Students house pets in dorms despite ban

PETS FROM PAGE 1

Despite this rule, Brown was not the only student who kept a pet in his dorm without getting caught during freshman year.

Sandra Clemmons, a recent graduate of the Capstone, said she kept Daisy, a white cat with grey spots, in her room for her entire first semester at the University.

"My roommate and I found it behind the dumpster at the gas station, and it was just so cute," Clemmons said. "I couldn't bear to get rid of it. So, I agreed to keep it in my room until we could find a home for it."

Clemmons said she bought Daisy a litter box, food and a bed and kept it in her bathroom in Ridgecrest South.

"Whenever the RA would come in and do room checks, my friend would come pick up Daisy and play with her until the RAs had finished doing their rounds," Clemmons said. "She would pick up the litter box, the food and

everything else. There was no evidence the cat was ever here."

Clemmons remembers one time when her roommates almost got caught with Daisy while Clemmons was in class.

"I used to just leave Daisy in the room while I went to class, and I would leave my door unlocked so my roommates could go in and get her out if there was an emergency," she said.

One day, though, Clemmons was in class when someone came in to check the smoke alarms, and her roommate had to take Daisy into her room.

"She told me that her first thought was to run in to my room and grab Daisy, but that would have been suspicious," Clemmons said. "So instead, she waited until the lady went into her room to check the alarm and then ran to mine, put Daisy and her bed in

the closet and shut the door. That was the closest we ever came to getting caught."

It was not at all simple for Clemmons, who said having a pet in college was a very big responsibility, both financially and physically.

“

My roommate and I found it behind the dumpster at the gas station, and it was just so cute. I couldn't bear to get rid of it. So, I agreed to keep it in my room until we could find a home for it.

— Sandra Clemmons

"When I got the cat I had to make sure it had all the right medications and vaccines and make sure it had food," Clemmons said. "It was easier having a cat than a dog though because I wouldn't have to come home and take it outside."

Brown found that having a dog during freshman year was a large responsibility and ultimately had to give Chief to the local animal shelter because he couldn't afford to pay for the shots.

"We had to take it out all the time, and it was a huge responsibility to have the dog. But, we loved having him," Brown said. "Eventually it got to be too expensive, and we could not afford to pay for the vet and its shots."

After first semester, Clemmons said she re-evaluated having a pet in her dorm room and decided to send it home to stay with her mom for the remainder of the year.

"I have to admit for the first few weeks coming back it was so sad to me not seeing Daisy's face every time I walked into my bedroom but I knew it was better for my roommates and I if she wasn't there," Clemmons said.

Clemmons brought Daisy back to school during sophomore year once she had an apartment of her own, despite the \$150 non-refundable pet fee along with \$15 a month.

"I didn't mind paying the pet fee because I loved Daisy so much," Clemmons said. "It was totally worth everything I had to go through."

Amanda Rivera, a sophomore majoring in public relations, said she currently has a dog off-campus, but was too afraid to keep one in her dorm during freshman year.

"I guess you could call me a goody two-shoes, but I was too afraid of having a dog during my freshman year because I knew I would have a good chance of getting caught," Langston said. "If I had gotten caught I would have had to give the dog away and that's not something I could bear."

CUPID'S CORNER

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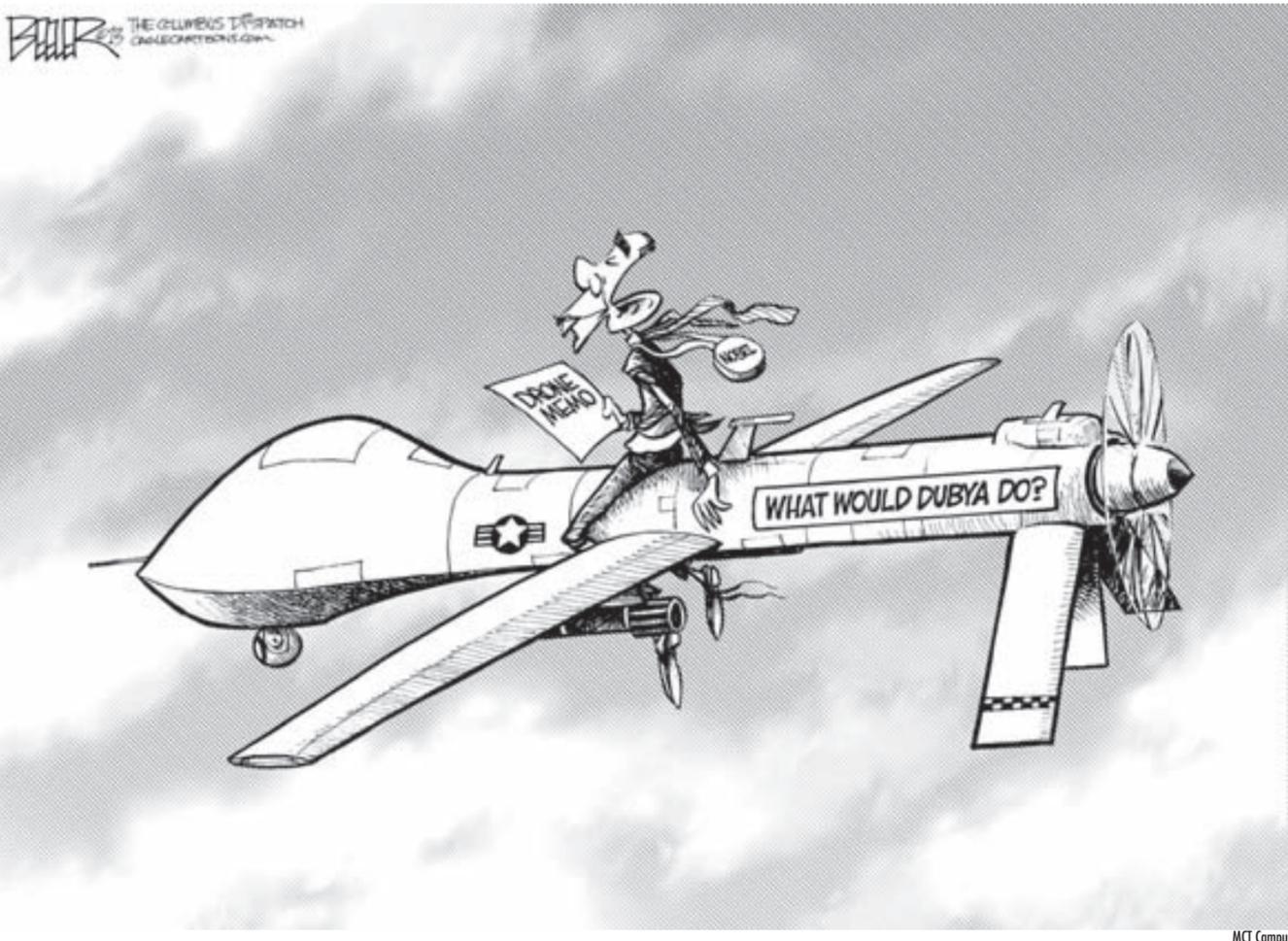
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OUR VIEW

Blaming CW skirts real issue

When several people took issue with a controversial quote by a Student Health Center official in the Feb. 4 Crimson White article "Consent a concern on campus," at least one person took his case to University President Judy Bonner via email. The reader, who signed his email to the president "concerned reader," said he was "disturbed" by the quote, which presented the official's opinions about false accusations of sexual assault.

In short: President Bonner told a concerned reader of the CW that our sexual assault reporting was inaccurate. It wasn't.

Bonner responded with the following, in its entirety.

