



The Crimson White

Thursday, March 14, 2013

Serving the University of Alabama since 1894

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SPORTS | PRO DAY



CW | Austin Bigoney

Former Tide player Jesse Williams participates in agility drills for media and NFL scouts Wednesday afternoon.

Twelve Tide players work out for scouts

Fluker, Johnson, Jones among those looking toward NFL Draft

By Marc Torrence
Assistant Sports Editor

Twelve draft-eligible Alabama football players worked out for scouts from all 32 NFL teams in Tuscaloosa at the University's annual Pro Day. It was a chance for players who didn't participate in the NFL Combine three weeks ago to show NFL teams what they could do ahead of the NFL Draft, which starts Thursday, April 25.

"I think that it says a lot about the total program and all the people in it and the great team of people we have here, whether it's in personal development, academic success, developing the players, being able to recruit quality people to represent the program and develop within the program," head coach Nick Saban said. "Our coaching staff does a wonderful job. We have a great support staff here in the athletic department, and the University community has been very cooperative in helping us develop players off the field as well as helping us recruit them."

D.J. Fluker, Kelly Johnson, Nico Johnson, Barrett Jones, Robert Lester, Jeremy Shelley, Damion Square, Carson Tinker, Chance Warmack, Jesse Williams and Michael Williams, in addition to walk-on Ranzell Watkins, all worked out for NFL scouts.

Jones and Square were only able to bench press and turned in 27 and 23 repetitions, respectively. Eddie Lacy, Dee Milliner and Quinton Dial measured and weighed in but did not participate in any drills.

"It is frustrating, but at the end of the day, there's nothing you can do but rehab and get better for next time," Lacy, who strained his hamstring running a 40-yard dash during a mock combine, said.

SEE PRO DAY PAGE 6

NEWS | MAL MOORE

Lung problems hospitalize Moore

Alabama's AD moved to Duke for more tests

By Marc Torrence
Assistant Sports Editor

UA Athletic Director Mal Moore was hospitalized for heart problems for the second time in less than a year Wednesday. Moore was admitted to Brookwood Hospital in Birmingham, Ala., for tests and treatment regarding pulmonary problems, a UA official confirmed Wednesday. A UA spokes-

woman said in a press release that he was scheduled to move to Duke University Medical Center Wednesday night for follow-up tests.

Last August, Moore was hospitalized in DCH Regional Medical Center in Tuscaloosa for an irregular heartbeat and was released two days later. His physician, Dr. James R. Robinson, said the August hospitalization was a "precautionary measure."

The Tuscaloosa News first reported the hospitalization.

Moore, 73, became athletic di-

rector in 1999. He was a quarterback for legendary head coach Paul "Bear" Bryant, and was an assistant coach from 1965-1982. He coached quarterbacks under head coach Gene Stallings from 1990-1993. He was named to the State of Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in 2011.

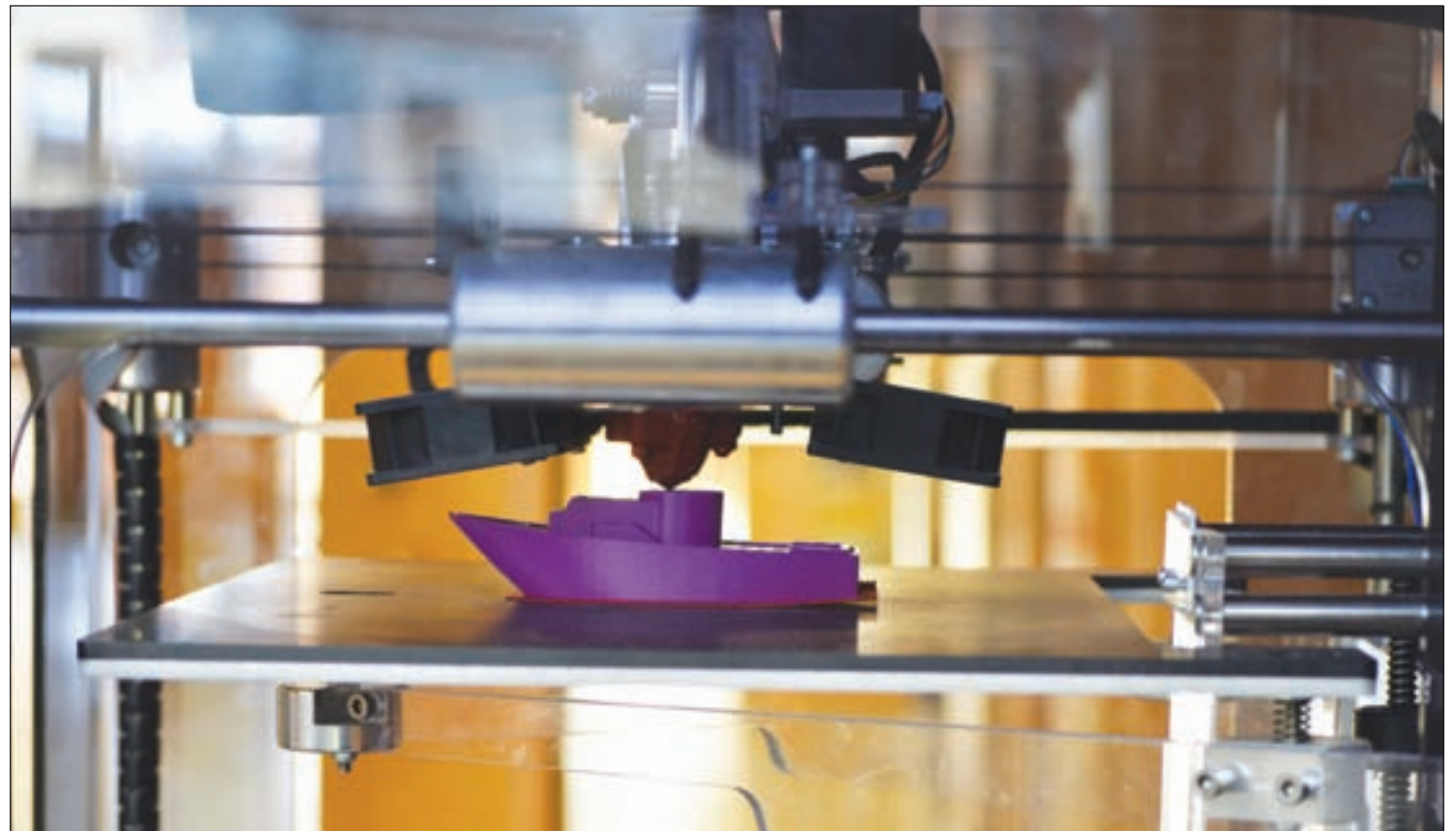
Moore has also overseen multiple facility upgrades at the University, most recently a \$9 million strength and conditioning facility for the football team. The football building was named after Moore in 2007.



Mal Moore

NEWS | ENGINEERING

2-D ideas become 3-D objects



CW | Jh'ordan Johnson

Printers in a lab in Hardaway Hall can create plastic objects from digital designs.

3-D printing lab opened on campus in January

By Adrienne Burch
Assistant News Editor

In a small room on the first floor of Hardaway Hall, ideas go from 2-D designs on computer screens to functioning 3-D objects in a matter of hours. The new College of Engineering 3-D printing lab has five 3-D printers capable of printing anything from models of bugs to working monkey wrenches.

"I think 3-D printing is going to be everywhere in the future," Andrew Graettinger, associate

professor in the college of engineering, said. "It's probably going to be as common as a printer in your office or maybe in your house."

The College of Engineering 3-D printing lab opened in January. The printers create objects designed using 3-D design software programs like AutoCAD, SolidWorks and Google Sketchup. The printers take designs from these programs and slice it from the bottom to the top to figure out what each layer will look like. Then, they lay down each layer of plastic and build from the bottom up.

SEE 3D PAGE 2



CW | Shannon Avril

Jarr Strydom, a freshman majoring in mechanical engineering, works on the design of an Alabama A keychain. UA Engineering has a 3-D printing lab in Room 160 Hardaway Hall for engineering students to model and build intricate parts.

NEWS | ALABAMA ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Alabama Supreme Court topples barriers preventing school flex bill

Educators withdrew support from bill after changes outlined private school vouchers

By Mark Hammtree and Justin Heck
CW Staff

The all-Republican Alabama Supreme Court decided Wednesday afternoon against the restraining order a Democrat

Montgomery Circuit Judge ordered to prevent Gov. Robert Bentley from signing the Alabama Accountability Act.

Montgomery Circuit Judge Charles Price's original injunction mandated a hearing for the AEA's lawsuit

against passage of the bill this Friday. But with the barrier of the injunction out of the picture, the bill, which was passed almost two weeks ago, could find its way to Bentley's desk as early as Thursday morning when the House convenes.

The bill started as an eight-page school flexibility bill that would allow school systems to seek waivers from some state

policies, such as tenure for teachers and administrators. However, different versions were passed in the House and Senate, which led to debate among lawmakers and residents throughout Alabama.

"At some point during the meetings of the conference committee, some of the Republicans called for a recess," Joseph Smith, a professor in the

department of political science, said. "When they came back from the recess, they had a new bill that was much longer and much different. Part of it included tax credits for people whose children are assigned to failing schools, and it allowed tax credits if those parents sent their children to private schools."

“

When they came back from the recess, they had a new bill that was much longer and much different.

— Joseph Smith

SEE ACCOUNTABILITY PAGE 6



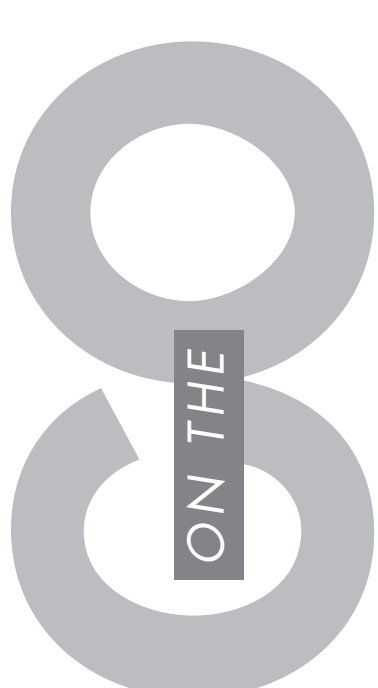
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WEATHER today

Clear
61°/39°

Friday 72°/48°
Clear



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ONLINE



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ON THE CALENDAR

TODAY

What: Private screening of "Oz the Great & Powerful"

Where: Ride from Ferguson Center Plaza to Cobb Theaters

When: 5:15 - 9 p.m.

What: Documenting Justice Applications Open

Where: cesr.ua.edu

What: Improbable Fictions presents "The Tragedy of Mariam"

Where: Kentuck's Georgine Clarke Building

When: 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

What: Dance Alabama!

Where: Morgan Auditorium

When: 5:30 p.m.

What: Ides of March Dance Party with Brian Oliu

Where: Egans

When: 10:30 p.m.

What: Battle of the Bands

Where: Green Bar

When: 8 p.m.

Submit your events to
calendar@cw.ua.edu

SATURDAY

What: Relay for Life Fund-raiser at Zoe's Kitchen

Where: Zoe's Kitchen at Bryant Denny Stadium

When: 4 - 9 p.m.

What: Dance Alabama!

Where: Morgan Auditorium

When: 2 p.m.

What: Baseball v. Tennessee

Where: Sewell-Thomas Stadium

When: 6:05 p.m.

