



## 10 Men's Basketball

Alabama men's basketball will head to Auburn to take on the Tigers on Tuesday night. Earlier in the season, the Crimson Tide secured a 57-55 victory over Auburn in the final seconds of the game. It is the 151st meeting between the teams.

## 6 Christopher Lynn

The birth of triplet boys during graduate school spurred UA anthropology professor Christopher Lynn to earn his degree. Now he studies and teaches about evolution in the Deep South.

## 8 Book Signing

Twenty-one Southern authors will be signing copies of their books at Shelton State on Tuesday. The authors' books range in genre from Christian fiction to Greek-inspired novellas.

NEWS | **LGBT**

# Spectrum to host LGBT conference

## Southeastern LGBTQ+ Conference comes to UA

By Collin Burwinkel | Staff Reporter

The University of Alabama will host the 2015 Southeastern LGBTQ+ Student Conference, an annual conference dedicated to topics affecting the LGBT community.

"This is a traveling regional conference that aims to foster a safe space to explore issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community, and specifically the issues that come with existing and doing activism work in the Southeast," said Mat Wimberly, vice president of Spectrum and a senior majoring in management and marketing.

Spectrum, the University's registered student group for the LGBT student population, is organizing the event.

"Students in Spectrum at UA decided to start the conference back up in 2008," Wimberly said. "Since then, we have played a

pretty big part in making sure that the conference comes to fruition each year, whether that be by hosting it ourselves, or assisting our counterparts at other universities who decide to take it on."

The conference will be held from Feb. 27 through March 1 and will include universities, high schools and community organizers from across the Southeast. The conference will include three days of workshops, discussions, social events, lectures, entertainment and community building with a focus on LGBT

*Having this conference is incredibly important for LGBTQ+ individuals ...*

— Gaby Wilson —



Wikimedia Commons, CW File

# SNAPS FOR BAMA

Snapchat can be a nuisance to some students and a way to keep up with friends to others. Recent additions to the photo-sharing app help connect University of Alabama students with each other. **See page 7.**

SEE CONFERENCE PAGE 7





## SCENE ON CAMPUS

Alessandra Coscia (left), a junior from Yardley, Pennsylvania, and Rainey Gerald, a sophomore from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, brave the rain on their way to class. *CW / Amy Sullivan*

## The Crimson White

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## TODAY'S EVENTS

### Wellness check

**WHAT:** WellBAMA Health Screening  
**WHEN:** 7:30-11 a.m.  
**WHERE:** 2nd Floor, Birmingham Room, Bryant Conference Center

### International workshop

**WHAT:** International spouse group  
**WHEN:** 9:30-11:30 a.m.  
**WHERE:** 105 B.B. Comer Hall

### MA Painting exhibition

**WHAT:** BILATERAL – Heather and Josh Whidden  
**WHEN:** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Sella-Granata Art Gallery

### Career fair

**WHAT:** Communications career fair  
**WHEN:** 1-4 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Bryant Conference Center

### Free tutoring

**WHAT:** Free walk-in physics tutoring  
**WHEN:** 2-4 p.m.  
**WHERE:** 108 Tutor Suite, Osband Hall

### Paper formatting workshop

**WHAT:** Academic paper formatting in Microsoft Word workshop  
**WHEN:** 5-5:50 p.m.  
**WHERE:** McLure Library

### Dance lesson

**WHAT:** Discovery: Salsa UP!  
**WHEN:** 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Student Recreation Center

## CAMPUS BRIEFS

### University operations delayed Tuesday due to weather

The University of Alabama delayed schedules for Tuesday due to a potential for hazardous travel conditions after the National Weather Service predicted below-freezing temperatures overnight. Faculty and staff were asked to arrive at work at 10 a.m. unless their supervisor requested them earlier, with classes resuming at 11 a.m. according to an

email sent just before 5 p.m. Monday evening. The University urged those traveling to campus in the morning to monitor weather conditions before commuting.

*Compiled by Heather Buchanan*

### McCleney named SEC Player of the Week

Alabama softball's Haylie McCleney was named the SEC Player of the Week, marking the second time the Alabama program has been honored in as many weeks. The junior led the Crimson Tide offense with a .571 batting average, 12 hits and 11 RBI during the past week. She earned a hit in five of the week's six games, with five of

her 12 hits going for extra bases. She scored a career-high four runs and drove in a season-high four RBI in the team's 15-6 victory over Samford on Feb. 13, and matched her season-high four RBI in the team's weekend finale on Feb. 15.

*Compiled by Kayla Montgomery*

### Advising appointments available for honors business students

Advising appointments available for honors business students

Culverhouse students who are also in the Honors College and have more than 91 UA hours can sign up online for an advising appointment. Sign-ups are not mandatory but suggested as to gauge interest in these sessions. Sessions are Feb. 24 and 25 and March

4 and 5 from 3 to 5 p.m. in Nott Hall 176. Students can select a specific date or show interest in any date.

*Compiled by Heather Buchanan*

### Alabama gymnastics rises in ranking

After posting a season-best score of 197.8 against Boise State, the Alabama gymnastics team is now ranked No. 5 nationally. In the meet, which honored the Power of Pink, the team posted its season best uneven bar score

of 49.475, as well a 49.425 on balance beam, its highest score on the apparatus this season.

*Compiled by Kayla Montgomery*

### Men's and women's track and field teams ranked in top 25

For the first time this season, both the men's and women's track and field teams are ranked in the nation's top 25 in this week's USTFCCA rankings. The men's team is ranked No. 11, while the women are ranked No. 22. The women's team jumped to 22nd this week after having the 30th-most points last week, while the men returned to No. 11 after sitting at No. 13 last week. Three UA

athletes, plus one men's relay team, ranked among the top 20 in the world Monday morning, while 18 Alabama athletes in 15 events, plus four relay teams, rank among the conference's top 10 overall this season.

*Compiled by Kayla Montgomery*



# St. John wins book award

By Lauren Lane | Staff Reporter

This month, Warren St. John joined the ranks of Alabama's acclaimed nonfiction writers in receiving the prestigious Clarence Cason Award from The University of Alabama's journalism department. This award has highlighted Alabama's most talented writers since 1998 and is usually given to an author who has some relation to the state.

"Even though the award stipulates books, most of the people who have won it have some kind of literary life beyond books, usually journalism. Most of us worked for a newspaper," said Rick Bragg, a journalism professor and past recipient of the award. "Nonfiction stories in my experience tend to resonate with people and linger longer. To be recognized for nonfiction is the first thing that is appreciated. Then the fact that it's from The University of Alabama, a flagship university in the author's home state, means the world."

Bragg, who had a role in deciding this year's recipient, said St. John was the perfect choice. Wilson Lowrey, the head of the journalism department, also agreed that St. John was the clear choice for the award.

"He is a beautiful writer; he also has had a very prominent journalism career, making him the natural choice," Lowrey said.

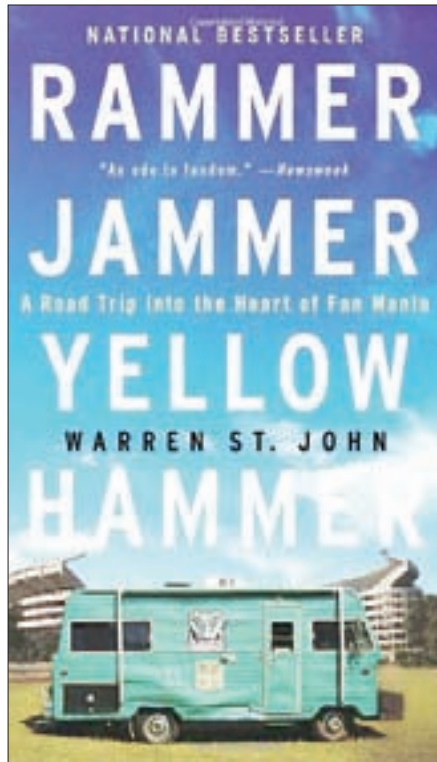
St. John is best known for his newest book, "Rammer Jammer Yellow Hammer," and his work as a journalist in several well-known news publications, most notably for his interview with Nick Saban for GQ in 2013.