"I understand your concerns. As is often the case with student newspapers and unfortunately professional newspapers as well, reporting is not as accurate as we would hope. The interview that The CW did with [the official] was conducted last November on an entirely different topic. As I understand it, The CW selected comments from the interview on an entirely different topic and wrote a story about rape. I have carboned Margaret Garner, associate dean for the College of Community Health Sciences. The Department of Health Education and Promotion reports to her. She can provide a more comprehensive response. But, thank you for sharing your concerns with me."

Bonner said this without consulting with anyone at The Crimson White, nor anyone in the Office of Student Media for that matter, to determine if we had, in fact, not been "as accurate as we would hope." In fact, we had been accurate in reporting that quote, and we have the audio recording to prove it.

A lot of confusion arose after our story came out on Feb. 4. That's understandable - the topic we addressed in our reporting, sexual assault, elicits strong emotions from many. However, despite Bonner's incorrect assumption that we misquoted a University official, The Crimson White made a single mistake in the story, which we corrected on the front page in our Feb. 5 edition. We failed to clarify that the quotes in question were obtained from the SHC official in an interview conducted in November 2012, but that interview and the quotes were certainly on the record and certainly about sexual assault on campus.

No quotes were spliced together or selectively chosen to somehow misrepresent a University official's statements about sexual assault. Far from it. The November interview began with a discussion about sexual health, and moved on to questions and answers about sexual consent. As the audio recording and transcript from the interview in November makes absolutely clear, the official was quoted word-for-word accurately, and in context, on her views on sexual consent. We included these quotes in the Feb. 4 article because they were directly related to the subject matter.

That Bonner would respond to this reader's email and attempt to assuage his concerns by simply stating that The Crimson White was wrong shows a startling willingness to avoid addressing a controversial and far-reaching issue on campus like sexual assault.

That Bonner would respond to this reader's email and attempt to assuage his concerns by simply stating that The Crimson White was wrong shows a startling willingness to avoid addressing a controversial and far-reaching issue on campus like sexual assault. The quotes we obtained from the SHC official were controversial precisely because they showed that sexual assault and issues of consent might affect more students than the University would care to admit.

After the reaction to this story, we have decided as an editorial board that issues of sexual assault and sexual consent need more of our attention. As we get deeper into the issue, we can assure you that our reporting will remain strong, ethical and accurate. It is our hope that the UA administration will take notice of both our reporting and respect that we're doing it ethically and accurately.

Our View is the consensus of The Crimson White editorial board.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

UA's opportunity for increased sustainability is now

By SoRelle Wyckoff
Senior Staff Columnist



SoRelle Wyckoff

The University of Alabama is covered in construction projects. Preparing for the future with a new recreation center, dorms and education facilities is smart, but it could be smarter.

As the University builds, they should be considering options to make the Capstone more sustainable. The new buildings will provide shelter and amenities to UA students, but that good will finish once the student leaves our campus. Adding solar paneling to the roof of our new buildings would do good for the student long after they leave Alabama.

Currently, Bama Dining has two solar paneled golf carts. These golf carts are zero emission and can also be charged when sunlight is not available. That's awesome. But think about how much energy could be saved at a larger level, like a dorm roof.

It's well known that our energy sources are becoming a greater issue as they continue to deplete. It's also well known that our current energy habits are dangerous for our habitat. Acting sooner, rather than later, means more energy will be saved and better habits will develop.

The catch? The price - solar paneling is expensive, even for a

school that makes \$7 million on parking tickets. But, the sticker shock can be comforted with the after-effects of installation.

Unlike some states, Alabama government incentives can apply to institutional sectors. These tax incentives are more instant gratifications for solar panel users, but over time, monetary benefits will pile up.

Within 10 years, the amount of money saved on energy costs will start to become profit. UA officials estimate the time it would take to make it a worthy financial investment would be closer to 40 years, but the current emphasis on alternative fuel suggests these types of investment will be profitable sooner rather than later. Year to year, the savings might look small, but when the savings are added together, there will be impressive numbers.

The University is constantly planning ahead for its growing body of

students, but these plans are often on a two-to-five-year spectrum. University administration needs to break the habit of looking ahead with a short-term mindset and instead, should start to consider a larger picture, especially when it comes to construction and campus growth. The new dorms, while swanky, are not built to last half the time that Tutwiler has.

Because Alabama is run on taxpayers' dollars, these options must certainly be considered, as adding solar paneling would not only do good for the University, but for all residents of the state. Other than driving down energy expenditures and reducing Alabama's carbon footprint, the University could also use its purchasing power to drive down the cost of solar paneling for other homes and offices in Alabama. Surely, the project of solar paneling will be far more expensive than current construction costs, but the University is facing this option with the perfect opportunity. At this

moment, The University of Alabama is doing very well monetarily, and with the continued growth of our sports programs, Alabama is an intelligent financial investment.

With these resources, Alabama should in turn invest in the future of the school, and focusing on sustainability is intelligent and admirable. Alabama would then become a leader in the use of solar power and sustainable projects, bolstering our academic and intelligence alongside the prowess of our athletics.

Instead of only providing shelter for students, the University should take the opportunity of property growth to provide smart energy habits and leadership via example. Solar paneling in roofs, while expensive, would do even more for students' futures than the University already promises to provide.

SoRelle Wyckoff is a senior majoring in history and journalism. Her column runs on Mondays.

“University administration needs to break the habit of looking ahead with a short-term mindset and instead, should start to consider a larger picture, especially when it comes to construction and campus growth. The new dorms, while swanky, are not built to last half the time that Tutwiler has.”

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

University of Alabama must step up its environmental game

If there's one thing that I, a native New Englander, have learned since moving down South it's that the people here don't do things half-way. You don't build largish football stadiums or make somewhat sweet tea.

This seems especially true at The University of Alabama, where you don't mostly fill up Coleman Coliseum when gymnastics has a pink meet - you sell out more than an hour beforehand.

True, sometimes it could be argued that our school doesn't know when enough is enough, as with the opulent luxury of freshman dorms or the sheer enormity of greek houses, but overall the University population's extraordinary talent for grabbing onto a goal and seeing it through to the outer reaches of possibility is a rare gift. It's a gift that can - and has - done much good, not just for

the campus, but for the rest of the world as well.

I'm afraid, however, that we're not doing as well on all fronts. In the field of environmental stewardship, Auburn, not to mention the rest of the SEC and the country, is beating us into the dust. Our recycling program is lackluster at best; I once heard another freshman say that she couldn't find a single recycling bin in her building, and had to take all her paper and plastics to another dorm.

It's no wonder so few UA students recycle. And I can't have been the only one to almost go into shock upon discovering that the University's dining halls still provide styrofoam take-out boxes, used and thrown out by the thousands daily.

Don't get me wrong - there are plenty of individuals on this campus who seem to care immensely

about the future of our planet. After attending just a few meetings of the Environmental Council, and participating in barely an hour of public petitioning on behalf of a proposed Green Fund, I can say for certain that there are students among us who have invested their lives - their days, their educations and their future careers - for the good of us all. And there are many more students whose only crime seems to be apathy, or perhaps ignorance.

I say "only crime," but apathy is damning enough. Somewhere along the line someone seems to have decided that issues of sustainability and efficiency belong to the vegans and the eco-terrorists. The environmental aspirations of the businessman, the engineer - and, yes, the vegan too - are turned into unnecessarily uphill battles by a culturally ubiquitous dismissal,

and in some cases fear, of the kinds of improvements that have literally dozens of benefits and virtually no drawbacks.

Green energy solutions - even something as simple as replacing window glass - mean buying less fossil fuel, which could help balance both our financial and ecological bankbooks, at least one of which is undoubtedly in the red. Simple changes produce big results on all sides.