ON THE MENU

LAKESIDE

LUNCH

Steak
Italian Green Beans
Baked Potato
Corn on the Cobb
Sautéed Mushrooms (Vegetarian)

DINNER

Turkey
Dressing
Linguine with Roasted Red Peppers
Four Cheese Penne (Vegetarian)

BURKE

LUNCH

Baked Chicken
Eggplant Lasagna
Pasta Primavera Salad
Apple Peach Crisp
Dirty Rice (Vegetarian)

DINNER

Roasted Turkey
Stuffing
Italian Green Beans
Peas
Cheese Pizza (Vegetarian)

FRESH FOOD

LUNCH

Smoked Pork
Macaroni & Cheese
Green Beans & Peppers
Coleslaw
Penne Alfredo (Vegetarian)

Many departments utilize 3-D printing

3D FROM PAGE 1

"Creativity is blossoming because you can think of an idea, draw it up, print it and technically get it in your hands the next day," he said. "Then you can try it in what you are trying to do and see if works and meets your requirements. And if it doesn't you can redraw it, and we will print it again."

Graettinger said the idea for the 3-D lab came when the Charles Karr, dean of the College of Engineering, showed interest in bringing the technology to

campus this past summer.

"[Karr] knows it's a technology that we need to have at the University, and he got the right people together to make it happen," Graettinger said. "He gave us the directions and said to make sure this equipment is being used, and that's why it's open to anybody on campus to come over here and use."

There are currently six students who work in the lab on a daily basis, processing up to five jobs a day from departments across campus. Jarr Strydom, a freshman majoring in mechanical engineering, started working in the lab when it opened in January.

"I feel like I'm getting a new

toy every time I use this 3-D printer," Strydom said.

The first 3-D printers were developed in the 1980s, but had strict patents and were very expensive. However, in the early 2000s the patents were relaxed and cheaper versions have become available. Now, 3-D printers can be purchased starting around \$1,000.

"It's a huge step forward in technology," Strydom said. "It's kind of like how computers used to be as big as a room or something, and then when they became really big they made the desktop computer. That's what they did with the 3-D printer. They made it into a desktop printer, and you now you can have it in your room sitting on your desk."

Strydom said the best part about this lab is anyone can use it, and there is no cost to the student.

"It's absolutely free, and the University is trying to keep it free," Strydom said. "If we were to charge it for what it costs, no

one would use it."

Graettinger said the price of the machines and staffing the lab actually is much more than cost of the materials actually being printed.

"Some of these machines can run for less than \$50 a week, running all the time," he said.

Graettinger said it's hard to say what other Universities are doing when it comes to 3-D printing, but he does think this new lab is something special.

"A lot of individual research groups have their own printer in their laboratories, but the concept of having it organized in one place that is staffed where we support people's ideas and know how to get things done; it is kind of unique," he said.

Corey Brown, a junior majoring in aerospace engineering, also works in the 3-D printing lab. Brown said he has printed a topography map for an engineering professor and a mayfly for a biology professor, among other things.

"We also made a wrench, a

monkey wrench that works like a charm," Brown said. "It works straight out of the printer."

Jamey Grimes, instructor in the art department, uses 3-D printing for his Art 131 3-D design course. He said he looks at 3-D printing from more of an art standpoint.

"I think of 3-D printing as just another tool I can use like foam, plaster, a band saw or some other tool," Grimes said. "It's an excellent tool and the right tool for certain jobs."

Grimes said his most successful project involved the printing of the skeletal structure of a sea urchin.

"There is definitely some advantages to using printers like this because the printer allows for intricate detail," he said. "If students aren't already using 3-D design they should start learning now."

Students or organizations interested in printing their designs or who want to know more information can email 3D@ua.edu

ON THE RADAR

Quiet intellectual becomes first pope from the Americas

From MCT Campus

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina - Archbishop Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Buenos Aires, 76, a quiet intellectual, was sworn in as the Catholic Church's first pope from the Americas on Wednesday.

Pope Francis, as he chose to be called, was elected on the second day of a conclave of cardinals. He is the first Jesuit pontiff.

Bergoglio has the pastoral experience that had been billed as important for the new pontiff. "Bergoglio's voice carries

weight within the Vatican structure," Argentina's ambassador in Rome, Juan Pablo Cafiero, said before the pope's election Wednesday.

The new pope is also a prominent figure in Argentine affairs, perhaps another asset for a man whom experts think should reform a church damaged by divisions, child abuse scandals and allegations of corruption.

He has a mixed reputation in Argentina, where the Catholic Church has been criticized for its failure to uphold human rights during

the 1976-83 Argentine military dictatorship.

Parts of the church, which has huge clout in the almost exclusively Catholic population, are accused of having turned a blind eye while the military murdered an estimated 30,000 people in clandestine torture camps.

Bergoglio was head of the local Jesuits at the time.

His supporters emphasize that he saved many leftist priests from military death squadrons. Others accuse him of having been indifferent toward their fates.

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Publicly funded universities will feel sequestration squeeze

By John Burleson
Contributing Writer

Sequestration led to a series of federal cuts to defense and social programs mandated by President Barack Obama and Congress because of a failed attempt to reach a compromise on the nation's debt issues. The budget cuts are automatic and do not allow for agencies, Congress or even the president to pick and choose where to take the money from.

Due to the automatic nature of the cuts, schools like The University of Alabama, a public-funded research university, will feel the effects of the sequester.

Patrick Callan, the president of the Higher Education Policy Institute, said unless a deal is worked out, research universities would feel the impact within months.

"Unless Congress and the president work something out soon, the major impact which would be felt in the medium term would be on research, which is where the cuts from the federal agencies would come from," Callan said. "For research universities, it would interrupt research which is funded through grants. It will be felt most acutely in the short term."

Callan said the sequester's effects would be tough on schools like the Capstone, where quite a bit of research funding would be cut due to the lack of funds.

"It is going to be hugely disruptive for research universities," Callan said. "In some cases, they will completely lose money which is invested in research, and, in other cases, they will not be able to meet

promised research goals due to the lack of funds. Everyone who has commented has said it is a pretty mindless way to do cutting."

Joe Benson, interim provost, said the Capstone has already felt the effects of the sequester due to decreased funding from federal agencies.

"The sequestration has had some effect on contracts and grants," Benson said. "Most of the agencies have slowed down on their awards, some are reducing awards either permanently or contingent upon the availability of funds, and some have cancelled specific competitions."

UA students will also be affected by a cross-the-board budget cuts enacted by sequestration.

"Most of the financial aid is protected except for the campus work study and campus programs, such as the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant," Callan said. "These cuts will go into effect by summer at the earliest, and so students will really begin to feel the effects of the sequester beginning in the fall semester."

Jonathan Koh, a research associate at the Education Policy Center at the University, explained cuts to the Federal Work-Study and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant programs.

"The main focus will be on the reduction of FSEOG and FWS program cuts in 2013-2014 in the 10-20 percent range," Koh said.

Koh also said the sequester will raise loan fees paid by borrowers in the Federal Direct Loan Programs.

"The Federal Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans will be changed, but not to any severe extent," Koh said. "They will be increasing the rate from 1 to 1.05 percent, so nothing terribly drastic there."

Callan expressed deep concern regarding the cuts which will impact students.

"We already have a substantial affordability crisis, and this will exacerbate that for people

who are struggling to pay for school," Callan said. "Some students may be forced not to come back, to go part-time, go to cheaper schools or even to borrow more money to be

able to attend."

Koh also explained not everything was bad and that information had been received detailing how Pell Grants would not be cut by the sequester.

"One bit of good news is that the sequester will not be cutting Pell Grants for the next two years," Koh said. "Beyond that, we don't know, but for the next two years they are safe, and that is good news for those who are seeking access to those funds."

Benson seemed optimistic the budget cuts will only be a short-term issue facing the Capstone.

"We anticipate this situation will remain in effect until at least the short-term budget situation is resolved," Benson said.

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It is going to be hugely disruptive for research universities.

— Patrick Callan

SGA Senate Results

Arts & Sciences
Chisolm Allenlundy Jackson Britton Jake Eigner Chelsea Ellis Branden Greenberg Laura Gregory A.J. James Jonathan Lasley Joy Prinsell Katie Smith Megan Smith Jamie Suckow
Communication & Info. Sciences
Samuel Barnes Kristen Ellis Kendall Sellers Justin Thompson
Nursing
Chandler Fowler Monicka Roden

Commerce & Business
Olivia Acker Cole Adams Drew Bridges Stephen Keller Robert Smith Robert David Sauers Katie Plott Jonathan Knighton Gracie Willingham
Education
Douglas Logan Erin Wallach
Engineering
Matthew Anderson Carter Goodwyn Whitney Lott Tate Thomas Simeon Turner

Graduate School
Rebecca Rose Lutonsky Thomas Lee Hiltz Gregory Poole Paul Thompson Dustin Karn –write in
Human Environmental Sciences
Taylor Autrey Emily Presmanes Kaitlyn Robinson Leslie Nichole Whitfield
Law
Kassie Hall Lane Morrison
Social Work
Stephanie Craig Caroline Miller –write in

Source: vote.ua.edu, CW | Whitney Hendrix

Business school to host open house

By Morgan Reames
Contributing Writer

Manderson Graduate School of Business will host an open house Friday to give prospective graduate students an inside look at what it's like to be part of the business school.

The event is for juniors and seniors interested in learning more about applying to master's and doctoral programs.

"It is an open house to introduce the business college to students even if they are not part of the business school," said Jan Jones, specialty master's coordinator at the Manderson Graduate School of Business.

Programs offered by the Manderson include

accounting, applied statistics, tax accounting, economics, finance, management, marketing, operations management and business administration.

Even if students are only able to attend one session, Jones said students are encouraged to attend all three.

"There will be a casual lunch where students can meet with the advisors and talk about the different requirements of the business school," Jones said.

Lunch will be provided, along with goody bags, T-shirts, and an opportunity to win an iPad mini donated by the MBA Association.

"Everyone must preregister, and you must be present to win the iPad mini," Jones said. The event will also include

academic success presentations, a case presentation and a panel of speakers that includes students, faculty, alumni, career services and recruiters.

"Faculty and [alumni] will be there to talk about expectations from the students," Jones said. "There will also be a mock case competition so the students can see what it's like in grad school."

The open house will be held in the Bidgood Hall of Fame from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Attire is business casual and admission is free.

"The purpose is to try to get the word out that all our programs, other than accounting, are available to graduate students even outside the business school," Jones said.

Liquid Listings



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BEFORE THE DROP



AFTER THE DROP



CW | Kevin Pabst

EDUCATION

School districting one of the roots of this state's education woes

By John Speer
Senior Staff Columnist

Last week, I discussed vouchers and charter schools as ineffective options for school reform. This week, it is imperative that I focus on districts and funding. Alabama has a two-fold problem: gerrymandering and inadequate funding. Gerrymandering unequally distributes funding to public schools. What's more, our funding procedures for school districts are regressive and outdated.

What is gerrymandering? It is the political process of manipulating a district to ensure only a certain group is represented. When placed in the context of schools, this process is incredibly dangerous.

While gerrymandering a district to ensure a political outcome does not accurately represent the views of an entire area, gerrymandering a school district narrows the funding options open to schools and ultimately restricts the opportunities of its students. Alabama is notorious for gerrymandering school districts and restricting the flow of funds open to certain schools and areas.