Lowrey said St. John embodies what the Clarence Cason Award stands for, as he writes about many themes similar to the ones Cason wrote about during his career. Cason was the founder of the journalism department at the University and spent most of his career both critiquing and admiring Southern culture. Many of St. John's narratives of the South portray a tough-love perspective, which Lowrey said is "the deepest affection one can have. He is unafraid to explore and not leave it as he found it."

While St. John grew up in Birmingham, he has since moved to New York City to further his journalism career.

"Sometimes to get a good perspective in writing, you've got to get far away," Bragg said.

Even though St. John has not



Warren St. John received the prestigious Clarence Cason Award from The University of Alabama's journalism department earlier this month, joining the ranks of Alabama's most acclaimed nonfiction writers. [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)

resided in the South for a long time, his fascination with Southern culture, particularly in sports, has led him to travel back many times in researching for his two books.

Matthew Bunker, a journalism professor and friend of St. John's, said St. John has spoken in his classes and makes writing look easy. "He is a fantastic writer, and observer, and also a deep thinker," he said.

He said St. John is not just a sports writer but takes a

look at sports from an anthropological point of view. He spent countless hours in an RV to gain research for "Rammer Jammer Yellow Hammer" to explore the social aspect of sports. St. John shines a unique light on sports, showing that they unite people and help them find meaning and security in their lives.

St. John's works do not always shine the most flattering light on the South, particularly Alabama football fans.

"It never hurts to be able to make fun of yourself a little bit," Bragg said. "It humanizes you and makes you more tangible."

Warren St. John does exactly this in the spirit of love for his home state while creating a public fascination for the way the bottom half of the country lives.



In "Tide for Tusk," a Spring II class, students will learn about Big Al and mascot conservation. CW / Pete Pajor

## Honors College offers Spring II seminar course 'Tide for Tusk'

By Sirui Shao | Contributing Writer

For those interested in learning more about Big Al's elephant family, the Honors College is offering a Spring II seminar course all about our famous pachyderm and his friends.

The course, UH 120-326, "Tide for Tusk," allows the students to use networking and social media tools to raise awareness of elephant poaching and to develop a plan for starting a mascot conservation program. Students in the class earn one hour of Honors credit.

According to the Tide for Tusk official website, the population of elephants on the plains of Africa was estimated to be between five and 10 million in 1930. Today, there are fewer than 500,000 left in the wild. According to the World Wildlife Fund, it is possible that the elephant could be extinct in Africa in our lifetime.

The course was developed after many discussions about starting a mascot conservation program at The University of Alabama, using its mascot to raise awareness for the rapid rate of decline for the African elephant. After meeting with members of faculty, staff and administration, it was determined that the best way to get the students involved was to arrange the movement as a class, said Randall Mecredy, a professor in the Honors College, who will teach the course.

During the course, students will work on various projects they select to develop a plan for engaging students, faculty, staff and the community in a mascot conservation program. Their plans will incorporate many aspects of marketing, including fundraising, promotion, branding and outreach. The projects will be presented at the end of the semester and will be open to anyone interested in the outcome.

"I am excited that the University opened a course which provides us an opportunity to deeply learn the ecosystem," said Bella Zhang, a junior majoring in accounting. "Meanwhile, I believe by the end of the course, I will know the role I act in the entire system and how I can be a better one to protect animals."

By the end of the course, students will be able to identify social justice issues and environmental challenges of hunting, poaching and trafficking of wildlife. They will be able to describe at a general level the purpose and benefits of establishing a mascot conservation program.

"Protecting a species simply because it is a popular mascot is not a valid reason for setting conservation priorities," Mecredy said. "However, our university mascot qualifies as a 'flagship species' for attracting support of conservation efforts. We all recognize Big Al."

For registration, Mecredy will interview each student for approval of participation in this course.

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Tribune News Service

COLUMN | **TERRORISM**

## Terrorism not limited to Islam



**MATTHEW**  
Bailey  
Staff Columnist

Imagine that there was a terrorist organization operating within the United States that had killed several thousand Americans, had over one hundred loosely-organized chapters, and was continuing to plan attacks. There's actually no need to imagine because it is a perfect description of the Ku Klux Klan, which still operates to this day. Many Americans would have immediately thought of Muslim terrorists. This is problematic because we do have political, racial and anti-government terrorists in the United States who do not get as much attention because they are not Muslim.

During 2014, there were several attacks in America by politically-motivated terrorists. A white supremacist attacked a Jewish retirement community, killing three, and another attack by a husband and wife resulted in two police officers being killed while eating lunch. In Austin, Texas, a man fired over 100 rounds at a police station, federal courthouse, bank and Mexican consulate. Before being killed by the police, he attempted to set the consulate on fire. The government also arrested three Georgia men who attempted to buy thermite-mix charges and pipe bombs built to maximize fragmentation. Their goal was to attack government buildings and officers, which could have resulted in the deaths of many.

Terrorist attacks by individuals who have sovereign citizen beliefs resulted in many deaths as well. Typically, sovereign citizens do not believe that government officials like sheriffs have any power, believe taxes are illegitimate and attempt "paper terrorism" by filing nonsensical legal claims against government officials for things like parking tickets. One sovereign citizen set his house on fire to set a trap for first responders, resulting in a shootout with police that caused the death of a deputy. He is only one of several officers that have been killed by sovereign citizens, and those attacks led The University of Maryland's National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism to find that law enforcement perceived them to be a greater threat than Islamic extremists.

Acknowledging the reality of American-grown terrorism does not take anything away from the impact that Wahhabism and Qutbism sects, Boko Haram, Daesh (ISIS) or the Shi'a Houthi movement have on the Middle East and the world in general. Anti-government extremists as well as racist American terrorists are much more likely to be a direct threat to your life and affect the functioning of the government around you. It is important that we understand this and label them as the terrorists they are. If we fail to do this then we could have the misfortune of overlooking them and allowing something horrible to happen.

*Matthew Bailey is a third-year law student. His column runs biweekly.*

COLUMN | **MLK**

## MLK Day should not include Lee recognition



**JOHN DAVID**  
Thompson  
Staff Columnist

Martin Luther King Jr. was a martyr for human rights for all Americans, not just African Americans. His insistence on non-violent protests had profound effects on the American Civil Rights movement, and his legacy lives on as an inspiration for proponents of equality all over the world. Yet, in the state of Alabama and other Southern states, his holiday is shared with Confederate general Robert E. Lee. While there are many wrongs in our state's history that we can never make right, it is not too late to give King the recognition he deserves.

Withholding any personal feelings about Robert E. Lee, one must first face the facts: He chose to align himself with the state of Virginia, and thus, the Confederate States of America. Furthermore, Lee led troops in a war that took the lives of at least 618,000 Americans. Lee had the chance to change the course of American history. On April 18, 1861, the Union Army offered him the position of commanding general. Instead, he chose to betray the United States, even though he once said, "I can anticipate no greater calamity for the country than a dissolution of the Union." However,

Lee led the army of the nation that caused that calamity. Had Lee accepted the position to command the U.S. Army, he could have forever changed American history for the better rather than contribute to the disastrous effects the Civil War had on the American South.