No one can tell me that our campus lacks the spirit or unity to keep pace with any school in the country or the world in terms of innovation and productivity, yet we lag behind even the most menial of standards. I've seen firsthand the intense passion our students can bring to an issue: It's time to step up.

Lauren Pratt is a freshman majoring in anthropology.

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TWEET AT US

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The Crimson White reserves the right to edit all guest columns and letters to the editor.



TOBACCO

Tobacco ban proposed by SGA inhibits freewill, hinders tradition and relationships

By Regan Williams
Staff Columnist



Regan Williams

The tobacco ban was proposed before the SGA Senate two weeks ago. As a concerned student on this campus, I have only opposition for this far reaching measure, which not only bans smoking, but all tobacco products from all areas of campus.

While the SGA does not have the formal power to ban something from campus, it does have the ability to advocate on the behalf of the student body, a power that has resulted in very real changes to policy in the past. With that in mind, I am firmly against any type of a tobacco ban at the Capstone.

Perhaps the largest reason that I am opposed to a tobacco-free campus is also the most obvious: I do not want other people trying tell me and other student how to live our lives. College is a time to explore new options outside of the rules that guided us previously. Part of that exploration is making choices that, yes, may be harmful.

By taking away the freedom for a student to make a choice

that is completely legal elsewhere, this University would be taking away a part of the student experience. I do not want to live under a patriarchal system that knows what I need better than myself.

At its core, it is not a matter of whether I want to smoke. Rather, this is an issue of whether I have the option to smoke if I so chose. We are now adults and we should be able to make our own choices, even if they are not always the greatest. If we are not allowed to do so at this point in our lives, then we will fail to grow from them.

Bonding is a second critical issue pertinent to the smoking debate. Smoking on campus has created smoker's "corners" near residence

halls and academic buildings that facilitate student bonding. It builds relationships in a way that no other outlet has.

These relationships mean something to people. When I was a freshman, finding friends was not easy. Even though I was not a regular smoker, simply hanging out in a smoker's area made friendships that have lasted. When considering the ban, weigh in the role it plays in building friendships.

The importance of tradition must also be considered in a smoking ban. The best example of this is the third Saturday in October. After we defeat Tennessee in football, the tradition has always been to smoke a cigar. A difficult situation is created. We can either dismantle this tradition - a nearly impossible task - or exceptions could be created, which would undermine the legitimacy of the ban.

The final reason I am

against the smoking ban is because it leaves no options for smoking to certain groups on campus. For example, international students live on campus and for many of them, it is part of their culture to smoke. For us to ban it from our campus would harm how international students view our campus and would potentially form a barrier to future enrollment.

Another major group affected are the individuals who smoke are trapped on campus all day and would have nowhere else to smoke. These people are teachers, grad students and those who live on campus and in fraternity houses. Leaving them an option to

smoke, then this university is destroying the freedom that college purports to foster and instead, replaces it with a paternalistic guidance.

A smoking ban is nothing short of bad for the student body. It takes away rights, not protects them. The point of college is to discover who you are. It isn't to have authorities dictate how students live their lives. If we are to keep the spirit of college alive, then we must not allow a smoking ban to take place on this campus.

“By taking away the freedom for a student to make a choice that is completely legal elsewhere, this University would be taking away a part of the student experience. I do not want to live under a patriarchal system that knows what I need better than myself.”

Regan Williams is a junior majoring in political science and communication studies and is an SGA Senator for the College of Arts and Sciences. His column runs biweekly.

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The Crimson White

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Cyclists, drivers should respect rules of the road

I am a graduate student in geology at the University who lives off-campus and rides a bike to work every day. I ride east-west on Paul Bryant and University Blvd. Even after adhering to all the proper etiquette on the road, I still sometimes feel unsafe on these "shared" roadways.

After tornados and shootings have claimed the lives of its student body, the last thing this University needs is a dead cyclist. This is a real concern. I have almost been hit quite a few times by texters.

If you are a cyclist and would like to ride on the road, then you had better follow these simple rules if you want any respect. Likewise, if you drive and don't

want to kill any cyclists, you should follow a similar set of rules:

Cyclists should not: a.) text and ride, b.) ride on the left side of the road against oncoming traffic (especially on University or on campus in the bike lanes- this is especially unpredictable and angering to cyclists and drivers), c.) pass cars on the right, d.) run stoplights and signs.

Drivers should not: a.) text and drive, b.) yell or honk at cyclists, for that is extraordinarily dangerous and idiotic, c.) pass cyclists really quickly right before a red light.

Fast rabbits driving to and from work generally need to

slow down. Increasing your speed beyond the limit posted on signs doesn't really get you there any faster. The stoplights will give time for the slow and steady turtle to catch up anyway, so why make the road more dangerous? Just chill out. Leave earlier in the morning so you're not late.

To the pedestrian: You always have the right of way. Good for you, but watch out for drivers/cyclists who turn corners while texting. And you should not walk out into the street while texting. Did anyone ever teach you to look both ways?

Brandon Lutz is a graduate student in geological sciences.

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Capstone International to showcase opportunities

Study abroad fair on Feb. 12 will offer brochures, advice to students interested in studying outside U.S.

By Taylor Veazey
Contributing Writer

Capstone International Academic Programs will host a study abroad fair on the second floor of the Ferguson Center Tuesday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for students who want to see all the options available for coursework outside the U.S.

The fair will feature representatives from 14 different affiliate programs, as well as information on the 36 UA faculty-led program options, to answer specific questions from students.

“

I think a lot of people don't want to study abroad because they think they can't afford it. But if you go to the fair, it's a good way to get information to know that you'll be able to do it

— Cassidy Ellis

Brittney McMillian, a study abroad advisor, said the fair is for those who are thinking about studying abroad and want to begin the process of figuring out which program fits what they want. Capstone International Academic

Programs holds information sessions throughout the year and offers advisers to guide you in the process, but McMillian said the fair is the best starting point.

“This is the best way to get very specific program

information because you're getting it straight from the expert in that program,” McMillian said.

Along with brochures and information on each program, the UA Scholarship and Financial Aid Office will also be available to answer questions about applying for scholarships or using current scholarships to pay for a study abroad experience.

Cassidy Ellis, a senior majoring in history, spent last summer studying in London and Barcelona through an affiliate program. She said the study abroad

fair is a good place to see all of your options and to gather information.

“I think a lot of people don't want to study abroad because they think they can't afford it,” Ellis said. “But if you go to the fair, it's a good way to get information to know that you'll be able to.”

McMillian encouraged every student interested in studying abroad to look into their options. She said studying abroad enhances any college experience.

“Study abroad gives you life skills and experiences you couldn't get else-

IF YOU GO

- **What:** Capstone International Study Abroad Fair
- **When:** Tuesday, Feb. 12, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- **Where:** 2nd Floor, Ferguson Student Center

where,” McMillian said. “It sounds cliché, but it really is life-changing.”

Alpha Psi Omega selling Valentine-O-Grams for charity

APO members willing to sing, dance, recite poetry on or off campus for higher price from Feb. 6 to 20

By Tori Linville
Contributing Writer

For the third year, The University of Alabama's theater honor society Alpha Psi Omega is providing its Valentine-O-Gram service from Feb. 6 to Feb. 20.

Those interested can pay \$10 for the performers of APO to deliver a gesture completely tailored to the client's request. Satisfaction is guaranteed or the client gets their 10 dollars back, no questions asked. The funds raised from the Valentine-O-Grams will benefit The West Alabama AIDS Outreach nonprofit organization.

Patrick Croce, a senior majoring in Spanish and theater, is helping to organize the Valentine-O-Grams.

“You pay \$10, and you'll get one of us [APO members] to go anywhere on campus to sing any song you want, recite any kind of poem you

want, or do something silly for any person or group of people you want,” Croce said.