John Speer

Consider the Jefferson and Shelby County areas comprising Birmingham, Ala. You have very wealthy, well-funded, and ethnically homogeneous suburban schools, and very poor, ill-funded, and ethnically homogeneous schools. This occurs because not only do the wealthier communities have more property tax, but a generous abundance of sales tax coming from the more commercial areas surrounding their neighborhoods. As Alabama receives most of its educational funding from sales taxes, the lack of commercial business and thus taxes in poor areas results in less funding for the schools. Additionally, consider the burden placed on rural schools where taxes from sales are few and far between. In a county where you have to drive 30-45 minutes to a grocery store, how does it make sense to have a school system based on property taxes and sales taxes? Most states fund their education system from property taxes, and this tax is adjusted to reflect changes in costs, inflation, etc. Alabama funds its education system primarily off of sales taxes, and our property tax has not changed since 1901. Moreover, in a lean economy, people buy fewer goods, further decreasing the tax intake for public schools. This begs the question – how does funding affect schools' operation?

You cannot expect schools to improve when you continuously cut or refuse to properly fund education. Less funding means less books, less computers, second rate libraries, under-qualified staff, few guidance counselors, and most importantly, neglected students. Real education reform requires parents, teachers, administrators and legislators to ask questions about how classrooms operate.

We must ask ourselves: How can a student learn in a classroom of 35 students of varying ability with 45 minutes of instructional time? How can a student practice their math skills when they cannot take their textbook home? How can they complete a research paper when their library does not have the appropriate texts or enough computers to accommodate their class? How can a teacher design an effective science lesson without the proper materials and labs?

How do you deal with students who cannot afford books for their English class or materials for their other classes? How can schools offer advanced courses when there are few or no teachers with the proper certification? How can a student get enough access to a guidance counselor for testing and college applications when the counselor must advise 500 or more other students?

These are the essential questions which must be answered when we speak of school reform. We must know what happens inside of the classroom and how the particulars of the school's daily operation impact student success. I fail entirely to see how vouchers or charter schools answer any of these questions. Vouchers are convenient cop-outs for real reform, and charter schools serve no real purpose beyond making people feel better and straining already tight local school budgets.

Alabama is one of the few states with a trust fund specifically for funding education. Why is it then, that we continually face this problem? Before we take vouchers and disavow public education, it is time that we pay close attention to the actions of our legislators. They have been abusing the public trust for 112 years.

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

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

SGA should be more than just kids playing games

By Mackenzie Brown
Visuals Editor

Tuesday, a new slate of SGA candidates was elected into office. The results were expected, but how could they not be? Six of the seven candidates ran unopposed, but even if they had not, they were Machine candidates. They were destined to win from the beginning.

The saying floats around that the SGA is just kids playing kid games. In the opinion of many on campus, SGA doesn't mean anything. To a certain extent, I have to agree. In many ways, SGA is simply an extension of the established greek system. They host events, do their good deed and occasionally install new bike racks. What power does the SGA truly have? Just kids playing kid games.

However corrupt or useless the system may be, the fact still remains that we as a student body elected these students to represent us. I say represent because Jimmy Taylor, as SGA president, has a particularly special role. Taylor will be the only UA student represented at Board of Trustees meetings. The only UA student. Out of

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Regardless of how the student body may see the SGA, they do have an important role on campus and can make a difference.

33,600 students, Taylor will be the only one represented in front of this board. Obviously, the Board of Trustees is not a bunch of kids playing kid games. They determine our tuition, the future of three campuses in the UA system and make other major decisions. And Taylor will be our voice in those meetings. That's a powerful position, and not one to be taken for granted.

Last summer, I had the opportunity to sit in on ex-president Guy Bailey's Board of Trustee interview. At the table in front of the audience sat every Board of Trustee member and chancellor Robert Witt. There was one seat empty, however. Toward the front of the table was a nameplate that read: "Matt Calderone, SGA

President." Not to condemn Calderone, but helping choose the future UA president is not something the only student representative on the board should skip.

I had the pleasure of interviewing Taylor and the rest of the executive branch candidates as a part of The Crimson White editorial board. Each one appeared to be a great person and fully capable of leading us in the executive branch. Tuesday morning I saw Hamilton Bloom, and he said he remembered me and made sure to chat with me. Allison Montgomery is new to a high position within the SGA but said she was eager to learn. Will Pylant was polished and insisted that student opinion comes first. Chris Willis answered each of our questions fully and said he will handle the SGA's finances properly. Parker Graham recognized problems in the SGA and said he will be a great resource to fix the corruption. Finally, Taylor was friendly, open and said he will serve as a great president.

During our interview, we talked about the fact that running unopposed means they

are under a greater obligation to prove themselves as the best candidates. I believe they are worthy candidates.

I just ask them, however, not to take advantage of their positions. I ask them to work hard and represent the entire student body and not just certain parts. Regardless of how the student body may see the SGA, they do have an important role on campus and can make a difference. At the same time, they can do great harm.

It's our responsibility as voters and the students they represent to make sure they do work for the betterment of the University. It's the duty of The Crimson White editorial board to make sure they stay in line and are held accountable for their actions.

I look forward to working with this group of students. The executive branch for this next year consists of worthy candidates and great people. I believe that with hard work and the desire to serve, they hold the potential to be more than just kids playing kid games.

Mackenzie Brown is the Visuals Editor of The Crimson White.

EDUCATION

Alabama Accountability Act harms education system

By Nathan James
Senior Staff Columnist

The condition of Alabama's schools is one of the most serious problems facing the state, and Alabama Republicans have found what is unequivocally the worst solution imaginable.

Recently, they approved the Alabama Accountability Act, stipulating that families who pull their children out of "failing" public schools will get a \$3,500 tax credit to send their children to private schools. In theory, this will allow students to go to prestigious private schools rather than inadequate ones, but in practice it's flawed on nearly every level.

At the end of the day, this subsidy won't allow poor kids to go to private schools. The average tuition cost of an Alabama private school is far more than \$3,500 and, even if it wasn't, a tax break at the end of the year isn't much



Nathan James

help to someone who needs the money immediately.

So here, essentially, is what the bill will do: First, it will give already advantaged families money they don't need to send their kids to private school. Then, once the high-performing, wealthy students have all left, public schools will be even worse off than they are now. And at the end of it all, disadvantaged students will remain trapped in these ruined public schools.

No one likes Alabama's public education system. But Alabama Republicans seem to think that the solution is

to scuttle it, leaving poor students to go down with the ship.

We need public education, because it gives everyone a chance to succeed based on their merit, regardless of their station or family income. For disadvantaged but hardworking young Americans, public schools are the one chance to break the cycle of poverty. Private schools are simply unable to fill this role, because they discriminate based on wealth. Therefore, any attempt to replace public schools with private ones will lead to greater poverty and social stratification.

If Alabama Republicans sincerely want to help students in public schools, they need to fix public schools. And they need to acknowledge that the only way to do this is by giving schools more money, which may necessitate higher taxes or the institution of a state lottery.

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If Alabama Republicans sincerely want to help students in public schools, they need to fix public schools.

I know that Republicans hate this, but it's simply something that has to happen. And since some estimate that the Accountability Act will cost hundreds of millions of dollars, claims that we can't fix schools because of the expense to taxpayers ring insincere.

We need to safeguard education for our children. And we need something other than the Accountability Act.

Nathan James is a sophomore majoring in public relations. His column runs weekly on Thursdays.

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Aerospace engineering names Baker as head

By Sarah Robinson
Contributing Writer

John Baker developed an interest for aerospace and mechanical engineering the day his dad sat him down in front of the television to watch people walk on the moon.

"It was the idea of exploring, going places that no one has ever been before, doing things never done before [that] seemed to be a great challenge," he said.

Now Baker, a Kentucky native, will be charting new territory of his own. He was recently named the new head of the department of aerospace engineering and mechanics in The University of Alabama's College

of Engineering.

Baker, who received the Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award in 2007, has been teaching engineering at the University since 2001. He teaches undergraduate and graduate-level thermodynamics courses. He also teaches elective and heat transfer courses in rocket propulsion and other space exploration-related topics.

Baker compared his new responsibility as head of the department of aerospace engineering and mechanics to the birth of his first child.

"You have the responsibilities the day before [the birth], but then you look at that child and you go, that's yours," he said. "The department is kind

of like that. Now I feel the responsibility of taking care of the department, and making sure it grows."

He said he wants to make sure students keep getting the best education they can at the University. The department plans to focus on improving and modernizing all the infrastructures so students can

work on them, building a culture where they understand they can be their very best.

Marquise Ridlehuber, a junior majoring in aerospace

engineering, said she is confident Baker will be a wonderful department head.

"He truly cares about the student and the project, not just the grade," she said. "He is already hard at work to make the student's education that much better through better equipment and better relationships between faculty and students."

Baker said there will be a total of 70 faculty positions in the department this and next year.

"We are really going to grow the faculty to make sure we still get that individual attention that the students have always had," Baker said.

He said he plans to expand the department's doctoral program by working with the faculty and the college to get more external funding to support the students. He said the Graduates Assistance for Areas of the National Need is an ideal way to increase the size of the doctoral program. The program, through the U.S. Department of Education, can fund five or 10 doctoral level students, depending on the size of the proposal.

Baker said his new position will be one of the biggest

challenges of his career.

"There are a lot of additional skills sets that I need to develop," Baker said. "It's been a little bit overwhelming, but everybody has been very friendly, very welcoming."

Brian Fisher, an assistant professor in mechanical engineering, said Baker will be a great leader.

"I think he has been a great professor from what I can tell. He is well liked by the students in the mechanical department and by other students outside of his department that take his classes," Fisher said. "My opinion is that he will be a great department head. They should consider themselves lucky to have him."

Governor could sign bill Thursday morning

ACCOUNTABILITY FROM PAGE 1

The surprise bill was quickly passed in both chambers minutes after being released by the committee. The state superintendent, along with many other educators and education experts who had supported the original bill, withdrew their support when the new version was introduced.

Many opponents of the bill argue the Republicans violated committee rules to push the bill through. Bill Stewart, professor emeritus of political science, said this incident underscores a larger concern about the time state politicians devote to studying legislation.

"I say 'incrementally' because I believe that, historically, whether it was controlled by Democrats or, now, Republicans, much legislation has not been presented and studied in an adequate way," Stewart said. "Especially in the case of appropriations bills, it is not unusual for members to have to vote on legislation, which they could

not have had the opportunity to read, much less study in depth."

While the authors and supporters argue it allows students to escape failing schools, opponents claim the bill will only drive public schools into further failure and increase the economic and racial disparity in Alabama's education system.

"This is essentially voucher and charter school legislation rolled into one. Despite the explicit claim in the bill is not about charter schools, it is very much the language of charters," John Petrovic, a professor of educational foundations and policy studies in the college of education, said. "Such choice schemes are intended to help all students get out of 'failing' schools. But, the best that can be said about both of these choice schemes is that the research is mixed. That said, the preponderance of the evidence from such experiments around the world indicates one consistent, predictable effect: increased stratification along socioeconomic and racial lines. This negative effect is typically accompanied by little to no gain in terms of academic achievement."

Proponents of the bill say the

failing schools will be forced to improve if they want to keep their students and the funding that comes with them. However, Petrovic said competition does not easily apply to education the same way that it does to manufacturing.

"The idea that competition drives excellence is simply false when applied to education, and that seems to be what this bill is about," Petrovic said. "Unfortunately, it has become ideological common sense in our culture. So, these choice schemes are gaining traction across the country, and they, unfortunately, undermine the ideal of schools being the great equalizer, the democratic vision of Horace Mann. Clearly, the bill will lead to further headlines demonizing public schools in Alabama, already underfunded. It will contribute, in a real sense, to a self-fulfilling prophecy."

Because the bill does not outline the methods for funding, some suspect the funds for the tax-credit program will be taken from the state's general education fund, the same trust that funds Alabama's public universities, in addition to the K-12 public systems.