For some reason in the South, especially in Alabama, there is a distaste and distrust of the federal government. This is mere foolishness. The United States Constitution opens with "We the people" which means all Americans, including Alabamians. Furthermore, Alabama receives more federal aid than most other states: a return of \$3.27 in aid for every \$1 paid in federal taxes. The idea of the federal government not having power over the states is ridiculous in Alabama.

In the middle of the 20th century, there was a man who understood the importance of the power of the federal government over the states, and was able to bring all Americans together to peacefully fight for equality: Martin Luther King Jr. He dedicated his life to the American Civil Rights movement. Under King's leadership, the United States saw the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which was passed just after his assassination. King was also instrumental

in the Montgomery Bus Boycott, first president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and won the Congressional Gold Medal, the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Nobel Peace Prize.

King dedicated his life to fighting for equality and ultimately he died for it. Celebrating his legacy with Robert E. Lee is egregiously offensive. Coretta Scott King, wife of King and an Alabama native, led the movement for the passage of the holiday. She also found herself at the head of the African American Civil Rights Movement. Eventually, she included LGBT rights, women's rights and many others. Alabama taking such an obvious opposition to her is simply embarrassing.

There are many dark stains that plague Alabama's history. However, as we take this Black History Month to celebrate the legacy of King, the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act and Bloody Sunday, we must ask ourselves how we should proceed in the fight for liberty, justice and equality for all. Let's give King the recognition he deserves and change the "King/Lee" holiday to Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

*John David Thompson is a sophomore majoring in political science and French. His column runs weekly.*

*... it is not too late to give King the recognition he deserves.*

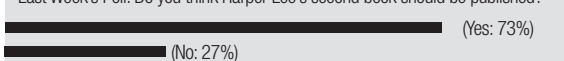
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Last Week's Poll: Do you think Harper Lee's second book should be published?



This Week's Poll: Do you think The University of Alabama supports free speech?  
cw.ua.edu



COLUMN | **SOUTHERN WOMEN**

# Southern women face prejudices in job market, benefit from chivalry



**LEIGH Terry**  
 Staff Columnist

Southern hospitality and the village-protection mindset make the South the best place in the country to be a woman. Strictly stratified gender norms make the South the worst place in the country to be a woman. The privileges of womanhood live alongside the curses in the modern South and create a dynamic that forces the intelligent, capable women produced by schools like The University of Alabama to choose between living in the lovely village or emigrating north or west to escape those here who will always respond to your achievements by saying, "That's great, but how will you balance your family with that?"

The benefits of being a Southern woman are so ingrained into our collective psyche that they become cliché: The doors magically open for

us, the heads tip at our passing, the hands help us down the stairs and the "misses" and "ma'ams" never cease. Heck, if God blessed you with a pretty face, you'll even end up paying less than men! Merely possessing an extra X chromosome south of the Mason-Dixon line is like possessing a small superpower: every day you can use a well-placed smile and slight drawl to bend the world closer to your will.

That is, unless your will is to excel in your line of work, especially if that line is already male-dominated. To be taken seriously as a working woman in the South sometimes seems to take an act of God. Nowhere else will a woman be patted on the head like a dog or a favored child for receiving a promotion. Nowhere else will a woman in a position of workplace power be called "baby," "honey" or "sugar" by a subordinate. Nowhere else will a woman who isn't married by 24 be considered an "old maid" or worse,

"damaged goods." All of these demeaning situations are lived out every day by Southern women who have the gall to go beyond what is expected of them.

Raising a family as a stay-at-home parent is a blessing and an honor for anyone, male or female, who chooses to do so, but so is rising to distinction in a profession. Both contribute to society, and yet both are still not wholly accepted as reputable options for a Southern lady.

Even worse, women who challenge these notions are told implicitly or explicitly that the privileges of Southern womanhood come at exactly that price. Thus, we have an exodus of many of our best and brightest to New York, Chicago, D.C. and Los Angeles. Women who love the South are fleeing their homeland to pursue their careers unhindered by its outdated prejudices.

When they do this, we all lose. We lose our tax base, the human

*To be taken seriously as a working woman in the South sometimes seems to take an act of God.*

## WHAT I THINK

- Being a woman in the South can be both a blessing and a curse.
- Women who aspire to professional goals are hindered by gender norms.
- Intelligent women are leaving Alabama for other parts of the U.S.
- The South must adapt to stop this brain drain.

capital we need to attract cutting-edge employers, and even a little bit of our pride. The South must adapt to stop this brain drain. To do this will require both men and women taking a hard look inward to see the burden our society places on women and taking proactive steps to remove the plank from our own eyes. If we can do this, maybe we can convince working women that the privileges of staying here outweigh the price.

*Leigh Terry is a junior majoring in economics. Her column runs biweekly.*

GUEST COLUMN | **TECHNOLOGY**

# Students should look up from phone to observe world around them

By Stephen Schwab | Guest Columnist

Humans aren't good at multi-tasking. Other animals don't try to do it. So why are we walking around concentrating on our cellphones, largely oblivious to the world and people around us?

Every day I see students staring at these objects in their hands as they stumble across the Quad, risk life and limb as they rush up and down stairs, or endanger the lives of others by talking or texting as they drive recklessly. I have even witnessed couples

in restaurants, each in their own world with their iPhones or tablets – only interacting with other humans when they order food and drink. I find the spectacle both sad and dangerous.

When we were small children, we were remarkably aware of the world and people around us. We were alert to new sights and sounds, new people and new experiences. We were learning about the world and its seemingly endless possibilities. Everything was exciting and everything sparked our curiosity. We all can remember those wonderful days, but we no longer have

that childhood luxury. The reality is that as the demands on our attention increase, our perceptions decrease. We see, but we do not observe. Must we live the rest of our lives in a mindless and forgetful world? I find myself wondering what my 10-month-old granddaughter will notice when, many years hence, she walks across a college campus in the spring.

*Professor Stephen Schwab is an adjunct assistant professor in the department of history, Blount Undergraduate Initiative and Honors College.*

## WHAT I THINK

- Technology causes us to lose the importance of being social.
- Students spend too much time on their phones.
- As the demands of our attention increase, our perceptions decrease.

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# Lynn grows evolutionary studies at Alabama

By Mackenzie Ross | Staff Reporter

Like many students, Christopher Lynn's college experience took a winding route that involved dropping out and ultimately enrolling with a different major, but now as a professor he helps students explore the field of evolution.

Lynn, an assistant professor of anthropology and the director of the UA Evolutionary Studies program, grew up in Indiana and went to college immediately after high school to study journalism, but he ended up leaving school to move to New York City and work in music distribution. While working in record stores he read magazines like *Discover* and *National Geographic* and found he enjoyed that style of writing. He later enrolled in Brooklyn College and studied under anthropologist John Beatty.

"I realized from taking his course that I didn't want to just be, no offense, reporting on what other people were doing," Lynn said. "But I really wanted to get in depth with some of this type of stuff."

Health, spirituality and altered states of consciousness interested him most, and he graduated from Brooklyn College in 2002 with a degree in anthropology. He later enrolled in graduate school, but he went through three programs before finding the right one at The University at Albany. Along the way, Lynn worked at the Lower



Christopher Lynn is a biological anthropologist contributing to the department of anthropology's emphasis in biocultural medical anthropology. *CW / Amy Sullivan*

East Side Tenement Museum and the Intrepid Museum in New York City.

While trying to find the best graduate program, Lynn and his wife had triplet boys, so he took out loans and worked as a teaching assistant to support a family of five. His dissertation centered on speaking in tongues in fundamentalist Christians and conservative Pentecostal congregations. He completed his master's degree and Ph.D. in five years by starting his research fieldwork while completing

his coursework.

"Having three children is either a killer to a graduate career or a tremendous motivator," he said. "For me, it was a tremendous motivator. My goal was to be done by the time they started elementary school; otherwise, I knew all the activities I would be doing with them would make it difficult."