“It's all up to what you want.”

This year APO aims to increase their client satisfaction by venturing off-campus as well, for a higher fee for travel expenses. Prices will be adjusted based on how far the client's preferred location is, Croce explained.

“It's double the normal amount because we have

to drive and all that stuff. That's where the negotiable part comes in,” Croce said.

“If there's somebody in Northport in the middle of nowhere that says ‘Hey, I'd like one of these,’ it would naturally need to be at least a little bit more than ‘Hey, we're at Moe's.’ We could say negotiable \$20 just to make it simple and flexible and easy.”

With the performances left completely to the decision of the customer, the actors and actresses involved with the

Valentine-O-Grams anxiously await orders of songs, sonnets and silly acts to perform.

“I'm hoping to put a few love sonnets under my belt,” Samuel Hardy, a sophomore majoring in theater, said. “I love Valentine's Day and in our culture today there's a severe lack of Valentine's Day spirit. There's actually a lot of animosity, and I think that with the Valentine-O-Grams we're spreading the message that by doing these sometimes really kooky things you don't have to be bitter about Valentine's Day.”

The performers of APO are not shocked to see their Valentine-O-Grams are not only a hit with significant others, but are a trend with siblings and friends as well.

Gerard Jones, a sophomore majoring in Spanish and musical theatre, said for those not interested in Valentine's Day at all, the Valentine-O-Grams can have

“

I'm hoping to put a few love sonnets under my belt. I love Valentine's Day and in our culture today there's a severe lack of Valentine's Day spirit. There's actually a lot of animosity, and I think that with the Valentine-O-Grams we're spreading the message that by doing these sometimes really kooky things you don't have to be bitter about Valentine's Day.

— Samuel Hardy

FAST FACTS

- Valentine-O-Grams being delivered by member of Alpha Psi Omega through Feb. 20
- The custom gestures tailored completely to the client and cost \$10
- Proceeds benefit The West Alabama AIDS Outreach
- Satisfaction is guaranteed or you can get your money back

an appeal.

“There's something fun about it. It's something different that you can look forward to because you have random people running around campus singing and reading poetry,” Jones said. “And even if you aren't into Valentine's and you don't want to do a serious love song, you could do something different. Or you could be really weird and send one

to somebody who knows you don't like them.”

Growing in popularity, the Valentine-O-Grams program has several customer requests pending from students, faculty and staff and others.

“No one is safe from the love,” Croce said.

For Valentine-O-Gram requests, contact APO at apobards@gmail.com.

Tide moves to 7-3 in conference play



CW | Jingyu Wan
Alabama defeated LSU 60-57 in Coleman Coliseum on Saturday, Feb. 9 to improve to 15-8 for the season.





Food · Spirits Sports · Music

Weekly Specials

Monday
All You Can Eat Wings
2pm-close

Tuesday
Fish Tacos

Wednesday
Cajun Wednesday

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All You Can Eat Catfish
2pm-close

Friday
Meat & Three
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Bama Dining helps students with allergies

By Maragaret Wilbourne
Contributing Writer

For many students living on campus, dining halls are a staple, and a quick, easy meal between dorm life and classrooms. For some students, though, food allergies can cause dining hall experiences to be anything but ordinary.

In a recent study, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention revealed that 15 million people in the United States currently have a food allergy, and the frequency continues to increase. With food

allergies ranging from fish, gluten or trace amounts of nut oil, both the dining hall workers and students have to be on guard to avoid rushed trips to the hospital.

Corinne Jenkins, a freshman majoring in economics, is familiar with the complications of food allergies. This year, Jenkins, who is allergic to nuts, has been rushed to DCH Regional Medical Center twice after exposure while eating. Neither incident was related to Bama Dining.

"I'm allergic to tree nuts, not peanuts, which are mostly wal-

nuts and pecans," Jenkins said. "If I eat nuts I go into anaphylactic shock - my throat begins to swell shut."

According to the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network, food allergies occur when the body's immune system attacks food proteins by mistake. After an individual ingests a particular food, the body triggers a sudden release of chemicals that result in an allergic reaction. Symptoms can range from mild rashes, hives or itching to severe trouble with breathing.

Even with a life-threatening

allergy, Jenkins said her fears about eating in campus dining halls were put to rest by the convenience of her particular allergy.

"I definitely worry about what I eat in the dining halls, but luckily with my particular allergy I have to mostly just be concerned with the baked goods and desserts," she said. "You don't find too many nuts in main dishes, although there are more pecans used down here in the South than I'm used to."

For students whose allergies include a broader range of

foods, Bama Dining offers services to help avoid unwanted allergen encounters.

"The University of Alabama Dining Services is committed to accommodating the dietary needs of students," Kelsey Faust, a Bama Dining representative said. "Our residential director, Ed Robertson, regularly meets with students who identify themselves as having food allergies, gluten intolerances or special dietary needs. He reviews food allergies and preferences with students and develops individualized food plans for them."

Additionally, Bama Dining's food policies are posted at the entrance of each dining hall. Under a bold heading that reads "Food Allergy Awareness," students are notified that the food being served may have had contact with common food allergens such as wheat, eggs, milk and fish.

Students with questions concerning an allergy or food ingredients should contact the Food Service Manager or Supervisor for Bama Dining. For more information call (205) 348-6816, or email mealplans@bamadining.com.

COLUMN | FASHION

Leather, lace trends take over NYC Fashion Week

By Becky Robinson

As the nefarious blizzard Nemo descends on the Northeast, New York Fashion Week draws to a close. We've already learned about the electric neons, the tribal prints and the black and white graphics, but what else did Fashion Week have to offer?

Leather was a hot trend that graced the runways of Alexander Wang, Proenza Schuler and Derek Lam. Each designer worked the leather in a different way, though, offering a plethora of choices for any style.

Wang displayed futuristic, metallic leather jackets. This bold trend may be harder to find for a reasonable price, but that's what the Internet is for. Wang's jackets were also on the larger side, engulfing the models' thin frames. For an everyday look, you may want to downsize a bit and show off some of the curves you have - since most of us aren't model thin.

Proenza Schuler reworked the traditional biker jacket by adding neon pops of patchwork. By incorporating two trends in one, the design pair was able to create fun jackets than can spice up any outfit. Like Wang's jackets, Proenza Schuler's tended to be on the roomier side as well.

Lastly, leather dresses and skirts were a huge trend this season. I'll be the first to admit I'd be a bit skeptical to rock a full black leather dress like those seen at Derek Lam and Jason Wu, but leather skirts can be a great way to add texture to your wardrobe.

Reed Krakoff offered fitted, tribal print leather skirts, which, astonishingly enough, look fairly easy to wear everyday. Paired with a sheer blouse or thick, chunky sweater, leather skirts give you a way to show

off your figure while playing with texture and pattern.

Another trend seen this Fashion Week is one often paired with the aforementioned leather: lace. Designers like Jill Stuart, Vera Wang and BCBG showed dresses that were frilly, sheer and overlain with delicate lace. Think La Perla, but for your whole body.

Lace may generally be considered to be the fabric of a gentle Southern belle or of a lady of questionable morals from the red light district, but more and more it's becoming a fabric anyone can feel confident in.

Stuart's dresses were beautifully constructed - elbow-length sleeves with a flowing knee-length body. Her lacy constructions would be perfect for a job interview or a classy date night. Because the dress is so much the focus here, slick your hair back in a bun and keep the makeup minimal and classic.

Vera Wang's lace dresses were much the same: delicate in construction and classic. With kimono-esque necklines, Wang's creations would be a choice for a night out or an event function. Her color palette was bolder than Stuart's, consisting of primary blues and emerald greens.