"In my opinion, if AAA is signed, it will increase the political competition for already insufficient education funds," Stewart added. "There will be a larger number of people who want a piece of the pie, and the advantage will lie with the most politically skilled who have good relations with Alabama's Republican leaders."

Gov. Bentley said in a statement that the Department of Education will be responsible for defining failing schools, but there is currently no official definition for what constitutes one. A failing school is typically described as one in the bottom 10 percent of statewide reading and math scores, has earned three consecutive Ds or an F on upcoming school report cards, or is designated by the Department of Education as failing.

"My greatest concern is that the professionals who will be responsible for implementing [the bill] had nothing to do with it, were not allowed to have any input in the outcome or what the bill will provide," Shelley Jones, former president of the Tuscaloosa City Schools Board, said.

Williams' speed impresses scouts

PRO DAY FROM PAGE 1

Jones is still recovering from surgery to repair torn ligaments in his left foot. After Alabama's championship celebration, he said he wouldn't be able to work out before the draft. Still, he is meeting with teams so they can get a better feel for him without watching him workout.

"I'm just focusing on controlling the things I can control," Jones said Wednesday. "I have 50 games of tape out there, so hopefully, they watch those and try to present myself in a good way so a team will pick me and kind of convey what I can bring to a team, which is kind of hard because you really have to talk about yourself a lot, and I'd rather talk to you guys about other people."

Jesse Williams may have had the best showing at Wednesday's Pro Day,

where he ran an unofficial 4.9 40-yard dash, according to ESPN. Williams, who weighed in at 6 feet 3 inches, 323 pounds, could be a first-round draft pick, according to many predictions.

"I think that's what people look for," Saban said of Williams, "guys that have size but are athletic and have initial quickness and some power and can run and finish on the quarterback and run ball-carriers down."

Nico Johnson said Alabama will hold another Pro Day April 2 for players who are still recovering from injury. Johnson had sports hernia surgery in January and did not participate in the NFL Combine.

"I just want to come back April 2 and show I could improve," Johnson said. "Today I don't think I ran that well. But everything else - I think I did the drills well. But I'm a perfectionist, so I want everything to be good. So I'm gonna come back and bust my butt."

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New organization encourages acts of kindness

By Taylor Veazey
Contributing Writer

Upon entering her junior year at The University of Alabama, Jennifer Hodnett realized she wanted to make a difference on campus while she still had the chance. In that spirit, she created Crimson Kindness.

A new student organization on campus, Crimson Kindness aims to create a community of compassion through random acts of kindness on campus.

"We want to encourage our members to be ambassadors of kindness on campus through their daily lives, as well as doing things together as a group," Hodnett, a junior majoring in human development and family studies, said.

Hodnett said she got the idea after witnessing her friend buy a stranger's lunch in a random act of kindness. She researched the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation, which is a "nonprofit organization founded upon the powerful belief in kindness and dedicated to providing resources and tools that encourage acts of kindness," according to its website. Hodnett said the pieces fell into place after that.

"I really want to set a new standard or tone on campus," Hodnett said. "A lot of people are coming in, and if they see a group like Crimson Kindness, they can say that there are people at this campus who care and hopefully will want to join us."

Hodnett said one thing the

group plans to do is leave uplifting sticky notes around campus for people to find. The notes will say things such as, "You're beautiful," "You're awesome," and "Have a wonderful day." She said in the future they hope to make care packages for students during dead week and bring in guest speakers.

Audrey Gunn, a sophomore majoring in psychology, is the marketing coordinator for Crimson Kindness. She hopes to get the word out about the group over Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest. She wanted to get involved because she hopes to see a campuswide movement for kindness.

"Everyone here is calling this place home for the next four years," Gunn said. "The

more kind we can be, the better it will be for everybody."

Bethany Bickford, a junior majoring in psychology and the new financial coordinator for the group, said she is a happy person who likes to see other people happy and thinks campus could use some positive reinforcement.

"I hope we are able to make an impact on campus so people know who we are," Bickford said. "Through hearing about it, maybe they will branch out and try to help out their neighbor."

Hodnett said the responses she has received have already exceeded her hopes, and that speaks to the need for the organizations. She said overall she hopes Crimson Kindness will have an influence on



CW | Aloina Clark

Crimson Kindness leaves sticky notes on desks, tables, and various places to let people know that someone cares.

people.

"If it can make that one person feel better, make them feel valued and impact their life, then it is worth it."

Crimson Kindness will hold

its first meeting for those interested in joining Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Child Development Research Center. For more information, find Crimson Kindness on Facebook.

Energy drink program an investment opportunity

By Rich Robinson
Staff Reporter

Some students at The University of Alabama are working to sell Verve, a new energy drink product with nutritional benefits, to the fertile consumer base of the Capstone.

Max Rubenstein, a junior majoring in psychology, has been working with Verve for about a month and has made roughly \$400 by selling it to his friends and fellow students.

"Someone that I know back home from high school contacted me over Facebook message, something as simple as that, telling me about an opportunity, something that was getting large at Tennessee and thought that I would be a

good person to get it started at Alabama," Rubenstein said. "I Skyped with him that night, got enrolled immediately, texted around and within a week I had 11 people enrolled and then a week later we had 60 enrolled."

The product is not sold in stores and instead grows via a multi-level marketing strategy, which gives incentive for individual sales from its brand partners like Rubenstein. In order to sell Verve and earn a chance to make your own fortune, you have to pay roughly \$140 a month for two cases of the product.

"You have to treat this like a job to be successful at it," Rubenstein said. "We've been making sure that people know when they get into this, that

is not something that you just sign up for and then let things happen."

Craig Armstrong, an assistant professor of management, said the business model makes sense for the person at the top.

"It becomes a multiplying network effect because the more people down-line you have, the more money the first rung gets. It's like a pyramid scheme," Armstrong said. "The potential downside is that there is going to be a limit to how far down the line you're going to be able to get. You can get too many people involved in selling it."

Armstrong also said it would be easy to get caught up in the potential opportunity but that it was also incredibly difficult to make much money from it.

Armstrong gave some advice to students who want to start their entrepreneurial careers in college.

"Be the first guy in, get as many guys to sell for you as you can, and then convince them to go find other people to sell for them," Armstrong said.

But Vemma, the company that owns Verve, does not outline any potential risk in its pyramid-shaped business model.

According to the website, "If you are ready to achieve your financial dreams without any barriers, now is the perfect time to join Vemma as a Brand Partner. Simply choose your Builder Pack to maximize your opportunity so you can start earning immediate income. You'll see how this tiny invest-

ment in your business is pennies compared to the huge earning potential this opportunity can afford you."

Unlike in pyramid schemes, where no tangible product or commodity exists, Verve is a real drink. One of the most prominent endorsements of the Vemma brand of products is Dr. Mehmet Oz, Rubenstein said. The celebrity doctor says in a video on the Vemma website that his charity, HealthCorps, has received nearly \$1 million in donations from Vemma.

According to a company press release, Vemma is growing rapidly, with 2012 sales sitting at \$117 million. The release also said the largest sales growth occurred in the U.S. market, with a 46

percent increase over 2011, and that the U.S. market also saw an 85 percent growth in recruiting.

Vemma spokeswoman Lynn McGovern said the company could not provide an average amount that brand partners receive in compensation. However, a corporate fact sheet provided by McGovern said the business has so far given \$500 million to its brand partners.

"In terms of average earnings, I cannot give you an exact figure as each Vemma Brand Partner is an independent contractor, and like any other independent business person, his or her success or failure depends on his or her personal efforts," McGovern said.

Dozens of courses give students credit for service-learning

By Justin Heck
Contributing Writer

For students with a heart for community service and a gap in their schedule for the fall, a service-learning course may be the perfect choice.

Service-learning courses fall under a variety of majors and combine academic studies with volunteer work related to the course topic. This spring, 27 different service-learning courses were offered at The University of Alabama. Last fall, 36 service-learning courses were offered.

Ashley Smith, a sophomore majoring in dance and apparel design, is currently taking

DN 403: Approaches to Dance Instruction. Students in the course teach dance lessons during the P.E. hour at a local elementary school.

Smith said she thinks service is a good way to develop as an individual and is an important opportunity to give back to others.

"I believe that service greatly helps develop us as individuals, because it often forces us out of our comfort zones and gives us perspective far beyond our own little worlds, taking our focus and priority off of ourselves," Smith said. "It's a chance for us to share the time, resources, talents and unique gifts that each of us has been

so abundantly blessed with, and to hopefully leave the people we interact with better off than they were before."

Smith also said service should not be limited to the classroom.

"While service-learning classes are a great way for us to develop and serve in a safe setting, we don't have to wait for structured opportunities to share what we've been given with others," Smith said.

David Kwong, a sophomore majoring in mechanical engineering, is a lead volunteer in UH 333: Every Move Counts, a class in which students teach chess at local elementary schools.

Kwong said learning chess can directly benefit elementary students.

"It gets the students thinking about decision making and strategizing. They subconsciously benefit in terms of mathematical thinking," Kwong said. "It keeps them more focused on their studies as opposed to making poor decisions."

Kwong said Every Move Counts is also a valuable experience for UA students.

"They get honors credit and humanities credit, and they should come out with a reasonably good grade. All-around, I would say it's a win-win," Kwong said. "They not only

get to help out the kids, but they also learn a little bit about how they do as a mentor, leading someone who's younger than them to grow up and be successful."

Another service-learning course in the Honors College is UH 103: Alabama Action, a week-long volunteering program in August for incoming freshmen.

Susan Alley, faculty advisor for Alabama Action, said service-learning courses can help students develop a heart for the community.

"Through service-learning courses, students not only gain technical skills, but also intangibles, such as leadership,

perseverance, and, oftentimes, a heart for the community," Alley said. "We also are able to discover how to create systemic change in the environment, which can inspire leaders for generations to come."

Alley also said service-learning courses like Alabama Action give students a practical way to demonstrate what they have learned.

"We take a holistic approach to learning, where the learning done in service depends on the learning done in the classroom and vice versa," Alley said. "We are thrilled to give students the opportunity to put all they have learned into practice."

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SPORTS

Four gymnasts to be honored during Senior Night

By Marquavius Burnett
Sports Editor

Four Alabama gymnasts will take the apparatus in Coleman Coliseum for the final time this regular season.

Seniors Becca Alexin, Marissa Gutierrez, Ashley Priess and Ashley Sledge will be honored prior to No. 4 Alabama's meet versus No. 1 Oklahoma.

The four seniors have been a part of two national championship teams and one Southeastern Conference championship team (two for Priess).

"I think they've all grown so much as individuals," head coach Sarah Patterson said. "Those four people will be important to the success we have in the future."

Emotions will be high as family and friends pack the stands to cheer for them one last time on their home mats, but Patterson said the girls have to fight through the emotions and remember it's ultimately about the meet.

"I'm working on that already. I don't want it to be too emotional because I think we have a lot to do, we have to really use it in a posi-

tive light rather than losing our focus," Patterson said. "And that's what I try to talk to the ladies about. It's whether you can go on an event or not, whether we're still moving in the right direction, it's all about moving this team forward and competing against the No. 1 team in the country. Take a moment with your parents, enjoy that, and then we have to move on quickly."

Becca Alexin

Though seldom used early in her career due to lingering knee issues, Becca Alexin has developed into a key contributor for the team.

Alexin mainly competes on the uneven bars for the Tide and has been a Scholastic All-American and earned a spot on the SEC Academic Honor Roll each year of her career.

But Patterson wanted more from Alexin this season, and she has delivered.