The University of Alabama hired Lynn to work in the department of anthropology in 2009, and he moved to Tuscaloosa within a week of graduating. He said the South's culture was similar to that of his childhood in Indiana.

Around the time Lynn came to the University, the state of Alabama was ranked last for standards on teaching evolution. He credited the opportune timing and supportive University faculty for helping him start the Human Behavioral Ecology Research Group and later the Evolutionary Studies program, which allows students to explore evolutionary studies and even obtain a minor.

"It was kind of easy to get people interested in a program that would fix that because no one wants to be the worst in the country at anything at a major flagship state research institution," Lynn said. "They want to offer the full array of liberal arts and science opportunities and to be a positive influence in the state and community."

Growing up, Lynn said he was sympathetic toward the idea of evolution, but it was not until graduate school that he really understood it.

William Evans, a professor and interim chair of the department of telecommunication and film, said he was excited to see this evolutionary studies movement come to the University. He applauded Lynn's interdisciplinary approach to teaching and exploring evolution, which includes television, film, biology, anthropology and more.

"We have the universities that grew up to have departments and majors, and in fact, that's not the way the universe works," Evans said. "Evolutionary perspectives cut across all of it."

In the HBERG lab, undergraduate and graduate students work together on local anthropology. The research includes topics such as the immunological response to tattooing and the appeal of fire to humans. Lynn said this research allows students to be "real anthropologists" without having to go to graduate school.

"As far as what makes Dr. Lynn a great teacher, I think his passion is at the top of the list," said Taylor Burbach, a senior majoring in anthropology and president of the Evolutionary Studies Club. "It's really hard to not get excited about something when the teacher is obviously excited."

# Cribspot offers simplified housing search for UA area

By Kyarra Harris | Contributing Writer

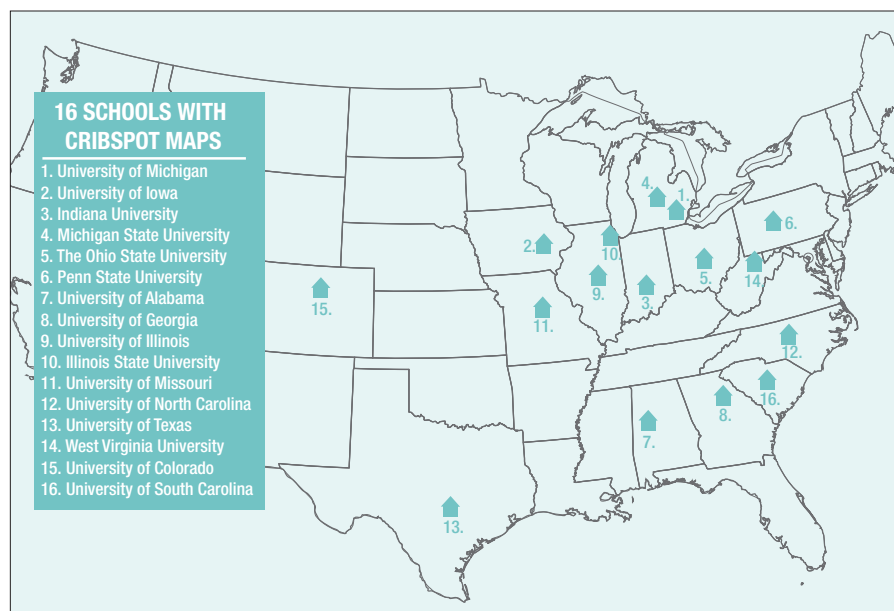
With spring around the corner, students campus-wide are starting to apply for housing with hopes of getting the best deal before the upcoming fall semester.

A new, free website called Cribspot.com launched on the Alabama campus in fall 2014. Founded and created at The University of Michigan 2013 by three college students, Cribspot is quickly becoming a resource for students in the hunt for housing.

"A major reason why finding off-campus housing is often difficult is because the best places are typically in high enough demand that they don't make it online. We're here to solve that," said Tim Jones, co-founder and CTO of Cribspot. "We focus on getting as many houses and apartments as we can within a reasonable distance to campus."

Trey Ross, a freshman majoring in aerospace engineering, said finding housing offcampus was a challenge and he plans on using Cribspot the next chance he gets.

"What I found the most difficult was the fact that we only got the most information from housing departments that the campus brought onto campus, so there were so many other



*CW / Belle Newby and Maggie Woodroof*

options I didn't know about," he said.

Through Cribspot, students can search housing on a map or a list view. They can also narrow down their criteria by the number of beds, rent price, air-conditioning, parking, pets and other amenities.

"We recently launched a sublet feature so students can post and lease sublets from other students," Jones said. "We focus on curating

properties close to campus where college students would prefer to live."

More than 1,500 University of Alabama students have already signed up for Cribspot, and Jones said he hopes to increase their numbers.

"We pride ourselves in getting more listings than anyone else," Jones said. "The Alabama

*We focus on curating properties close to campus where college students would prefer to live.*

— Tim Jones —

off-campus housing website charges \$75 to post a rental property. As a result, they're missing a lot of the best places. Cribspot is free, so we end up with even the houses and apartments that don't need to pay to advertise."

Students can also "pin" their favorite properties in order to organize what they've already searched. In addition, Cribspot offers a way to contact and email landlords through the site.

"We plan on continuing to grow to ultimately reach every college campus across the country," Jones said. "A big focus in the near future will be on a Cribspot mobile app. Students do everything on their phones, and finding housing should be included in that. We also plan to bring the lease-signing process online. Eventually, students will be able to search for housing, sign leases and pay rent through Cribspot, all from their phones."



# Snapchat 'shines light' on UA campus lifestyles

*The University has been featured on the app's Campus Story and has its own geotag*

By Cokie Thompson | Staff Reporter

When Helmi Henkin, a freshman majoring in psychology, came to The University of Alabama from Menlo Park, California, she was disappointed there wasn't a single Snapchat geofilter in sight.

"Where I'm from every single neighborhood has a filter," she said.

Since the initial release of geofilters, special overlays for Snaps that can only be accessed from certain locations, Snapchat has asked users to create their own. This past weekend, Black Warrior Film Festival had a geofilter anyone on the UA campus could use to commemorate their experience.

Growing up in Silicon Valley, Henkin and her friends followed technology in the same way Alabamians follow college football. Everyone has every app, from Yik Yak to Tinder and everything in between. Snapchat first released Campus Stories at USC, UCLA, Penn State and UT. Many of Henkin's friends from high school attend USC and UCLA, so she was familiar with the Campus Story before it was available at Alabama.

When Snapchat released the "Roll Tide" geofilter, she said she knew the University was next for the Campus Story feature.

Henkin said Campus Story could have been useful for prospective students who wanted to get a sense of what student life is really like. Snaps on a campus story last 10 seconds or less, like any other Snap, but can be replayed for 24 hours like Snaps uploaded to the My Story feature.

"They come and they can say, 'Oh well, my Capstone woman just said all these nice things but let's see what real-talk Alabama is like,'" Henkin said.

Christopher Lynn, a professor in the anthropology department, said the Campus Story feature had potential to share in a way other media cannot.

"It shines a light on the different activities and styles of life on campus in a way that say, a website doesn't do, because the websites are frozen

## SNAPCHAT GLOSSARY

**Geofilter** - A special overlay for Snaps that can only be accessed in certain locations.

**My Story** - A feature that allows users to share Snaps with all of their contacts at once. Snap stories are available for 24 hours before they disappear.

**Campus Story** - A 'Story' that can be viewed and posted to by anyone in and around a particular college campus.

**Discover** - A feature that allows users to access content produced by various news and media outlets, including CNN, Cosmopolitan, Food Network, ESPN and more.