BCBG and runway staple Donna Karan both pushed the limits of racy when it came to lace this spring. BCBG debuted sheer dresses, save for the strips of opaque fabric covering the models' private areas.

While this trend may be hard to pull off - especially in conservative Alabama - it'd be fun to at least throw one of these dresses on in a dressing room. And, if you're bold enough, the long flowing dresses will detract from the fact we can see almost all of you.

These two runway trends are timeless, which means anything you buy in the post 2013 season will last you for years to come.

Women join a capella group

By Kristen Feyt
Contributing Writer

No Strings Attached, a new organization at the University that will be holding their breakout concert Monday is true to their name - there are no instrumentalists involved in the a capella group.

Originally, No Strings Attached was billed as an all-male group, called "Subject To Change," but then decided to open the group to female vocalists.

Aaron Shaw, a senior majoring in biology and psychology and president of No Strings Attached, said the addition of female singers benefited the a cappella group.

"Because of the hurricane, Get On Board Day and auditions were delayed, and we didn't quite get the turn out we wanted to," Shaw said. "The music director at the time had the idea that we should add women to the group, and I thought it was a great idea, and then we became No Strings Attached."

Subject To Change decided to change their name to No Strings Attached as a play on words, signifying that the group no longer has any limitations on who is allowed to join, as well as referencing the absence of any instrumental accompaniment in their performances.

At first, the members of No Strings Attached were not close following the addition of new members, but Allyson Azar, a vocalist in the group and a sophomore majoring in theatre, said they now have become nothing less than a family.

"For a while it was just kind of separated, just because we were still trying to get to know each other,"



CW | Austin Bigoney

No Strings Attached will perform Feb. 11 in the Moody Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m.

IF YOU GO...

- **What:** No Strings Attached A Cappella Concert
- **Where:** Moody Recital Hall
- **When:** Monday, Feb. 11 at 7:30 p.m.
- **Cost:** Free

she said. "But actually, once we started taking pictures for our fliers and began trying to give the group a face, that's when we started to really get to know each other."

Just as with its membership, No Strings Attached does not have any limitations with the types of songs they sing. The group covers a wide variety of genres that

range from pop music to classic Disney songs.

"We sing absolutely anything basically," Shaw said. "Right now, we do some more choral, classical songs but also a lot of pop and classic rock, even some country."

No Strings Attached has created a home for its members. Serving as an escape for the vocalists from their daily lives, the group helps the members feel like individuals at the University, opposed to being just another face in a crowd of students.

Nicky Bolus, a member of No Strings Attached and a sophomore majoring in mechanical engineering, said the group serves as a place where he can express himself.

"I did a cappella and choirs all throughout middle school and high school," Bolus said. "I really wanted to continue that in college and find a

creative outlet to just express myself and get out of the prison of numbers that is the College of Engineering. I don't mean anything bad. I love engineering. I just needed some source of relief from that."

Jessie Echeverria, a vocalist in the group and sophomore majoring in vocal performance, said the concert will be fun and enjoyable for the audience.

"The audience can expect humor. We have some hilarious things planned," Echeverria said. "They can expect a lot of just cool music. Our concert showcases not just us doing group songs together, but there's a lot of variety where everyone does their own thing. It's going to be really cool."

No Strings Attached will be holding a concert Monday, Feb. 11, in the Moody Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free to all that attend.

COLUMN | FILM

Cultural story can be confusing, hard to follow yet beautifully portrays sisterhood, loyalty

By Dana Woodruff

An older woman's hands paint delicate Chinese symbols on a fragile silk fan, with soft oriental music crooning in the background. The candlelight flickers, casting shadows on the fan as the light traces the wrinkles of the worm hands that so deftly guide the old-fashioned ink pen to the silk.

This is the beginning of "Snow Flower and the Secret Fan," based on the novel of the same name by Chinese-American author Lisa See. The 2011 historical drama film is primarily about two young girls in 19th century China, a time and place where Chinese women were forced to endure harsh treatments physically, emotionally and socially, leading a dull life without much laughter or genuine happiness.

Snow Flower, the chubby daughter of an affluent upper class man, and Lily, a plain and



Rotten Tomatoes

humble girl belonging to a poor family, have about as much in common as a gold vase and a pile of dirt. But they are destined to be lifelong companions, more like sisters than friends.

As young children, before their paths ever cross, they are introduced to the concept of foot binding - the old and unbear-

ably painful Chinese practice of breaking the toes and binding them under the sole to create the perfect three-inch foot that was found to be very attractive to men at the time. Snow Flower and Lily have their feet bound on the very same day, about a year before meeting. Their matchmaker - assigned to arrange their mutual friendship as well as their future marriage partners - pairs them as "laotong," meaning "old sames." They are bonded for eternity in the closest kind of friendship, deigned to be each other's confidante, growing up together as the kind of women their society has molded them to be.

When Lily marries first and moves in with her husband and his family, her new stepmother does not approve of her relationship with Snow Flower and forbids them to see each other. This unforeseen hindrance ushers in a new period of secrecy and furtive

communication between the two lifelong friends, who begin writing to each other in the folds of elegant silk fans in a secret language called "Nu shu," often with a servant acting as an intermediary. The story follows them through the trials and tribulations of adulthood and childbearing, physical and emotional abuse, pain and even death. It follows them through the typhoid epidemic and their mutual struggles, the loss of family members, and the disruption of a lifestyle caused by the Taiping Revolution. With each new obstacle, their friendship is tested, strengthened and nearly broken, but never completely destroyed.

But deeply entwined with the story of Snow Flower and Lily is the parallel story of their descendants in present-day Shanghai. Sophia Liao, a quiet girl with a strict, spiteful stepmother and a distant father, becomes best friends with her

tutor, Nina Wei. Sophia's stepmother disapproves of their friendship because she believes Nina to be too wild, corrupting and distracting Sophia with upbeat pop music, dancing and fun. Sophia and Nina, direct descendants of Snow Flower and Lily, respectively, decide to solidify their pact as sisters in a traditional "laotong" agreement after learning about their ancestors doing the same.

Despite Sophia's stepmother's disapproval, the two girls continue to communicate via silk fan, much like the way Snow Flower and Lily once did. Their friendship also takes a beating as they deal with adolescent drama on the road to adulthood, unforeseen death, demanding jobs and relationships. After a serious fight, the two girls end up going their separate ways; Sophia moves to Australia and Nina stays behind.

But during this hiatus in their

friendship, Sophia ends up in a coma in a hospital in Shanghai after being hit by a car. Upon receiving a phone call from the hospital, Nina is baffled. What was Sophia doing in Shanghai? Why was Nina's the last number dialed on her phone? Why was she carrying around a manuscript and a man's suit in her bag?

"Snow Flower and the Secret Fan" can be confusing at times and often hard to follow, but it is an interesting juxtaposition of past and present-day laotong friendships. It's historically accurate and beautifully produced, tugging on viewers' heartstrings. It's about Nina's quest for answers and Sophia's lifelong search for identity. It's about the infallible loyalty and enduring friendship between Snow Flower and Lily. But most of all, it's about the unbreakable bonds of sisterhood, bonds that can only be strengthened with time.

BASEBALL

Experience, strength should benefit Alabama

By Billy Whyte
Staff Reporter

Two I's were ultimately the downfall of The University of Alabama baseball team's pitching staff last year: injuries and inexperience.

Four freshman — Justin Kamplain, Jon Keller, Spencer Turnbull and Taylor Guilbeau — played significant time in the starting rotation, and the end result was the Crimson Tide's first losing season under head coach Mitch Gaspard and a 5.07 ERA, compared to a 3.92 ERA the year before.

But with the extra experience and return of redshirt

“

As tough as it was for those guys, they've now had time to really evaluate what works and what doesn't work out on the field.