"I challenged Becca Alexin a few weeks ago," Patterson said. "Becca came in with an injured knee and has had trouble, but she always went on some extra mats.

I said, 'you're strong enough, you don't need that.' She's done the best bar routines in the last three or four weeks of her career."

For the team, her personality will be missed, sophomore Kayla Williams said.

"Becca [Alexin], she can make you laugh at everything," Williams said. "That's what I learned from Becca. Come into practice every day with a smile on your face and it's going to be a good day."

Marissa Gutierrez

Gutierrez is a three-event standout for the Tide as a staple in the vault, balance beam and floor exercise lineups.

She was selected as a first team Vault All-American her sophomore and junior years and has been the model of consistency.

But three weeks ago in Arkansas, Gutierrez went down with an ankle injury and has yet to return due to lingering pain. Patterson said she won't compete against Oklahoma and the team hopes to have her back for the SEC Championships.

"To risk putting her out there

too soon, that wouldn't be in our best interest in terms of preserving her health," Patterson said. "I'm excited with where she was after yesterday. I told Marissa, she's going to take three steps forward, one step back. Three steps forward, one step back. That's just the way it's going to be."

Patterson said Gutierrez has developed into a strong leader and continued to encourage her teammates despite not being able to perform. That positive attitude has rubbed off on her teammates.

"Guti (Gutierrez) brings this sass and spunk to the team that is really going to be hard to replace," Williams said. "She has an opinion about everything, but in a good way, you know? Just her uplifting attitude. That's going to be missed."

Ashley Priess

Ashley Priess is only the second fifth-year senior in the program's history. She was recently named one of six finalists for the 2013 AAI Award, which honors the nation's top senior gymnast.

An eight-time All-American, Priess is pursuing a master's

degree in sports management and serves as the president of the Alabama Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

Priess' decision to return for a fifth year stabilized the Tide's lineup and brought back valuable leadership.

"[Ashley] Priess brings the experience to the team that is going to be really hard to replace," Williams said. "From her, I've learned to persevere. She came off that junior season rough, ankle surgeries, not competing. She's come back and has been amazing."

This will be the second senior day ceremony for Priess as well, but she has relished the experience of being a part of this class of seniors.

"It's different because last year's senior class was truly the group I came in with, that I roomed with my freshman year," Priess said. "There's just a different bond there. This year, it's just really meaningful the way that this senior class has taken me into the realm and I feel so a part of them and not like the older outsider. So it's hard to define the

exact characteristic. I'm just excited to share that with them."

Ashley Sledge

Ashley Sledge graduated in December 2012 with a bachelor's degree in public relations but is pursuing a second degree in general studies. She's a member of the Alabama Student-Athlete Advisory Committee's executive committee.

At times during her career, Sledge has competed All-Around for the Tide, but stars on uneven bars, vault and floor exercise. Sledge is one of the vocal leaders on the team and leads by example.

Williams said Sledge took her under her wing when she got on campus.

"I feel like [Ashley] Sledge has been my mentor since I got here," Williams said. "Last year, she took me under her wing and helped me through all of those tough times and kept telling me it was going to get better and that I have what it takes and I can do this because there were a lot of times that I got down on myself. She's just been that motivating person for me."

Tide ends 5-game losing streak with 4-2 win against Tigers

By Kevin Connell
Staff Reporter

A new team took the field for Alabama Wednesday, or at least that's the way it appeared.

After less than five hits in three straight losses coming into the game, the Crimson Tide had six hits, just enough to put it over the top in a 4-2 victory against the Memphis Tigers.

The Tide came out flat with a 6-0 loss in the first game Tuesday, but game two was a different story. A three-run double from freshman second baseman Kyle Overstreet in the first inning gave

the Tide a lead it held on to.

"It was good to win," Alabama head coach Mitch Gaspard said. "We've been scuffling here for about a week and a half, and it was nice just to get the win and kind of get that good vibe as you move into the SEC opener."

Redshirt junior right-hander Tucker Hawley (3-1) was credited with the win in his first start since 2011. Hawley and sophomore right-hander Jake Hubbard combined to throw 9 strikeouts, allowing only 2 earned runs on 6 hits.

Hawley, who pitched the first six innings of the game for Alabama, was determined to have a strong

outing before the game.

"Going into the game today, I had already made up my mind that everyone would have to take the ball from me," Hawley said. "We needed a win bad, and I was going to go out there and do whatever I could to give us an opportunity."

With the loss, the Tigers (10-6) drop to 5-1 on the year against SEC foes, which included a three-game sweep against Missouri and a midweek win at Ole Miss before taking one of two from the Tide.

Alabama started the game visibly showing more energy than it had in recent outings. It was a

point of emphasis for the team, who called a players meeting after the 6-0 loss to Memphis the previous night.

"The last five games, there's been no energy; everyone's been down," Overstreet said. "The main thing we wanted today was to hit them in the mouth, play with some energy, and we did it today."

Overstreet led the way for the Tide going 2-for-2 at the plate with 2 walks and 3 RBIs.

In the top of the third inning, the Tigers got on the scoreboard after redshirt junior third baseman Drew Griffin hit a solo home to cut the lead to 3-1. A

few innings later in the sixth, the Tigers made it a 3-2 game after Tigers junior second baseman Zach Willis scored on a passed ball from third.

But in the bottom of the eighth, a bunt single from freshman center fielder Georgie Salem scored Overstreet to give the Tide the insurance run it needed to hold off for the win.

The win has the Tide believing again heading into SEC play this weekend.

"Everybody's back in it believing," Hawley said. "All it takes is one win to get back on the right streak."



CW | Alaina Clark

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COLUMN

Tide needs maturity to redeem itself against Florida in SEC semifinal game

By Nick Sellers

The Alabama's men's basketball team has been here before. Assuming Tennessee takes care of either lowly South Carolina or anemic Mississippi State in the upcoming Southeastern Conference tournament, the Crimson Tide will get a chance to redeem itself of the horrible no-call that handed the Vols a 1-point win in Knoxville, Tenn.

Last year, it was South Carolina the Tide had to take care of after its bye in the conference tourney. Bama will likely face a different team this year, though anything is possible. However, if everything goes as predicted and Alabama exacts sweet revenge on the Volunteers

“The dust has settled, and the question, now, is this: After the last three contests against Florida yielded frustrating results, when, if ever, will this core group become mature enough to prevail against the Gators?”

in the conference quarter-finals, one very formidable team will be waiting in the semifinals: Florida.

It was last year's young squad that met the Gators in Coleman Coliseum and got shellacked on its home court. A month later, the

same teams met in the conference tournament, and the Tide put up an admirable effort, ultimately losing 66-63.

Most notable about the latter contest, though, was the way coach Anthony Grant and company relentlessly battled against the same squad that humbled them just weeks before. The Crimson Tide learned from that painful loss and nearly pulled an upset in New Orleans, La.

Fast forward to March 2. Alabama's players, a year older and wiser, traveled to Gainesville, Fla., to face Billy Donovan, Grant's old mentor, and No. 6 Florida. That game saw Alabama hold leads well into the second half. Taking advantage of

fast-break opportunities and stifling defense, the Tide had the Gators on the ropes. As soon as all the skeptical Bama fans tuned in to witness what could be the team's signature win, however, offensive stagnation and a visible lack of effort snatched a victory away from the Tide.

The dust has settled, and the question, now, is this: After the last three contests against Florida yielded frustrating results, when, if ever, will this core group become mature enough to prevail against the Gators?

There are other factors to consider in this scenario, including the talent gap between the Tide and Florida. However, it is the mark of a mature and disci-

plined team that competes, sometimes loses, but learns from its mistakes and corrects them so as not to form a habit of committing the same errors. Not to compare this university's football and basketball programs, but one of the many reasons Nick Saban is such a successful coach is because the man never loses to the same opponent twice in a row.

Take a page from every SEC basketball team's sworn enemy: Kentucky. After UK coach John Calipari was recently confronted about this year's atypical performance by the Wildcats, he completely shouldered the blame for his team's struggles. Like someone who knows a thing or two about responsibility, he handled

the question gracefully and did not delegate any blame. Two days later, his team achieved its signature win against - guess who? - the Florida Gators.

Calipari could have made excuses, possibly calling out his players' mindsets or maybe mentioning the loss of their best player, Nerlens Noel. He didn't, though. His answer reflected a mentality of working and competing to get a win, no matter the odds or circumstances.

It is the mark of a mature and wise team that accepts responsibility and breaks bad habits when needed. A date with the Florida Gators is likely looming. We'll be able to see if the Crimson Tide basketball team is up to the task.

COLUMN

Dennis Rodman does not represent U.S., basketball interests in North Korea

By Kelly Ward

Dear John (Kim Jong-un), It has been great getting to know you. Those threats will always have a special place in my heart. We've shared so much - mostly a demilitarized zone. You're great. Really, you are, but we need to talk.

It's great that you love basketball. Honestly, it is. We love it, too. What's not to love about basketball? It's also awesome that you wanted to bring over an NBA star to share your love of basketball. Here's the deal, though. You picked the wrong guy.

Dennis Rodman played 911 games in the NBA in a career that spanned 14 seasons. That's pretty great. The problem is that he does not represent this country or even basketball. Could you not find anyone else who would go to North Korea? Any other basketball player would represent the sport better.

But he did go. It looked like you two had a great time together. You watched some basketball together. North Koreans and Americans playing an exhibition game seems like a great idea for diplomatic relations. I get what

you did, but everyone thinks that it was a publicity stunt. The White House denounced Dennis Rodman's trip. It was probably a good thing, too.

I get that he called you a friend for life. That's a special sentiment that is never exaggerated. Friends for life are great, especially when you need to watch an exhibition game. Now, this game ended in a tie. That's a very impressive feat. Really, it is. I don't know the last basketball game I saw that ended with a tie. I guess that's because basketball is one of those sports where you really need a

“I do have to ask. Was inviting Rodman really the best thing for you? You want to be taken seriously. Being friends with Rodman is not the way to do that.”

winner. If you were trying to say that North Korea is as good as the United States, you really didn't do a good job. The teams were mixed so it wasn't a true North Korea vs.

United States showdown. I'll be impressed with a tie if the North Korean national team played the U.S. national team and tied them. Anything less is not up to par.

I do have to ask. Was inviting Rodman really the best thing for you? You want to be taken seriously. Being friends with Rodman is not the way to do that. I know that he makes you look sane, but this is not the image you need. He does not make you look any better. Honestly, I am telling you this for your benefit.

Again, it's been great getting to know you. I love that

we have a love of basketball in common. You're really great. Thank you so much for helping us get over the Soviets and some recent tensions with Russia. I know you want something more than just an armistice. I guess that's why you nullified the armistice that ended the Korean War. It's just that you don't deserve to be a rebound war for us. I think it would be for the best if we both threaten other countries right now and see how we feel in a few years. It's not us. It's you.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Alabama prepares for conference tournament

By Charlie Potter
Staff Reporter

The Alabama men's basketball team will have a couple of days to prepare for the Southeastern Conference tournament after the Crimson Tide (20-11, 12-6 SEC) earned the No. 4 seed and received a double-bye.

Alabama completed the regular season in a three-way tie for second place with Kentucky and

Ole Miss. All three teams possessed 1-1 records against each other. But Kentucky earned the No. 2 seed with its win over top-seeded Florida. Ole Miss received the No. 3 seed because it defeated Alabama.

The Tide is not only playing for a conference title but also trying to get into the NCAA tournament.

Head coach Anthony Grant tried to rely on his usual mantra of approaching the schedule

one game at a time. However, he also honored the significance his team's performance in Nashville, Tenn., will have on its postseason odds.