*Wikimedia Commons, CW / Sloane Arogeti*

in time, they're orchestrated to an extent," he said.

Like all other Snaps, the Campus Story disappears. It follows a moment as it happens, and then moves on to the next one. Lynn said this helped people share what they were up to without taking up too much space in their lives or memory cards.

"I take a lot of pictures, and I just want to show them," he said. "I don't really want to keep them. They end up cluttering up my life."

Lynn said when he tries to gather photos from department events, he finds most

of them are hidden away in files no one remembers. The sheer number of photos people have prevents them from staying in sight.

"It's ironic that the more we have, the less we preserve," he said.

Meredith Cummings, a professor in the journalism department, noted the addition of stories helped Snapchat grow its users when they realized crowdsourcing a story might be more interesting than following one person, as with the My Story feature.

"It worked because they reached, very quickly, one billion views per day on stories, which is significant because only a few months before that they were only at 500,000," she said.

Cummings also mentioned the potential for the app to be used in news gathering. For example, if a dramatic event were to occur in a remote corner of campus, students at the scene could have sent Snaps to the campus story and shared them with anyone.

*It shines a light on the different activities and styles of life on campus...*

— Christopher Lynn —

## LGBTQ conference held for 8th consecutive year

CONFERENCE FROM PAGE 1

identities. Last year, nearly 130 people attended the conference.

"We are hoping for around 120-150 people to make the trip from over 6 states in the Southeast for the Conference this year," Wimberly said.

Recently, a federal judge declared Alabama's prohibitions against same-sex marriage unconstitutional,

opening the door for same-sex marriage in the state.

Gaby Wilson, a coordinator for Spectrum, believes this ban still does not solve all the issues members of the LGBTQ community face.

"It's great that folks are now able to get a marriage license and have their partnerships acknowledged by the state and have access to the many benefits of a marriage, but a marriage license doesn't solve issues regarding access to good and affirming health care, comprehensive non-discrimination policies, homelessness, the rampant murder of

trans people (particularly trans women of color) and number of other life-threatening issues," she said.

Wilson believes the conference is beneficial to not only members of the LGBTQ community but to people outside of the community as well.

"Having this conference is incredibly important for LGBTQ+ individuals in the Southeast because it provides a safe space, community and the understanding that LGBTQ+ people are concerned with more things than marriage, though it may not seem that way to people outside of the community,"

"It could be a really useful tool if that's a direction Snapchat wants to go, but then again, Twitter is already there," she said. "They have to do something to break out of the mold and I think that's what they're trying to do with the Campus Story."

Henkin said she enjoyed the opportunity to peek into the lives of her peers, but that time was short-lived. After a couple of weeks, the feature disappeared with as little fanfare as it arrived.

On Jan. 27, Snapchat released Discover. The company didn't hold a press conference or send a snap from Team Snapchat. The announcement for the update came through a Tumblr post.

Users can access exclusive content from CNN, Comedy Central, Cosmopolitan, Daily Mail, Snapchat, ESPN, Food Network, National Geographic, People, Vice, Yahoo! News and Warner Music. Unlike websites or other media apps, navigating Discover involves swiping and scrolling, rather than tapping and clicking. Users can even navigate away from the advertisements in the various channels.

"What's innovative about it is unlike anything we've ever seen, where if you're reading a story or a tease or a blurb and you click in, it takes you to that media's website, and unlike anything else, all of the content for Discovery is mobile native," Cummings said.

Like My Story and Campus Story, content in the Discovery feature disappears after 24 hours and is replaced with new content. CNN and Yahoo! News bring hard news to the table, and Cosmopolitan and ESPN provide entertainment.

Jan. 31, Snapchat premiered its first original series, "Literally Can't Even" on its Snap Channel in Discover. In keeping with Snapchat's ephemeral attitude, each episode disappears after 24 hours.

"I think that really caters to students," Cummings said. "Being able to access world news and the best shade of lipstick all in the same 60 seconds."

## PLAN TO GO

**WHAT:** 2015 Southeastern LGBTQ+ Student Conference

**WHEN:** Feb. 27 – March 1

**WHERE:** UA Campus

she said.

Information about the conference, registration and donating can be found on the conference's website at [selgbtqconference.com](http://selgbtqconference.com).



# Shelton to host local author signing

By Matthew Wilson | Contributing Writer

Authors face different struggles and hurdles on the way to fulfilling their dreams for their books. Whether the topic is current issues, religious principles or their relationships, the authors all want to achieve a similar goal: impacting readers.

Twenty-one Southern authors, including some authors from Tuscaloosa, will be presenting their books for the second annual book signing at Shelton State Community College on Tuesday.

The signing will have free admission to the general public. Organizer Ronda Shirley said the event is a fundraiser for Shelton State's Alumni Association and spotlights the works of local talents.

"The goal is to get the community to come out and sample the different books that authors in our community write," she said. "What we do with our money is we give scholarships. We're working on endowing a scholarship for a year's tuition."

Bruce Berger, a University of Alabama advertising and public relations professor, is one of the authors who will be in attendance. Berger will be presenting his book, "Our Dreams We Read," a collection of stories that chronicles the struggles of adult illiteracy in Alabama.

"Functional illiteracy is a fairly widespread problem that affects as many as 20 percent of adults in Alabama—adults who can read a little bit but not a lot—not enough to take a driver's license test or fill out a job application without help," he said.

Berger, who's served as a member of the Literacy Council of West Alabama, has been a long-time advocate of understanding adult illiteracy. For the book, Berger interviewed tutors, service providers and adults learning to read.

"The inability to read is a significant problem that affects individuals in many ways," he said. "More than 40 percent of people who live in poverty in this country are people who can't read or can't read well. Unemployment is a big issue. More than 50 percent of those unemployed cannot read."

Through his research, Berger learned illiteracy is not specific to a particular age or ethnic group, but can be found in many different regions. One of the central issues is why adult illiteracy continues to be a problem in the country.

"One of the key factors [is] if children don't learn to read by the second or third grade, then chances are pretty good they won't be able to read well as adults," he said.

Berger said all profits from the book are donated to the Literary Councils of West and Central Alabama. He said he hopes his book raises awareness for a problem that people don't often talk about and leads to further discussion



Joseph Moore will present his novella "I'll See You In The Winter" at Shelton State today, along with 20 other local authors. Photo Courtesy of Joseph Moore

among the general public.

Author Amy Wheat said she hopes her romantic Christian novel, "Avoiding the Flame" inspires people to be closer to God, she said. Her novel follows a single woman, Elizabeth, who is forced into motherhood when her sister dies. Elizabeth adopts her sister's child and develops a growing romantic relationship with a firefighter.

Wheat said her faith and her children were what inspired her to write the novel.

"I feel like people always tell you, 'When you write, write what you know,'" she said. "I'm a stay-at-home mom, so I've had a lot of experiences with babies. I drew from the struggles of being a mother."

Wheat said she wanted to reach out to people she had never met and inspire them. During the writing process, Wheat turned to her faith to help her overcome self-doubt.

"I was thinking, 'I can't do this,'" Wheat said. "I'm not qualified. I don't have enough information, and you want to quit. I had to pray through every step. I drew strength from God."

Joseph Moore's novella, "I'll See You In The Winter" draws from ancient Greek ballads such as Homer's "The Odyssey." Moore's novella, written in

poetic verse, revolves around the budding relationship between a godlike being who controls the season spring and a mortal woman.

"He writes her letters," Moore said. "He keeps sending her birds, controls the moon and other things to send her messages because he can't go see her."

Moore initially conceived the idea as a traditional novel, but he said he found it hard to write in that style. Moore drew upon his background as a songwriter and his relationship with his wife.