— Mitch Gaspard

juniors Tucker Hawley and Taylor Wolfe, senior catcher and infielder Brett Booth expects the pitching staff to become a reliable strength compared to last year's Achilles' heel.

“I think they look a world better this year,” Booth said. “Last year we were just

focused on throwing strikes, but now this year, with a year of experience under the belt, now we are kind of taking that next step to making pitches, and picking people off, and kind of controlling the game. They've been doing an excellent job of that at being a pitcher and not just getting up

there and throwing strikes.”

Gaspard said last year's experience and the development the pitching staff has had during the offseason should make a huge difference in the staff's performance.

“I think for starters, last year, just the experience was invaluable,” Gaspard said. “As tough as it was for those guys, they've now had time to really evaluate what works and what doesn't work out on the field. And with that, in the offseason as a coaching staff, you are able to prepare a lot better and help prepare those guys for the failures that they had. “Now that the command has gotten better, I think our

preparation and the way we have prepared each kid individually knowing what he is, knowing what his strengths and weakness are has made them better moving forward. In all of the innings we've pitched now, just in the past two weeks, we've pitched about 160 innings, and we've walked 23 batters. Just last year, for an example, in the Arkansas series we walked close to 30 in three games.”

The return of Hawley and Wolfe will be a major addition to the rotation as it gives the team two players with substantial NCAA experience on an otherwise relatively young roster. Both players are coming back from Tommy John

surgery, and while Wolfe is still recovering and will be more of a factor mid-season, Gaspard expects Hawley to make a strong impact early.

“He gives us the ability early in the season as a guy who can close, who can set up and do some things in the back of the game, and from there we will decide do we work him back into the starting rotation and what is best for this team,” Gaspard said. “He certainly gives us a lot of flexibility, and that one thing that hurt last year is you want that older guy who really understands how to pitch, a guy that really commands the strike zone, and that's what he does best.”

SOFTBALL

Crimson Tide out scores opponents 43-12 in UNI-Dome Classic

CW Staff

The top-ranked Alabama softball team opened the 2013 season in impressive fashion as the Crimson Tide claimed the UNI-Dome Classic in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Alabama outscored its opponents 43-12, scoring eight or more runs in four of the five games. The Tide hit .384, smashed nine home runs and stole 20 bases.

In the circle, Alabama pitched at a 2.12 clip, striking out 38 in 33 innings. Opponents hit .230 against the Tide hurlers. Haylie McCleney led an impressive weekend from the Tide's rookies.

The Morris, Ala., native hit .722 (13-for-18) with nine runs, two doubles, a triple, two home runs, four RBI and five stolen

bases. The four freshmen combined to hit .622 (23-for-37) with 11 stolen bases and 17 runs.

Senior Kayla Braud batted .429 with six stolen bases while senior Keima Davis provided the punch with three home runs, 11 RBI and a .364 batting average. In the circle, junior Jackie Traina went 3-0 on the weekend, sporting a 0.49 ERA while striking out 24 in 14 1/3 innings pitched. Opponents hit .170 against Traina.

McCleney, Traina, Davis, Kaila Hunt and Danae Hays were named to the all-tournament team. Against host Northern Iowa, the two teams played in front of an NCAA regular season single game crowd of 5,084. Alabama will open its home portion of the schedule with a single contest against South Alabama on Tuesday.

WEEKEND RESULTS

- Feb. 8: #1 Bama 7 – Illinois 2
- Feb. 8: #1 Bama 8 – Northern Iowa 1
- Feb. 9: #1 Bama 8 – Drake 2
- Feb. 9: #1 Bama 10 – UW-Green Bay 7
- Feb. 10: #1 Bama 10 – North Dakota St. 0

The Tide will then head to Fort Myers, Fla., to play five games in the FGCU/LaQuinta Inn and Suites Tournament.

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COLUMN

Following rare back-to-back losses, coming weeks will show Tide's true colors

By Zac Al-Khateeb

For the first time in a long time, The University of Alabama gymnastics team has looked human, even vulnerable.

After all, head coach Sarah Patterson and company are coming off losses in consecutive weeks against Georgia and Florida. With the Tide's loss to Florida, it marks the first time since January 2010 that Alabama has had two losses in head-to-head matches in a single season. It also marks the first time Alabama's lost in consecutive weeks since January 2009.

Needless to say, it's been tough for the two-time returning champs. Even so, Alabama still has a chance to rebound and make a lasting statement on the team's resiliency heading into the remainder of its season.

Unlike sports such as football, basketball and baseball, a gymnastics team could theoretically lose a large number of its regular season meets, but still make the NCAA Regional Championships, and from there the NCAA Championships. All that matters is that the team turns in a good enough score to qualify, and from there it's any-

“

Indeed, the remainder of the Alabama's schedule will prove whether Alabama is a true national championship contender or not. For the past two seasons, Alabama has proved itself able to overcome adversity en route to its national titles.

one's game.

Not to say Alabama is in danger of losing any more matches this season, but it is comforting for fans to think the Tide's losses to the Bulldogs and Gators might not be as back-breaking as previously thought.

With that said, the Tide needs to right its course in the coming weeks, especially with the Tide's looming match against the 15th-ranked Auburn Tigers, a team Alabama hasn't lost to in 32 years and 104 consecutive meets.

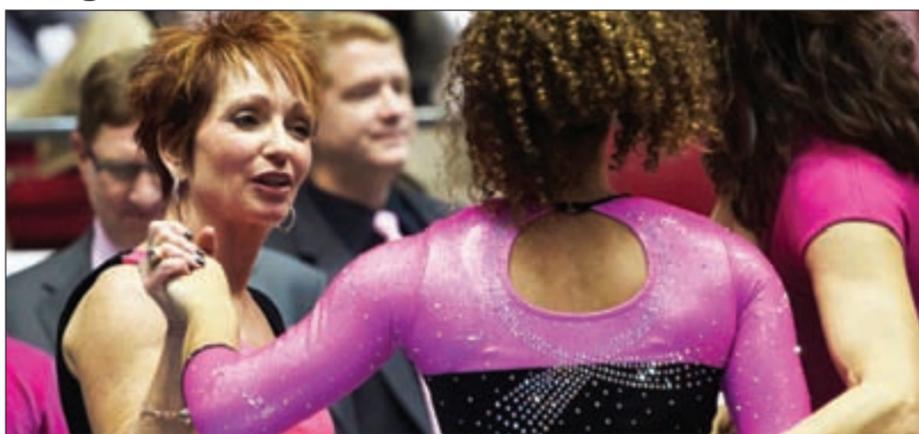
Indeed, the remainder of the Alabama's schedule will prove whether Alabama is a true national championship contender or not. For the past two seasons, Alabama has proved itself able to overcome adversity en route to its national titles.

In 2010, Alabama just barely edged the returning champion UCLA Bruins, 197.650-197.375. The Tide entered its final event of the NCAA Championships

a mere .25 points ahead of the Bruins, but didn't fold under pressure, giving Patterson her fifth national championship at Alabama.

That adversity was even more profound in 2011. A mere two weeks after placing second to Florida in the Southeastern Conference Championships, the Tide turned around to win first in the NCAA Regional Championships, NCAA Semifinals and NCAA Championships. During that run, the Tide outperformed the Gators twice, once in the semifinal round, and again in the championship round, by a mere .75 points to win the championship again.

In both of those seasons, the one thing that marked Alabama as the national champions wasn't its talent or ability. Rather, it was its ability to overcome adversity. Patterson said it best after last season's championship: It's not always the



CW | Shannon Auvil

Despite its win versus Kentucky on Jan. 25, the Tide must prove itself in the coming weeks.

most talented team that wins, but the one with intangibles like heart and perseverance.