"My standard answer is always going to be one game at a time for us," Grant said. "But we certainly know what's at stake in terms of an opportunity that we have, the last opportunity to try to put ourselves in position where we can play in the NCAA tournament. I think that's

something hopefully all of our guys are motivated and inspired to try to achieve.

"The bottom line is we take care of ourselves, one game at a time, and everything else takes care of itself."

Alabama will play Friday at 2:30 p.m. CT in Nashville, Tenn. It will face the winner between No. 5 Tennessee and either No. 12 South Carolina or No. 13 Mississippi State in a quarter-finals matchup.

The Gamecocks and Bulldogs will meet in the first round of the tournament Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. CT. The winner of that game will advance to face the Volunteers in the second round on Thursday at 2:30 p.m. CT. Both games will be televised on the SEC Network.

The Tide is coming off a buzzer-beater victory in its final regular season game against Georgia. But Grant pointed out the team's late-game collapse rather than its phenomenal finish.

"You don't get a second chance in the postseason," Grant said. "I don't know that all our guys understand that. Sometimes, as a player, you look at the result, and the result the other day was a three-point win and a lot of excitement because of the half-court shot that went in. But in the process of getting us there, we've got to do a lot of things better if we're going to have an extended postseason."

Grant said his team needs to play with more consistency to find success in the SEC tournament.



Trevor Releford has been shining in recent games with a "buzzer-beater" in his last home game against Georgia to top it off.

Junior guard Trevor Releford has been the only steady force for Alabama this season and most notably during the closing stretch of the regular season. In his last six games, Releford has averaged 20.4 points, 3 assists and 2.5 steals per game, while shooting 56.8 percent (42-74) from the field.

"Just pointing Trevor out, the last several ballgames have been the consistency that has allowed him to be in the position he's in," Grant said. "We've got to get more consistency out of everyone on our team."

Alabama will be competing for a shot at its seventh SEC championship in school history. It has not won a tournament title since 1991.

The contest will take place at Bridgestone Arena and will be televised on ESPNU.

WOMEN'S GOLF

Women's golf team looks for 3rd consecutive victory

By Caroline Gazzara
Staff Reporter

The Alabama women's golf team will travel to Gainesville, Fla., this weekend to compete in the Gator Women's Invitational. The Crimson Tide is looking to win its third straight team title during the invitational.

As the newly appointed national team of the week, No. 2 Alabama hopes the previous win at the Darius Rucker Intercollegiate will help it continue its success.

Head coach Mic Potter said the last tournament helped them persevere through rough patches. The Tide did not begin the tournament like normal but in the end won the competition by continuing to play as well and benefit from other teams' mistakes.

"I was really proud of the girls because though they had a poor opening round score for the team, they were able to bounce back," Potter said.

"They played pretty well the last two days even though we were still behind. They stayed to the plan and the other teams made some mistakes and that enabled us to just win the tournament. I was proud of their perseverance and how they continued to battle but at the same time there are some things we need to work on and to improve in order to play to our standards."

Though it only won the previous tournament by four shots, Alabama has been putting a lot of focus on putting. Once the Tide's putting skills improve, Potter says the score will be better.

"The whole team needs to improve their putting," Potter said. "If you putt well, it's hard not to score well."

The last time the Tide played in Gainesville, Fla., the team came in second place - losing by only one shot to Florida. Even with being named national team of the week, Potter said the focus is solely on

improvement.

"We have to focus on the reality of how we're playing and making sure we're improving on things and being efficient," Potter said.

While focusing on improvement, the expectations continue to rise. Though being No. 2 in the country doesn't seem to faze the team, the Tide continues to expect improved accuracy.

"Our expectations are to always make every shot and keep the focus," Potter said. "For every shot, we have to make a decision and make sure that it is a clear decision. We never really focus on winning or losing, our focus is on the individual and how we can make each shot better than the last."

The three-day invitational will tee off Friday. Alabama will be competing against schools from across the country including Mississippi State, North Carolina, Virginia and Florida State.

MEN'S GOLF

Alabama travels to Statesboro, Ga. to compete in invitational

By Caroline Gazzara
Staff Reporter

The University of Alabama men's golf team will travel to Statesboro, Ga., this weekend for the Schenkel Invitational. Alabama is returning as the tournament's defending champions.

After tying for second place last week at the Southern Highlands Collegiate Masters in Las Vegas, Nev., head coach Jay Seawell said he is confident his team would be able to excel at the invitational, even though Alabama is the defending champion.

"As coaches, we like to stay away from a result-oriented goal because it takes away from what you really need to work on," Seawell said. "We're going in with the mindset to do well and to really focus on the things we need to do, which is basically understanding the golf course and what condition it is in and then focus on the small details to be successful. If we play well, then the results will just come."

The No. 2 Crimson Tide will

“

It's a daily battle. [They] have school and they have a lot of things going on as a college golfer and a student athlete so we're really trying to get our routines into a good order.

— Jay Seawell

return to the invitational fairly seasoned to the course and the competition. Junior Cory Whitsett said most of the team played in the Invitational last year and knows what to expect. "Everyone on the team played there last year," Whitsett said. "Maybe all but one guy really knows what to expect. The coaches really take care of [expectations] at practice. We're just really working hard on the short game and the short iron."

The invitational will be played on a smaller,

old-fashioned course, unlike previous ones on which the Tide has played.

"We won last year, as well as set a record there," Whitsett said. "It's a good, old-school golf course and pretty short so there are a lot of birdie opportunities. We're just keying in on the short game."

During this week's practice, Alabama was focusing on the small details that could lead it to success. The daily battle between school and play time makes it difficult to fine-tune the smaller aspects Seawell hopes to eventually perfect.

"We're learning how to practice with focus and attention to the details of the small stuff that we need to do each and every day," Seawell said. "It's a daily battle. [They] have school and they have a lot of things going on as a college golfer and a student athlete so we're really trying to get our routines into a good order. We want to have our practices simulate what we want to do in the tournament."

The Tide is set to tee off at the Invitational Friday.

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SOFTBALL

Tide to travel to South Carolina for 3 games

By Kelly Ward
Contributing Writer

The previously No. 1 Alabama softball team dropped to No. 4 after three consecutive losses.

The Crimson Tide ended their skid with a 7-1 win over Tennessee this past Sunday. Now, the team will travel to Columbia, S.C., for a three-game series with the Gamecocks this weekend.

After losing the series to Tennessee, the Tide looks to extend its win streak past one against SEC opponent South Carolina. Alabama swept South Carolina in last season's series at Rhoads Stadium.

"We're looking for three wins. On the road, it's going to be tough," head coach Patrick Murphy said. "They're opening a brand new stadium. It's sold out all three games just like Tennessee was, but we're just hoping to go in there and get three wins, come home and finally get to play at home again against Auburn the

“

I'm really, really looking forward to playing at home because where we're comfortable and it's where we can play our best game.

— Kayla Braud

next weekend. It doesn't matter who I put out there. I just hope whoever it is produces."

After falling to Tennessee on Saturday on a walk-off single, Alabama rallied early to stop Tennessee.

"I think it was a good win, and our team did a lot of growing over the last few games. The good thing is that we're on the incline; we're getting better every single game and we're finding our rhythm, our identity," junior Kayla Braud said. "That kind of comes with it, and losing is part of that. You're not going to win every single game, but the good thing is that we're

getting better, but we have a lot of work to do."

The Gamecocks boasted a 13-5 record Wednesday when they played a doubleheader at Furman University. Alabama will open South Carolina's SEC play.

"To be the visitor two weekends in a row is kind of tough in this conference, but, you know, we have four home [series] and four away [series]. It just happened that the first two are away," Murphy said. "I think it will be really beneficial for us to score early in the series in every game because we are the visitor. It will take a lot of pressure off the

starting pitchers, and I think it will give everyone some confidence."

In SEC play so far, Alabama is 1-2. As of right now, the lineup has not been finalized.

"If it takes all 19 [players], it takes all 19," Murphy said, adding that he still had two more practices at the time of the interview.

After the series at South Carolina, the Tide will host Georgia State on March 20 and Auburn for a series from March 22-24.

"It's always great to play at home, and I think we're only going to get better at home. It's harder to play on the road," Braud said. "You're the away team. If you look back at the Tennessee series, the home team won in those two games because they were the last people to bat. I think if we had one more chance, we would've done it... I'm really, really looking forward to playing at home because where we're comfortable and it's where we can play our best game."



Pitcher Jackie Traina, left, has dropped two of her last three decisions.

BASKETBALL

Trevor Releford earns 1st Team All-SEC accolades

CW Staff

Tuesday it was announced Alabama junior guard Trevor Releford was one of eight players named to the Southeastern Conference First Team according to a vote of the league's 14 head coaches. In addition, the Kansas City, Mo., native earned a spot on the league's All-Defensive team.

Releford, the only Alabama player to be represented as

an all-conference performer, is one of two SEC players to earn both first team and all-defensive team accolades, joining Kentucky freshman Nerlens Noel.

This year's selection marks the third consecutive season Releford has earned all-conference honors. He was named to the league's all-freshman team in 2011 and was a second-team honoree in 2012. He becomes the first Alabama player to earn

all-league honors in each of his first three seasons since Kennedy Winston achieved the feat during the 1992 (All-Freshman), 1993 (First Team) and 1994 (First Team) seasons.

Releford has been selected to the United States Basketball Writers Association All-District IV team, based on voting from its national membership of 900-plus.

The district is chosen from the rosters of NCAA D-I teams

from Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Florida.

Releford is joined on the 10-member squad by Kenny Boynton (Florida), Kentavious Caldwell-Pope (Georgia), Isaiah Canon (Murray State), Marshall Henderson (Ole Miss), Joe Jackson (Memphis), Shane Larkin (Miami, Fla.), Jordan McRae (Tennessee), Nerlens Noel (Kentucky) and Russ Smith (Louisville).

Earlier this season, Releford was named to the watch list for the 2013 Bob Cousy Collegiate Point Guard of the Year Award and was also selected to the Preseason First Team All-SEC.

Releford becomes the first Alabama player to earn the recognition since JaMychal Green was named as an all-district performer in 2011.

Releford will lead the

Crimson Tide into the 2013 SEC Tournament this weekend. Alabama earned the No. 4 seed and will play on Friday at 2:30 p.m. CT on ESPN2 against the winner of fifth-seeded Tennessee and either No. 12 seed South Carolina or No. 13 seed Mississippi State. The Gamecocks and Bulldogs will open the tournament on Wednesday night with the winner advancing to play the Volunteers Thursday.

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WOMEN'S ROWING

Rowing team opens spring in Oak Ridge

By Nick Sellers
Contributing Writer

The Alabama women's rowing team will get its spring schedule underway this weekend with the Louisville Invitational Regatta. The competition will take place Saturday and Sunday in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

The Crimson Tide will look to continue being a force on the waterfront this season, having earned bronze medals last fall at the Head of the Charles and Head of the Hooch competitions. UA head coach Larry Davis said he is optimistic that the team's recent success is going to carry over to this weekend.

"The team has pretty much been putting in 20-hour work weeks for a while now," Davis said. "They're really excited about what they want to accomplish this weekend and the rest of the season."

The Crimson Tide will face off against many of the top teams in the nation, including Duke, Louisville and the

Virginia Cavaliers. Having won the last two of three NCAA championships, the Cavaliers figure to be a formidable opponent.

Despite the stiff competition, the team welcomes the chance to start off the spring in such a fashion, senior captain Tabitha Coleman said.

"This is the first time the coaches have started us off with kind of a big bang," Coleman said. "We're really excited to start racing again. Right now everyone's been just anxious and excited."