"I decided to write [the novel] in poetic form, a series of poems that connect and tell this love story," he said. "What inspired me is that I've been married for almost 17 years now. Just going through the different seasons with my wife. It's kind of a play on those words."

Moore said his wife was a huge influence in overcoming doubt and helping him with the edits of the story. The hardest part was letting go of the work and deciding it was finished, he said.

For the signing, Shirley said almost all the authors were different than the ones who attended last year's signing, offering new talent a chance to showcase their works.

"I love to collect books that the author has signed – just the fact that I've actually met them and have a book that they signed," Shirley said.

The book signing will be at Shelton State Community College on Tuesday from 4 to 6 p.m.

COLUMN | FOOD



Chicken breast is cheap, lean and incredibly easy to prepare. Amazon.com

## Chicken is cheap option for students

By Matt Lund

Another February gone. Valentine's Day chocolate splurges have our stomachs sitting roundly atop our waistlines and spring break is rushing up faster than we can crunch it all away. On top of that, the annual newness of the bars and house parties has worn off in a lackluster glitter bomb of girls in "21" signs, bad cover bands and pricey drinks. Friend groups warily eye spring break plans and bank accounts, and attempts to go out come to a grindingly boring halt.

So with dollars and calories at a premium, Tuscaloosa's attention turns toward Netflix, those books we've been meaning to read and the question, "What do we eat for dinner?"

Behold, the chicken breast. It's cheap, lean and incredibly easy to prepare. Without further ado, here are a few easy ways to make chicken.

### 20-minute chicken chili

You'll need: 1-2 lbs. of chicken breast, 1 tbsp. of oil, 2-3 medium sized tomatoes, garlic powder, chili powder, black pepper and salt to taste.

Directions: Cut chicken into 1-inch pieces, dice tomatoes and set aside. Add the chicken, seasoning and oil to a frying pan and brown on all sides over medium heat for 5 minutes. Add the diced tomato, reduce to low heat and simmer uncovered until the tomato is reduced to a thick sauce coating the chicken – about 15 minutes. Season again to taste if necessary.

### Baked chicken

Take a Ziploc bag, add chicken breasts, seasoning, and enough oil to coat the chicken. Shake the bag, marinate in the fridge for a couple hours, then throw it into a pan and bake for 25 minutes at 400 degrees. Here's one of my favorites:

BBQ: Mix chicken with olive oil, fresh squeezed lemon juice and any store-bought barbecue rub. Ridiculously simple, ridiculously good. Serve with a baked sweet potato (45 minutes at 400 degrees) and a side salad.

If you want to mix your own rub I advise the following: paprika, black/red pepper, ground mustard, garlic, thyme, sage, cinnamon and a little brown sugar. Experimenting while cooking is half the fun, so invest in some spices.

Having trouble telling whether a piece of chicken is done? Jab it with a knife. The juice should come out clear. If it's pink, let it cook longer. Confused about how much seasoning to use? Trust your nose. If it smells good, it probably tastes good.



# '70s, boho among trends to expect in spring 2015

By Mary-Catherine Hodges

With New York Fashion Week coming to a close, fall fashion is on everyone's mind. It's hard to think ahead to fall because most of us are still bundled up in winter coats and boots as we ride out this long Alabama winter. As March approaches, and with spring in sight, I caught up with fashion connoisseur Daryl Thornton, fashion-retailing professor at the University, to talk about what trends we can expect to see in spring 2015.



The '70s Lady

Amazon.com

We've seen a lot of this over the past year, but spring 2015's take on the '70s takes a step away from the flower crown and focuses more on bell-bottom pants, suede with patchwork prints and burgundy, brown and orange color fabrics.

Shoes: Heeled clogs



American Dream

Amazon.com

This is your All-American girl look. We can expect to see gingham prints, white fabrics, pencil skirts and colored jeans.

Shoes: '40s-inspired loafers and spectator shoes



Bohemian Ballerina

Amazon.com

Bohemian-inspired looks including maxi dresses, maxi skirts, light kimono jackets, floral prints, fringe, tiered tulle and lace of all kinds.

Shoes: Strappy Grecian sandals



Rocker Chic

Amazon.com

A very Madonna-inspired, '80s rocker girl with a chic 2015 twist. This trend encapsulates graphic T-shirts, ripped boyfriend jeans, cropped tops and mesh.

Shoes: Fashion sneakers and Converse

## Couple shows joint art exhibit

By Katie Bedrich | Contributing Writer

Artists Joshua and Heather Whidden have been married for two and a half years, but the exhibit "Bilateral: Memory & Experience," which opened earlier this month, is the first time the two have displayed their art together.

The two are second-year graduate students pursuing master of fine arts degrees, and visitors have until Feb. 23 to view their exhibition in the Sella-Granata Art Gallery in Woods Hall. "Bilateral" shows how memories and experiences can be physically represented through various mediums.

"There was no intention of collaboration on the show," Joshua Whidden said. "We realized that we were basically investing in a similar concept that explored various ways of understanding memory and experience. Bilateral, being two sides making a whole, seemed like an appropriate name for the show."

Heather Whidden worked with materials such as unfired clay and rusted nails to sculpt landscapes of the past, present and the space between memories.

"We are able to respond to it like a child's desire to splash in a puddle, which brings up our own individual past experiences," she said.

Joshua Whidden's concentration is painting. His work in the gallery represents the complexity of experience and memory that evoke feelings of being overwhelmed by life itself, he said.



"Bilateral: Memory & Experience," on display in the Sella-Granata Art Gallery, deals with concepts like memory and the passage of time. CW / Katie Bedrich

"I find paint appealing because of its versatility, and I try to constantly investigate new ways of employing it as a medium," he said.

The Whiddens started crafting artwork for "Bilateral" in August 2014. Although they work in separate studios and have their own individual art habits and rituals, Heather Whidden said she and her husband share long conversations about their art.

"These discussions often go beyond art and delve into metaphysical and introspective considerations," she said.

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# Basketball faces in-state rival

By Sean Landry | Production Editor

After losing to Vanderbilt on Saturday, the Alabama basketball team has next to no hope of an at-large tournament bid.

According to the database at TeamRankings.com, the team has a 5.4 percent chance to get a bid and a 0.6 percent chance to win the SEC Tournament. Barring one of the most improbable conference tournament wins in history, Alabama will not be attending the Big Dance.

But the season is far from over, and Alabama fans have at least one more chance for celebration. On Tuesday night, Alabama could still beat Auburn.

"It's a big rivalry," Alabama coach Anthony Grant said. "Auburn's coming off a great win on the road at Georgia. I've been really impressed with the way their team is playing both offensively and defensively. Tough defeat for us last game, but I think our guys are prepared to move on to get ready to play at Auburn. Like I said before, this is a rivalry game. Means a lot, obviously, to our guys and I'm sure, to their team, any time our teams get together. Looking forward to the challenge tomorrow."

To beat the Tigers in Auburn



Although the Crimson Tide men's basketball team has a very small chance of making the cut for the SEC Tournament, Alabama fans still have at least one more chance for celebration as Bama plays Auburn on Tuesday.

CW / Layton Dudley

Arena, Alabama will have to bounce back from its devastating loss to the Commodores, when the Crimson Tide gave up a 15-5 run in the last 4:20 of play.

"My concern was that I felt like we needed to be better defensively," Grant said. "Vanderbilt is a very talented offensive team. We didn't do what we needed to do to be able to win that game from a

defensive standpoint."

Starting point guard Ricky Tarrant remains unavailable as he recovers from a leg injury. Grant ruled the junior out of Tuesday night's game, but stopped short of ruling him out for the season.