In the past, Alabama has

shown those intangibles. And, once again, it's found itself in yet another situation to demonstrate them. The Tide's season

isn't over, not by a long shot. But, much like in years past, it's going to have to prove it has those championship qualities.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Women's golf team 2nd after round one of Lady Puerto Rico Classic

CW Staff

The Alabama women's golf team shot a 5-over-par 293 in the opening round of the Lady Puerto Rico Classic on Sunday at the par-72, 6,191-yard River Course at the Rio Mar Beach Resort.

The Crimson Tide received a trio of 1-over-par rounds of 73 to go along with a 74 and are two shots off the lead of Arkansas heading into Monday's second round.

Alabama is tied with TCU at 293. Texas Tech is in fourth place at 8-over 296, while Iowa State rounds out the top five at 11-over 299.

Alabama was 5-under through 12 holes but struggled down the stretch of the first round, shooting 10-over par on the final six holes.

The Tide's senior Jennifer Kirby, junior Stephanie Meadow and freshman Emma Talley all carded 1-over-par rounds of 73 while

junior Hannah Collier shot 2-over 74 for the team's final counting score. The 73s left the Tide's trio tied for fourth place, with Collier tied for 16th.

Daniela Lendl was Alabama's drop score at 6-over 78 and individual Johanna Tilstrom shot an 81.

The Crimson Tide will begin its second round at 6 a.m. (CST) on Monday and will be paired with Arkansas, TCU and Texas Tech.



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Technical schools expand their appeal

APPLICATIONS FROM PAGE 1

However, Brabham said adult students can be discouraged and intimidated coming back into the technical system and having to take a placement test after not using their math and writing skills in several years.

"Our system is open enrollment so there's not an admissions criteria that an individual has to meet to get in," Brabham said. "But in order to receive credit for classes they have to do well in the placement, which can be a little bit scary coming back into the system."

Brabham said ACCS looks at supply and demand models. "If we know we need 5,000 welders, then we've got to

balance our programs and our resources to be able to have those 5,000 welders ready for a certain area of the state," Brabham said.

"Everything we do is focused on really the supply and demand of business and trying to encourage individuals into fields that we certainly know are going to be a good opportunity when they finish."

Peggy Palombi, the academic dean at Shelton State Community College, said students in technical programs can get jobs that pay well, with salaries ranging from \$60,000 to \$100,000.

"The overall reason that you might see more and more students applying for technical programs rather than a university is that the technical company's jobs actually really pay quite well," Palombi said. "They are highly skilled and

these folks get a strong combination of classroom and hands-on learning through the college as well as strong learning in the work place."

Palombi said there's a need by employers who want people who are ready to work in the most efficient way they can. Employers want graduates who are going to be able to come in and contribute fairly quickly to the needs of their company, Palombi said.

"Community colleges tend to be more 'nimble' in that we can respond to the needs that are expressed by the employers and try to work with our curriculum," Palombi said. "That's some of the things that the technical degrees, like the two-year degrees, associates level degrees can offer."

Palombi said Shelton State has a close relationship with the Mercedes Benz plant in

Vance, which offers special programs where students take some of the most highly skilled jobs in the automotive production industry.

"They come through with us in that preparation and they have a combination of courses that prepare them in things like machine and electrical technology, robotics and so forth as well as having some core academic courses," Palombi said.

Palombi said she feels that technical education is one that a lot of people are realizing is something that can provide outstanding opportunities for both students and employers.

"It's not the only way, but it is one of the options that may have been overlooked for some time and people are getting to re-understand what that value is," Palombi said. "We are a bargain compared to others."

With the rising costs of

tuition, more and more students turn toward community colleges for better financial stability, according to Palombi.

"Our total tuition is no more than roughly \$125-130 credit hour," Palombi said. "Our mission is to work with the technical degrees and with the associate's level, which is for the first two years of higher education."

By comparison, a credit hour at The University of Alabama can cost as much as \$695 for in-state part-time students, and \$1,260 for out-of-state part-time students. For full-time students, that number drops to \$384 per credit hour for students from Alabama and \$956 for out-of-state students.

Palombi said if a student has a passion to become a lawyer or a physician, then they're going to have to go ahead and go into debt and do the more

advanced degrees, which are going to cost more.

"The community colleges are by far the cheapest, but again I always come back to what are the particular aspirations and career goals of the individual," Palombi said. "They need to ask themselves if they are going to be able to afford these goals in either a community college or university."

Jonathan Koh, a research associate in the Education Policy Center, said the idea of applying for law school may sound lucrative to some people, but with the economy developing, the field of technical training is becoming a greater advantage.

"Technical programs are cheaper, less time consuming and there are more jobs in those fields such as manufacturing than there are in law," Koh said.

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HOROSCOPES

Today's Birthday (02/11/13). Creativity, communication and play lead to a career opportunity that keeps you busy for the rest of the year. As work increases, balance for health with new exercise practices. Radiate love.

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 an 8 -- There's more going on than meets the eye, and there's no time for idle chatter. To avoid arguments, blast by them with targeted focus. It's a good time to buy.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is a 9 -- There's some instability at work. You get the necessary data. Check it through twice, and read between the lines. Use imagination. A discovery could reveal impracticalities. Take a trip.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is a 9 -- Express your vision with optimism. Others bring amazing ideas; let them take leadership. Spend less money partying, and enjoy a fuller wallet. A key relationship grows stronger.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is a 7 -- A lofty scheme may encounter difficulties when you and a partner disagree. Fix something before it breaks, clean up or ignore a thoughtless remark. You can work it out.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Listen carefully to someone who doesn't make sense initially. Choose love over money, and resist the temptation to splurge. Keep a low profile. Your admirable discipline gets rewarded.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is an

8 -- Imagine how the next project gets moving. Some ideas are too expensive, so be creative. Smooth rough edges before proceeding. You solve it by editing down to basics.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Dress for public action. Get the agreement down in writing, and provide what was requested. Cut superfluous costs. Make plans with your sweetheart for later.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 9 -- Humility is a quality worth practicing. It's easy to push ideas forward now, but there's no need to rush. Thank others for their input. Back opinions with facts.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 9 -- Put off travel and avoid an interrogation; take risks later. Let your partner carry the load for a bit, but stay active. A spiritual experience feels miraculous.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 9 -- Accept a sweet deal. Go ahead and get yourself a little treat. Increase your personal space by decreasing stuff. Cultivate compassion for others by counting your blessings.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is an 8 -- Restate your intentions, and stand up for what's right. Work interrupts your research. You're gaining respect. Wait a while before gathering up the loot. Provide a spiritual perspective.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is a 9 -- You identify a new starting point and make a bold move. Let your partner balance the books. It's good timing for an important conversation. Listen to the senior member. Acknowledge accomplishment.