Though still a relatively young team, the Tide is anchored by a stable group of seniors, including Coleman and experienced coxswain Kiffy Balchon. The many underclassmen are an integral part of the unit as well.

"Some of us need to be

examples out there, not only physically, but mentally as well," Coleman said. "We all feed off of each other, though, and we all can benefit from one rower's energy."

“

We all feed off of each other, though, and we all can benefit from one rower's energy.

— Tabitha Coleman

Davis said the speed has been increasing well, and the psychology of the team has also been improving.

"We've been getting better as the season has gone along," Davis said. "This weekend, one of the things I want to see is consistency. Don't let any other boat get too far ahead or behind. Let no other boat dictate our own boat speed."

Alabama will take on the Clemson University and Marist College next weekend in Clemson, S.C.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Jansen earns SEC women's tennis Freshman of the Week honors

CW Staff

Alabama's Maya Jansen was named the Southeastern Conference Freshman of the Week for women's tennis, the league announced Wednesday. Jansen was instrumental in the Crimson Tide's victories last week over Arkansas and LSU, winning both of her doubles and singles matches.

"Maya has done an

excellent job of elevating her game throughout the course of the season," Alabama head coach Jenny Mainz said. "She's played some inspiring tennis this spring and has pulled out some gutsy matches in pivotal situations that have made the difference in the Tide's success. Maya's fiery spirit is contagious."

Jansen and partner Antonia Foehse helped Alabama win

both doubles points, dropping a combined five games between the two matches. In singles, the Valleyford, Wash., native dominated, winning both matches in straight sets. She has now won eight straight singles contests in a row and is undefeated in SEC play at 4-0.

Jansen and the rest of the Tide will be back in action on Friday when Alabama hosts Auburn at 5 p.m. CT.



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Novel depicts different perspective on life in the South

By Bianca Martin
Contributing Writer

The Summersell Center for the Study of the South will host author Lila Quintero Weaver Thursday. Weaver will be speaking about her life experiences as a child of South American immigrants and her graphic novel "Darkroom: A Memoir in Black and White." According to the Summersell Center's website, the mission of the center is "to investigate and promote understanding of the history and culture of the American South through research and public programming." Joshua Rothman, associate professor of history and African-American studies, is the director of the Summersell Center for the study of the South.

"I came to the study of the South through my research interests in slavery," he said. "But I think the region is one with a fascinating history that continues to be present in everyday life in ways that you don't quite feel in most part of the United States."

The Summersell Center studies the past, present and future of the American South region in a variety of ways. "The Summersell Center has an ongoing slate of programming throughout the academic year," Rothman said. "We host talks and conferences, sponsor film screenings and concerts, support student and scholarly research and generally do our best with the resources we've got to provide engaging events for the University and the larger community."

"Weaver's work reminds us of the complexities of race and ethnicity that were always there but that often get buried underneath the central narrative."

— Joshua Rothman

Thursday's event will be another way for the center to explore the South's history through a different pair of eyes — a South American's.

Weaver's novel focuses on growing up as a child of South American immigrants in the civil rights era of the South. It gives a perspective on the South's history from a different point of view.

"Hers is a story we don't often hear," Rothman said. "We're used to thinking of the South, especially during the civil rights era, as a black and

white story. Weaver's work reminds us of the complexities of race and ethnicity that were always there but that often get buried underneath the central narrative."

Rothman also said Weaver's novel could be a way to get more students interested in the South's history.

"As a professor, I'm used to the complaints students have about reading, but I've found that graphic novels are works that students can really latch onto," he said. "I think 'Darkroom' would be super in

the classroom, but is also just a great read."

Weaver's novel and presentation will allow the audience to think of the civil rights era with a broader lens.

Rachel Ramey, a freshman majoring in civil engineering, said she believes Weaver's story is beneficial for learning more about the South's history.

"I think [Hispanics] are a big part of our history," Ramey said. "They're just as much American as anyone. I think it's important that you see all sides of a story, especially on an issue where there's a more prominent perspective that everyone looks at. It's important to look at people who are less apparent too."

The presentation will give the audience a more authentic perspective of the civil rights

time period.

"I'd like those who attend this event to get a feel for what it was like to grow up in the South during the civil rights era, and especially what it was like to be someone who was sort of an outsider to the culture," Rothman said. "While there are things about a place and a society that only those raised in it can completely grasp, sometimes those who come at it from the outside see things that those who are native to it can never see."

Weaver's presentation will take place Thursday at 5 p.m. in Room 110 of the AIME building. The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided, and the book will be available for purchase. For more information, visit scss.ua.edu.

Visiting writers program to host Roxane Gay, Sandi Wisenberg

By Deanne Winslett
Staff Reporter

IF YOU GO...

- **What:** Bankhead Visiting Writers Series
- **Where:** Greensboro Room of the Bama Theatre
- **When:** Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Each year, The University of Alabama English department and the creative writing program partner with the College of Arts and Sciences to bring the Bankhead Visiting Writers Series to Tuscaloosa.

The series, made possible by the funding of a grant via the Bankhead Foundation, features various writers throughout the school year.

"The Bankhead series is a series in which the creative writing department at The University of Alabama brings in a writer and the writer reads," Kevin Ledgewood, a Bama Theatre representative, said.

The program is hosted

at the Bama Theatre annually, although they are not involved in the organization of the event.

Writers of all different styles participate in the event. Writers are nominated by the Black Warrior Review, which then contacts the writers via their representatives

and arranges the guest list for the series.

"The staff at Black Warrior Review gets together the names of writers that they might like to come and the members of BWR send out requests to the writers based on that," Jill Smith, assistant program director for creative writing, said.

The series is designed to connect the community with the literary world and establish a connection with current writers.

"We want to expose the community to these great writers and we also want to help our English program stay active," Smith said. "We want to bring people together to appreciate good writing."

"Usually we have between four and six writers a year,

sometimes more. This year we have six. My job is to help organize the event and make arrangements for the writers to fly in and make sure that they have a good time while they are here."

The writers represent all different genres of writing. Previous writers have included Charles Simic, Alice McDermott, Kevin Young, Andre Dubus, Robert Pinsky, Alice Walker, Bei Dao and more, according to the English department website.

"It's all different genres and we can mix the genres, especially if we have two writers

reading in the same night," Smith said.

To create a more rounded experience, they try to present different genres within each session of the series.

"We want to bring people together to appreciate good writing."

— Jill Smith

"We'll try to pick one person who does poetry and one person who does prose, for example," Smith said. "We have creative non-fiction, we have fiction. We have all of it."

The next event in the series will take place Thursday and feature writers Roxane Gay and Sandi Wisenberg. Gay is an associate professor of English at Eastern Illinois University. Her works include "Ayiti," a

blend of fiction, non-fiction and poetry combined together to illustrate the Haitian experience.

Wisenberg is an author based out of Chicago, Ill. Her works include "Holocaust Girls" and "The Sweetheart Is In," as well as "The Adventures of Cancer Bitch," a narrative of her own experience with breast cancer as based on her blog for The Huffington Post.

Thursday's event will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Greensboro Room at the Bama Theatre. The event is free and open to the general public. To learn more about the Bankhead Visiting Writers Series, visit the Bankhead page of the English department at english.ua.edu.



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Westervelt art collection home to 1000 works

By Alexandra Ellsworth
Staff Reporter

The Tuscaloosa Museum of Art may look more like a dojo than your typical art museum. Located on Jack Warner Parkway behind several pine trees in an Asian-style building, the museum can be a quiet getaway from fast-paced university life.

The museum is home to the 1,000 works of fine and decorative arts amassed by Jack Warner over a period of 50 years as investments for Gulf States Paper, now the Westervelt Company. The Westervelt Collection is considered by experts to be one of the greatest collections of American art.

Alex Vawter, a junior majoring in Latin and interdisciplinary studies, visited the museum and said she enjoyed the variety of art.

"We got to see multiple perspectives of American culture because we got to see

Native American and western landscapes as well as the more atypical revolutionary art," she said. "They had some interesting furniture to look at, too. Seeing the original upholstery on the pieces was pretty cool."

Vawter said the quiet and picturesque atmosphere of the museum makes it a great local place for a date.

"The whole place is really pretty," Vawter said. "The grounds are very Asian in style and the landscape is very nice. It is pretty cool and unique for Tuscaloosa."

Admission is free. Visitors receive a guest pass when they enter the building and can then walk around and view the art at their leisure.

"It's really quiet and kind of hidden, and the museum is pretty surprising," Vawter said. "If you don't have future knowledge of what the art collection is like it would be quite a surprise compared to the actual style of the

building itself, but the architecture adds a multicultural dimension."

Kathie Thurman, administrative coordinator for the museum, said Warner started collecting art when he received some Audubon prints. Much of the collection was then probably purchased through auctions. Thurman said Warner may have originally become interested in art through his grandmother and mother, who enjoyed antique furniture. Thurman said she believed the museum and the art to be a great asset to the community.

"It is very close to the University and other significant areas of Tuscaloosa," she said. "It is free to the public and can be used as a resource for classes and

tours. It is a great learning tool."

William Hawkins, museum coordinator, said that the Westervelt Collection found in The Tuscaloosa Museum of Art is comparable to what you find in a New York City art museum, and all the art is American-based.

"It is a unique collection," he said. "It is itself a walk through American history, from the pre-colonial era and on. There are a lot of people in Tuscaloosa who want to look at authentic art and they don't have the option to go somewhere like New York City to do it. It is a wonderful education tool for students, and there are a variety of things we are able to do with the collection."

Both Hawkins and

"It's really quiet and kind of hidden, and the museum is pretty surprising."

— Alex Vawter



Pre-colonial items from the Westervelt Collection sit on display at the Tuscaloosa Museum of Art.

Thurman said the Westervelt Collection will remain at The Tuscaloosa Museum of Art for the foreseeable future. They currently have no plans of moving the artwork or selling it.

"We really wanted to stay here and we believe

it's a great asset to the community," Thurman said.

The Tuscaloosa Museum of Art is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. For questions or additional information, visit tucaloosamo.org or visit their Facebook page.

COLUMN

Explore more options in the mobile music marketplace than Spotify, iTunes

By Francie Johnson

Technology is a wonderful thing, especially for music lovers. If you're as attached to your smartphone and your music as I am, here are some great apps you definitely don't want to miss out on.

SongKick

If you're in need of a simple, convenient way to keep track of when your favorite bands will be in town, look no further. SongKick scans your music collection and provides you with a calendar of concerts near you, customized based on the

artists in your own library. You can select multiple locations to show up in your calendar, so you can find out which artists will be stopping in Tuscaloosa and surrounding areas, as well as in your hometown. The app also provides links to RSVP to the concert, share it on Facebook or Twitter and buy tickets.

Shazam

You hear a song on the radio, at a store, or in a restaurant, and you think, "Hey, this is awesome!" But you have no idea what the song is called or who sings it. So you try to remember some of the lyrics to look

up later, but fast forward a few hours, and you've completely forgotten everything. Sound familiar? If so, you might want to try Shazam.

Just open this free app whenever you hear a good song playing, and it will listen to the song and identify the title and artist in as little as one second. The app also keeps a list of all your tagged songs so you can look it up or download it later.

"SongKick scans your music collection and provides you with a calendar of concerts near you."

NPR Music

Anyone who's a fan of NPR Music or All Songs Considered will be a fan of the free NPR Music app.

Through this app, you can listen to any of NPR's music channels across the country. You can browse by genre or by artist, as well as create a playlist of content to listen to later. Additionally, there are sections for all of the various NPR music shows and blogs, such as All Songs Considered and

World Cafe, where you can listen to full podcasts and read blog posts straight from your phone.