With Tarrant out, Alabama will look to junior guard redshirt Retin Obasohan to take on some of the load. In the two games after Tarrant's injury, Obasohan scored in double-digits for only the second and third times this season, before missing the next two games with a hand injury. Obasohan returned to the court against Vanderbilt and again scored double-digits, recording 10 points on 4-9 shooting.

"Like I said, I'm just trying to do whatever I can do to help the team win," Obasohan said. "Right now, that means concentrating on Auburn and going down there to get a win."

Obasohan said the team's recent losses have come down to a lack of team energy, rather than a lack of talent or tactical acumen.

"It's a decision," he said. "Each and every player has to make up their mind to get on the same page and do whatever it takes to come out and end the game victorious."

COLUMN | NBA



After suffering a season-ending injury two seasons in a row, Chicago Bulls' point guard Derrick Rose has returned and is hungry for a championship. *Tribune News Service*

## Healthy Derrick Rose helps Bulls progress

By Matt Speakman

The youngest MVP in NBA history has made his comeback to elite status.

Chicago Bulls point guard Derrick Rose has been plagued by gruesome injuries since he brought home the award in 2011. He tore both his ACL and meniscus in a two-year span.

Rose sat on the sideline for two years as Chicago struggled to advance in the playoffs. Twitter made thousands of jokes at his expense, and many people wondered if he was even going to return to form.

After two years of being the center of ridicule, Rose has returned, and is hungry for a championship. Rose is attacking the basket with the same ferocity that we saw from him a few years ago. He explodes on fast breaks with speed that makes one question if he ever had surgery at all. His individual play has been great, and the team around him has made his recovery easier.

This Chicago team is not the same as it was in 2010, but they do have multiple stars that can carry the load if Rose is having an off game. Jimmy Butler and Pau Gasol have both played at elite levels for the Bulls, and the emergence of Butler has taken a lot of pressure off of Rose. This roster doesn't require Rose to score 30 points and play 40-plus minutes every game. This has also taken away some of the fan pressure put on Rose.

Rose has relished this role. His confidence grows every time he steps on the court. He attacks the basket and makes gravity-defying dunks that remind fans of the 2010 season. He is one of the most exciting players in the league, and is almost impossible to guard. He added a more consistent jump shot in his time off that makes him a nightmare for opposing defenses.

Rose is the glue that holds Chicago together. A healthy Rose makes this team a championship contender. If he keeps up his recent form, Chicago could finally bring home their first title since Michael Jordan. Rose is eager to solidify himself as a Chicago legend, and the fans definitely support him.

# Hockey production features students

By Matt Speakman | Contributing Writer

In the telecommunications field, real experience can be hard to come by, but the recently-created Frozen Tide Productions allows students to get the hands-on experience they need.

Frozen Tide Productions began covering the hockey games with live streaming this year. A group of students involved with the team used Kickstarter as their source of funds to start the project. They raised \$15,000, vastly exceeding their original goal of \$3,000 to fund the venture. The production company allows students to cover live sporting events in both a technical and on-air setting.

Director of Video Services Julia Plungy has enjoyed the new opportunity to hone in on her skills.

"I have gained so many skills from this [production] team," Plungy said. "I have learned to multi-task when directing games, how to problem solve on the spot and be a good communicator with the team."

Frozen Tide Productions has

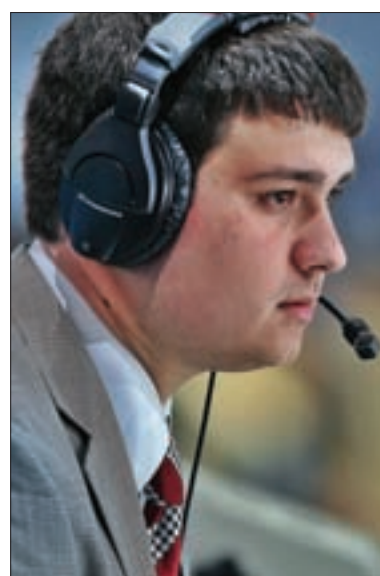
also vastly increased the coverage of the hockey team. With fans now able to watch both home and away games on the Internet, the team has seen an expansion in its fan base. The previous barriers that existed for fans have now been broken down, and followers of the team are now able to keep up with the team like never before.

Kendall Grayson, director of broadcasting, believes that this season has been a very successful start for the company.

"I have called every game since 2012 and I have never seen this much interest surrounding the program," he said. "I believe that our broadcast has had a direct impact on the growth of the program."

The growth of a fan base definitely has a direct impact on the expansion of a program. The Frozen Tide has always been a top-tier team in division three, and the production company allows for more people to see their success.

David Noble, a former assistant coach, believes that the company



Kendall Grayson, director of broadcasting, calls a game. *Photo Courtesy of Greg Forewerck*

can do much for the future of the program.

"It will allow the coaches to better the players," he said. "In the future, there are plans for the production company to produce film for the team on a real time aspect, so the coaches can use it in between periods."



# MARKETPLACE

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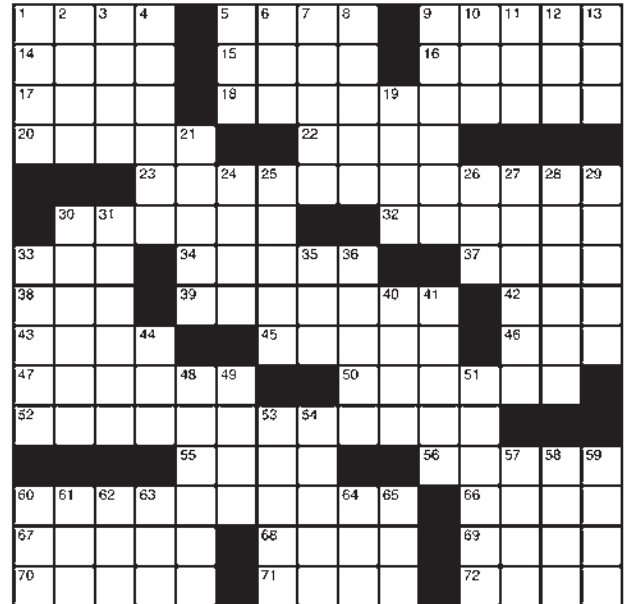
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By Gail Grabowski and Bruce Venzke

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- 11 NBC show since 1975, briefly
- 12 Barely manage, with "out"
- 13 Ukr. or Lith., once
- 19 Feels remorse over
- 21 Bochco legal series
- 24 Forearm bone
- 25 Some DVD players
- 26 Sinuous swimmer
- 27 Less cowardly
- 28 Insurgent group
- 29 '50s four-wheeled flop
- 30 16th-century Spanish fleet
- 31 Hoi \_\_ the masses
- 33 Heroic Schindler
- 35 Giants Hall of Famer Mel
- 36 Brewers Hall of Famer Robin

## Monday's Puzzle Solved

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

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2/17/15

- 40 Pest in a swarm
- 41 Utah city near the Golden Spike
- 44 Photo blowup: Abbr.
- 48 Sea spots?
- 49 Blueprint detail, for short
- 51 Sexy
- 53 Cable Guy of comedy
- 54 The Gem State
- 57 Warning from a driver?
- 58 Elvis \_\_ Presley
- 59 No-frills shelter
- 60 Hip-hop Dr.
- 61 Free (of)
- 62 "\_\_ changed my mind"
- 63 Caracas' country, to the IOC
- 64 Athens : omega :: London : \_\_
- 65 Assenting vote

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# HOROSCOPES

**Today's Birthday (02/17/15).** Partnership brings abundance this year. Friends and connections open previously locked doors. Ride a profitable wave after 3/20. Begin a new exploration after 4/4. Call in your team after 10/13 to haul in a fat harvest. Put your back into it... and especially your heart. A rising tide floats all boats. Collaborate for the common good. To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