ACROSS

- Tip, as one's hat
- Empty spaces
- Subsides
- Suffix with switch
- Wisdom of "Wedding Crashers"
- Texas shrine
- Tall tale teller
- "Deck the Halls" syllables
- Tear to shreds
- Residential loan
- About to happen
- Bronze from a day at the beach
- Rene's friend
- Appear to be
- Lingus: Irish carrier
- Russian fighter jets
- "I'd like to hear the rest"
- Italian violin maker
- Sneak stopper
- Figs on the road
- 1974 Jimmy Buffet song
- Reasons for extra innings
- "Tastes great"
- Poet's inspiration
- Sow or cow
- What social climbers seek
- Curtail
- Office communication, and what can literally be found in 20-, 35- and 42-Across
- Gangster John known as "The Teflon Don"
- Twice-monthly tide
- Paths of pop-ups
- Place on a pedestal
- Show some spunk
- "That makes sense"
- Saunter
- Vehicle on runners
- Proof of ownership

By Gail Grabowski and Bruce Venzke 2/11/13

DOWN

- New ___: India's capital
- Hunter constellation
- Heads on beers
- Hint of the future
- "Take a shot!"
- Informed (of)
- Attack, as with snowballs
- Stocking tear
- Military practice
- Visitor from afar
- Treat jet lag, perhaps
- Earthbound Aussie bird
- Dip, as bread in gravy
- Dad's partner
- "Lemme ___"
- Vocalist Judd
- Really strange
- Bride's purchase
- Base runner's option
- Scat legend Fitzgerald
- Flagship store at New York City's Herald Square
- Words from one with a bad hand

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

S	T	A	G	F	I	L	M	T	R	A	D	E	S
R	E	T	U	R	N	E	E	S	O	R	E	S	T
S	E	T	S	U	P	O	N	T	W	E	E	T	Y
T	M	I	S	T	R	A	W	M	A	N			
D	I	N	P	E	O	R	I	A	E	S	S	E	
E	O	C	C	H	E	E	P	E	D				
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K	O	D											
S	T	O	A										
W	I	N	G	I	T								
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T	R	I	M										
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E	U	R											
D	I	C	E										



Sudoku

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

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MEN'S GOLF

Tide itching to tee off after tough end to season in 2012

By Andrew Clare
Contributing Writer

The Alabama men's golf team is hungry for redemption. Last season the Crimson Tide lost to the University of Texas on the final hole of play in the National Championship match at the Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades, Calif. "It was a great match," head coach Jay Seawell said. "Unfortunately in athletics there is one winner and one loser. We didn't win, so it does hurt a little."

Despite coming up short last season, the Tide is looking back at last season as motivation to get back to the national championship match.

"I do believe the atmosphere and getting a chance to experi-

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It was a great match. Unfortunately in athletics there is one winner and one loser. We didn't win, so it does hurt a little.

— Jay Seawell

ence it no matter if we won or not motivates you to get back there because it so special," Seawell said.

Besides using last season as motivation the Tide are also using it as a foundation for this season.

"It was unbelievable," sophomore Justin Thomas said. "Although we lost it was so fun and so intense, we were all

very hurt obviously, but I think it was a very good learning experience."

Alabama will not only use its experience from last year's national championship to help them have a shot at winning this year, but also will use the experience they gained from the fall portion of the season.

"It was very productive," Seawell said. "We learned a lot about ourselves and what we have to do for the spring."

The Tide's quest for redemption will begin this Sunday as it plays in the Puerto Rico Classic at the Rio Mar Country Club in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico. Alabama is returning three of its top five players from last year, Juniors Bobby Wyatt and Corey Whitsett and Sophomore Justin Thomas, who was the

National Player of the Year in 2012.

"We're still in the process of finding out what our top five are," Seawell said. "Wyatt, Whitsett and Thomas will be in that so where still trying to figure out who will play the four and five spot."

"Prepare today, tomorrow be there," Seawell said.

The simple statement is the team's motto, and he said the team is ready to be there and to excel this season.

"I think the guys are very hungry," Seawell said. "They are hungry because they are competitors and would like to have a chance to have that experience again and see if they can change that outcome."



Cory Whitsett and the men's team will begin the 2013 season Sunday.

GYMNASTICS

Crimson Tide falls to Gators

By Marquavius Burnett
Sports Editor

For the second week in a row, the No. 5 ranked Alabama gymnastics team came up short on the road, this time falling to No. 1 Florida, 198.100-196.850 in front of 8,074 fans, the ninth largest crowd in Florida history.

It was the Crimson Tide's second highest score of the season and the Gators' second highest score in school history.

"I feel like our ladies continue to improve," UA head coach Sarah Patterson said. "We didn't have that one event where we had a lot of mistakes like we have the last couple of weeks. We just didn't hit our landings. I voted Florida the No. 1 team in the country in the preseason poll for a reason and they had one of their best performances in front of one of their best crowds tonight."

Alabama (3-2, 3-2 SEC)

got off to a solid start on the uneven bars, posting a 49.175 behind junior Sarah DeMeo's 9.875.

"Tonight we stuck just one landing on the uneven bars," Patterson said. "In a sport where championships are decided by fractions of a point, every landing makes a difference."

Senior Marissa Gutierrez led the Tide to a 49.325 on the vault by tying her career best with a 9.95, winning the event.

"Marissa has one of our biggest vaults, but sometimes she has trouble finding her landing," Patterson said. "Tonight she was the only one that stuck her vault cold."

Gutierrez and junior Kim Jacob both scored 9.9s on the floor exercise, pushing Alabama to a 49.325. Jacob also posted the Tide's highest balance beam score of the night, tallying a 9.875 to lead Alabama to a 49.025.

Florida was on fire all night and didn't post a score lower than 49.4.

"I thought Florida was really great tonight and I thought we were good too," Patterson said. "Our ladies are fighters and they'll use tonight to make us better. I think we earned every tenth of a point tonight, there weren't any gifts. I want to take this and continue to move forward."

After back-to-back weeks on the road, the Tide returns home on Feb. 15 to take on the Auburn Tigers at 7:30 p.m.

"We've been in front of big crowds of 8,000 and 9,000 the last couple of weeks on the road and they made a difference for the home team," Patterson said. "We are looking forward to being back in front of our fans as take on a very good Auburn team in Coleman Coliseum. Being at home always gives us a lift."

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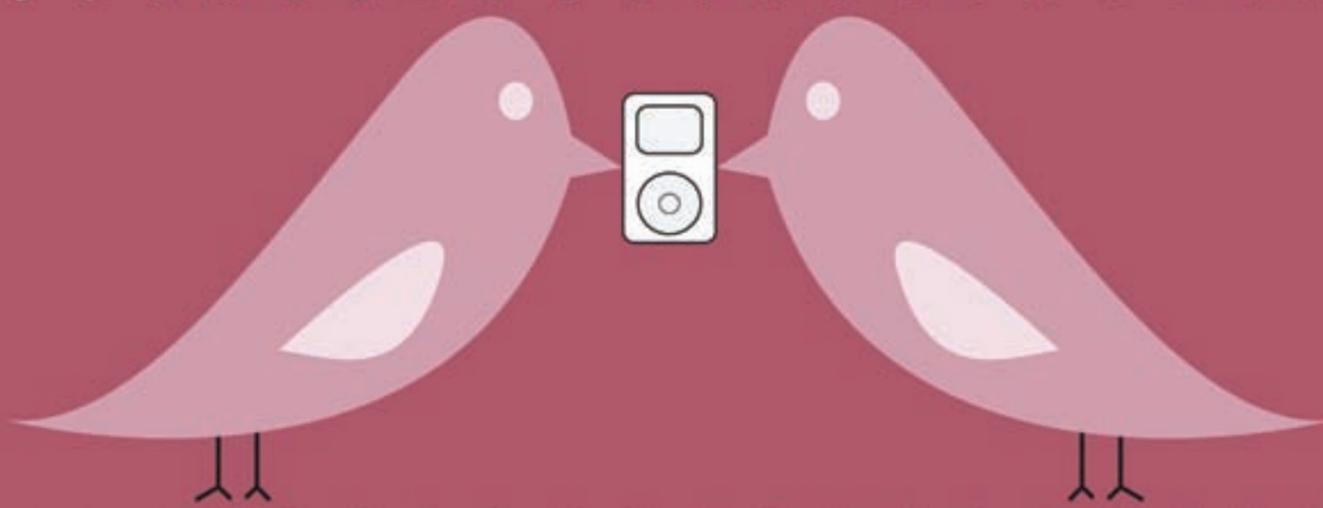
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