**Aries (March 21-April 19)** -- Today is a 9 -- Friends provide unexpected benefit to your project. Get them involved with persuasion and inspiration. Share resources for what they're up to. Merge your interests, and work together. Articulate your shared passion into words. Invite participation.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** -- Today is an 8 -- Attend to career goals today and tomorrow. Take advantage of an opportunity. Consult your committee. Get a friend to help you solve a technical problem. Ad-lib only when absolutely necessary. Keep to the script.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)** -- Today is a 9 -- Plot your itinerary today and tomorrow. Distant shores call. New expenses require attention. Adapt to shifting circumstances. Talk about what you want. Changes are within reach. Catch a rare passing chance and go for it.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)** -- Today is an 8 -- You provide the imagination. Share your vision with your partner. Let them ask tough questions. Set long-term goals over the next couple of days. Unexpected benefits to family finances appear. Track and manage them. Work together.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** -- Today is a 9 -- Partnership negotiations occur today and tomorrow. The discussion could seem intense, yet could also be enormously productive. Put aside the small stuff. Talk about possibilities. Expand your team. Emotions may affect your judgment. Be respectful.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** -- Today is a 9 -- Over the next two days, put your ideas into action. Unexpected communications at work could shuffle the cards. Suddenly you can see just what needs to be done. Get moving, and relish the moment.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** -- Today is an 8 -- It's really getting fun today and tomorrow. Make decisions quickly, with confidence. Play your hand and enjoy the game. Ask questions early and often. Your creativity makes the whole thing work. The perfect solution appears.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** -- Today is a 7 -- Stick close to home for the next two days. Prioritize family. Communicate with co-

workers to manage upcoming tasks. Share your vision of the future. It pays to advertise. You have what others want.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** -- Today is an 8 -- Intellectual pursuits flow with greater ease today and tomorrow. Interview an interesting subject and ask probing questions. Encourage a witty conversation. Don't gamble or go shopping. Sell what you no longer need. Learn something surprising.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** -- Today is a 9 -- Focus on making money today and tomorrow... opportunities seem everywhere. Now you're cooking! Keep those hot ideas flowing, and maintain tight collaboration with your team (especially the bookkeeper). Provoke curiosity and raise demand for your product.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** -- Today is a 9 -- Look forward to two days in the spotlight. Use your megaphone to direct attention to a worthy cause. Keeping and exceeding your promises raises your income. You're getting stronger and gaining influence. Use your power for good.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** -- Today is a 6 -- Take some quiet alone time to balance stress or pressure over the next two days. Conclude an important communication. Think it over. If you slow down and look, you can see a better way forward.

# SUDOKU

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# Swimming and diving teams approach SECs

By Tyler Waldrep | Contributing Writer

Alabama's swimming and diving teams are approaching this week's SEC Championships at Auburn with confidence.

Coach Dennis Pursley said he is confident the teams' regular season efforts have prepared them to have success in the championships. He said the teams were the most improved at last year's championships, as well as in the SEC, and it is important that the teams reclaim that role this year.

"We want to continue to get better, to continue to progress," he said. "We rewrote the record board last year especially on the men's side, our school record board. We want to be faster this year. We want those records to drop some more."

In preparation for the championship, both teams have begun to taper their workouts. Cutting the physical workload in half helps the athletes recover from the regular season, and sets them up to reach peak performance in the championship meets.

Junior swimmer Brett Walsh said the team focuses a lot on mental preparation.

Swimming is a mentally tough sport, and the mental techniques the team works on are designed to keep them from overthinking the moment.

"[We need to] focus on one thing at a time," Walsh said. "I was always told to imagine, for my race specifically, that there is like a black curtain over your race, so all that matters right now is that race."

Junior swimmer Emma Saunders said it is important that the teams' confidence from previous meets carries over. Saunders said she believes the women can finish in the top six or higher.

The women's team has not placed higher than seventh at the SEC Championship in the last four years.

"We've come a long way since last year," she said. "I am really excited about what we are going to do next week."

Both the men's and the women's team train all year for this portion of the season, which is about trusting in preparation, Walsh said.

"We just need to do our thing, we have prepared well," he said. "It's just all about racing now."

*We want to continue to get better, to continue to progress.*

— Dennis Pursley —



Dennis Pursley, head coach of the swimming and diving teams, is confident the teams' regular season efforts have prepared them for this week's SEC Championships at Auburn. CW / Layton Dudley

# UA club bass fishing ranked No. 5 after weekend win

By Jeremiah Johnson | Contributing Writer

The University of Alabama is known for sports like football, gymnastics, softball and basketball, not bass fishing.

While collegiate bass fishing is not an NCAA-sanctioned sport, the UA club team garners national attention and consistently finishes among the best teams in the country.

John Bryant, sophomore fisherman, said he wants to dispel some of the misconceptions about team.

"Most people think of fishing as [just] going and throwing a line out," he said. "But that's not what competitive fishing is all about."

The UA fishing team consists of 26 fishermen. Two teammates must be paired on a boat to compete in a tournament. A pair of teammates could compete in as many as 25 tournaments in a season. Tournaments vary in size, ranging anywhere from 15 to 250 boats in a given competition.

The boat with the five biggest fish wins the tournament, but certain criteria have to be followed in order to win. Points can be deducted for things such as bringing in dead fish and being late for weigh-ins.

UA bass fishing is an official Bass Angler Sportsman Society college team and has been since its inception in 2007. The team has enjoyed routine top-10 finishes since then. Robert Findlay, a professor of biological sciences who serves as the team's faculty advisor, said much of the team's success can be attributed to its



Frank Appaluccio (left) and Logan Shaddix on day three of the College Southern Regional at St. John's River in Florida. Photo Courtesy of Shaye Baker

foundation and location.

"Success breeds success," he said. "We were founded by really good bass fishermen. Some of it is the fact that we are in Alabama. You could say the center of bass fishing in the world is Alabama."

One of the team's cofounders, Hank Weldon, currently serves as the director of Bassmaster College Series.

Freshman fisherman Lee Mattox said studying is a big part of preparing to compete in a tournament.

"Before every tournament, we study Google Earth images of bodies of water," he said. "We do research on

prior tournaments and how they were won in the past."

Teammates will go to the lake where the tournament will be held about two days beforehand to get a feel for the body of water and fish, Mattox said.

Since bass fishing is considered a club sport, scholarships are not given. Players pay their own way into tournaments. They are also responsible for their own gas, food and sleeping arrangements.

Traveling long distances to compete makes it more difficult to perform at a high level, Bryant said.

"You're already fishing eight hours a day," he said. "It makes it harder

when you have a couple of hours to drive on top of that."

Mattox said academics can be a concern when it comes to traveling for tournaments.

"The biggest thing is that all the traveling and competition has you worried about what you are missing in class," he said. "But at the same time, you are worried about performing well in the tournament."

Not being able to control every facet of a competition is what sets bass fishing apart from other sports, he said.

"In typical sports, weightlifting and training can prevail you to win," Mattox said. "In fishing you can have amazing talent, but factors such as weather and wildlife can determine the outcome."

Findlay said he wants it to be known that the team can be seen competing live in tournaments.

"Depending on the cable subscription, you could see them on TV," Findlay said. "Depending on the regional, you could watch them weigh in live on the web."

Team members Keith Kirkley and Frankie Appaluccio will compete in the 2015 FLW College National Championship on April 17-19. Kirkley and Appaluccio qualified for the final after winning the FLW College Fishing SEC Invitational last October.

The team, currently ranked fifth in the nation, won the Forrest L. Wood College Southern Regional last weekend. The victory qualifies the team for the conference championship.