8Tracks

In this music app, all you have to do is select a combination of two genres or moods, and you'll be provided with a variety of playlists that fit your description. With options ranging anywhere from "soul" to "feel good" to "cover," you're bound to find a playlist that has exactly the music you want to hear. Additionally, there is the option to search specifically by genre, mood or artist.

Pandora

This app lets you take the popular Pandora website wherever you go. Simply type in an artist or song name, and the app builds you a custom station that plays music similar to what you selected. You can also star your favorite songs, bookmark certain songs to look up later, and customize your playlist by selecting "thumbs up" or "thumbs down" to certain songs. This app is perfect for discovering new music, as well as hearing some of your old favorites.

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COLUMN | GAMING

Micro-transactions make free-of-charge games on mobile markets profitable

By Nathan Proctor

The birth of free-to-play games has expanded the mobile market and brought gems like "League of Legends" to the forefront of PC gaming, but it's come with a price: micro-transactions. Downloadable at no charge, they offer developers an avenue to get as many gamers as possible to play their products, while making piracy impossible and offering gamers a free product.

The small purchases unlocking additional content, cosmetic tweaks or some kind of gameplay enhancement support the caste of nominally free games, and have drawn fire for their disruption of the expected

player-to-game relationship. Products heavily restricting a player's capacity to simply play the game through a pay-wall or providing what appears to be unfair "pay-to-win" benefits to players in a multiplayer environment provide a cheap experience. As opposed to the typical \$60 (or less) input promising an unrestricted and fair play experience, these games feature prominent mechanics that look as if their sole purpose is to balance a player's patience against their wallet.

This comes across as being lazy and obnoxious, especially cases where playing a game to the full extent and in the manner you would a typical retail game costs multitudes

more than an upfront price tag would. While the majority of these products, especially in the mobile sphere, do fall into a more exploitative category, the most successful and highest quality free-to-play products have committed to avoiding pay-to-win systems and stress cosmetics and content expansion to support their games.

As free products, developers must find an alternative to fund their products and allow them to be sustainable post-launch. Micro-transactions

are simply the most direct and efficient solution to support this model. Though the label is thrown around often, gamers are indeed entitled. Complaints about the manner by which games offer these transactions can be valid, but their existence is necessary, and making a few optional payments for the multi-million dollar product you're playing is quite fair.

More worrisome to gamers is the recent trend of micro-transaction slipping into full \$60 retail products. Seen most

recently in EA titles like "Mass Effect 3" and "Dead Space 3," they offer players in-game enhancements and cosmetic tweaks, and the full slate of EA products have offered cheap doses of DLC or available purchases of in-game currency, most effectively in "FIFA," this generation.

It doesn't feel quite right breaking the upgrade tree in "Dead Space 3" for \$5 and breaking the tension or paying for what's essentially a pull of a slot machine for multiplayer benefits in "Mass Effect 3," but they are wholly optional features. The option to skirt

around a game's progression as designed seems wrong, but when playing through sans transactions still provides the optimal or intended experience, it's hard to complain.

Though they are \$60 products and the larger publishers are already raking in profits, \$60 is an exceptionally reasonable price looking at the history of gaming, the natural progression of inflation and the rising budgets of top-tier games. I've not put a dime into a free game, nor retail games offering micro-transactions and have no regrets, but the options, if fair, are nothing to fear.

“As free products, developers must find an alternative to fund their products and allow them to be sustainable post-launch.”

REVIEW | FILM

'The Paperboy' likely to be viewed as unappreciated classic

By Matt McGrath

"The Paperboy" is a film that revels in its own trashiness. Director Lee Daniels shows no restraint in his attempt to shock the audience with the sheer audacity of what happens in his film, and it genuinely makes you turn to the person next to you and ask, "Did that really just happen?" The moment which best sums up the outrageous nature of the film is a scene in which Nicole Kidman urinates on Zac Efron. Yes, you read that correctly. In Lee Daniel's film "The Paperboy," Nicole Kidman urinates on Zac Efron.

I want to imagine that this is Daniels somehow critiquing the way in which our culture treats its sex icons, with a sex symbol of the 1990s defacing one from the tween generation. But more than likely it is just Daniels having fun with his film and trying to make something shocking and



Amazon.com

jaw-droppingly enjoyable, and he definitely achieves this. And this is what is so bizarre about this film. It has all these completely ridiculous scenes, which are clearly there for pure entertainment, yet at the same time there is some serious subtext concerning race, gender and class.

It is a special feat how the film manages to handle its

subject matter with such subtlety yet also be as scandalous and over-the-top with some of the more graphic scenes. "The Paperboy" makes brilliant use of its hot southern location, and the film almost sweats off the screen due to the steamy nature of the love triangle at the center of the film. The plot is a mess, but the style Daniels brings and the incredible performances he gets out of his actors more than make up for it.

Matthew McConaughey continues his recent career renaissance with a brilliant performance as a journalist investigating a death row inmate. His character has a surprising back story which requires a daring display, but McConaughey throws himself completely into the role and manages to steal the film. Zac Efron, an actor who has been flying under the radar recently, plays McConaughey's younger brother and fellow

investigator. His character in "The Paperboy" is the most grounded one, which allows for everyone else to turn the crazy up, and he brings a certain nuance to the role that shows he has the potential to move away from his Disney roles and become a legitimate Hollywood actor.

It is far from a perfect film, the plot loses its focus much too early in, and the narrator could not be any more unreliable, but despite all its flaws, it is so easy to shrug them off and just go along for the ride. "The Paperboy" has "cult classic" stamped all over it, from Nicole Kidman's sultry performance to John Cusack's surprisingly brilliant turn as a deranged death row inmate. I can imagine that 20 years down the line, people will be looking back at this film as an unappreciated classic. The film may seem like a joke, but Lee Daniels is definitely in on it.

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HOROSCOPES

Today's Birthday (03/14/13). This year is for you. Confidently choose a new direction. Expect more changes, and roll with them. Let a vision be your inspiration. Family and friends keep your home fires burning, until the fun outside overcomes. Play a game you 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 a 9 -- The next two days are good for making money, more than you think possible. Focus on doing the things that you're passionate about, and it will be easier. Handle chores, too.
Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is a 7 -- Nothing can stop you now. The more problems you solve, the more empowered you feel. There's so much to accomplish with this new confidence! Take actions where you've been stopped before.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is an 8 -- It's time to complete the project you've been avoiding. Spend time in private to replenish your ideas, but don't get too much into your head. You'll be glad when it's over. Just do it.
Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is an 8 -- It's getting fun. Hold off on making an important decision until you're rested and have thought it over. It's easier with some help from your friends. They add just the right amount of humor.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- The upcoming days may bring lots of career movement. Get ready: It's easier to take on a leadership position now. Making mistakes is part of the equation. Find support nearby.

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

8 -- Your luck is shifting for the better again. Travel conditions improve. You can take new ground. New opportunities will open soon, but there are still barriers. Rebellions flare up. Rest up. **Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** -- Today is a 9 -- Be strategic rather than impulsive now. You receive a call to action in a transformative cycle. You provide the imagination. Do financial planning, and study your money.

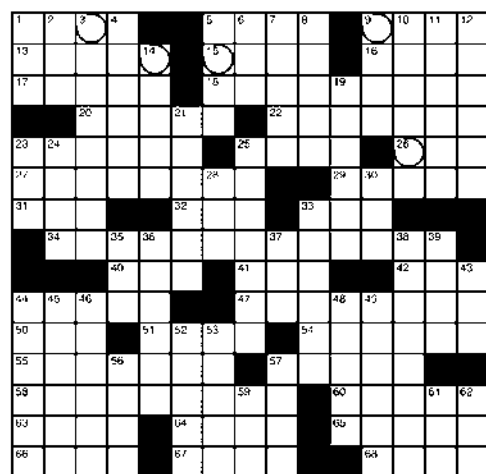
Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 9 -- You'll have more help. Accept another's suggestion. Spend more time with someone beloved, as vivid feelings and expressions arise. Don't hold them in. Share love.
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is an 8 -- Get practical tasks done. The pace is picking up, and things don't always work as planned; at least, not the first time out. Discover glamour right around the corner. After work comes play.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 7 -- Pamper yourself, as you enter a luxuriously lovely phase. Bring someone along to help you make decisions and have fun. There's more time for love, which is always a comfort when money's tight.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is an 8 -- Make your home more comfortable. It's where you want to be, anyway. Authorize improvements. Clean house. Lounge around with friends, good food and a movie (after homework's done).
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is a 9 -- You'll learn quickly, so pay attention. Get ready to take action. Study new developments. Put what you learn to profit; focus on the marketing. Apply your business and commerce ideas.

ACROSS

- 1 Retained
- 5 Music storage medium
- 9 in the thick of
- 13 Kinn rival
- 15 Art's art
- 16 Scale pair
- 17 Last one in
- 18 How 58-Across can be written
- 20 Diamond deal
- 22 Heartfelt
- 23 Quote from a pitcher?
- 25 Rigid
- 26 USN clerk
- 27 34-Across factor
- 29 "A Doll's House" playwright
- 31 Mil. honor
- 32 Shout in la arena
- 33 Forensic ID
- 34 58-Across times 27-Across
- 40 1967 NHL rookie of the year
- 41 Long time
- 42 One of them, maybe
- 44 "Let's Dance" singer
- 47 Mathematically, what 58-Across is
- 50 Walkoff hit stat
- 51 Sighed line
- 54 Elect
- 55 Top player
- 57 Gluten-rich grain
- 58 Subject of an annual March 14 celebration and of this puzzle, celebrated in its circled squares in both a literal and a numerical way
- 60 Sends out
- 63 Works that glorify
- 64 Minnesota's state bird
- 65 Leisurely stroll
- 66 Caesar and others
- 67 Fair
- 68 Post office call



By Don Gagliardo and C.C. Burnikel 3/14/13

DOWN

- 1 Actor Penn who has worked for the Obama administration
- 2 That, south of the border
- 3 Dell order
- 4 Spring sign
- 5 French bean product?
- 6 Blast on Broadway
- 7 Farther out?
- 8 Lama
- 9 Part of LPGA: Abbr.
- 10 Isn't in a big hurry
- 11 "Let me check"
- 12 Ohio home of the Wright Brothers
- 14 Hopping mad
- 19 Valuable fur
- 21 Construction sight
- 23 Throw in
- 24 Blu-ray buy 25 Its pages are often numbered i, ii, iii, etc.
- 26 Common street name
- 30 Outlaw

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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

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

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CULTURE

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2013 MUSIC FESTIVAL LINEUPS

By Lauren Ferguson and Katherine Owen | CW Staff

With summer only a few months away, students are beginning to daydream of sleeping in, vacations, friends and of course, music festivals. While the United States is no stranger to the outdoor festivals, the South does boast a great selection of music festivals worth saving your money for. This week, the Scene checked out four outdoor music festivals worth seeing this summer.



Bonnaroo

- Paul McCartney
- Mumford & Sons
- Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers
- Pretty Lights
- Wilco
- The Lumineers
- Macklemore & Ryan Lewis
- Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros
- Local Natives
- Passion Pit
- Of Monsters and Men

NEW ORLEANS JAZZ & HERITAGE FESTIVAL

- Billy Joel
- Fleetwood Mac
- Dave Matthews Band
- Maroon 5
- John Mayer
- Widespread Panic
- Frank Ocean
- Earth, Wind & Fire
- B.B. King
- Hall & Oates

FLAME FLIGHT

- Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers
- Stevie Wonder
- Kings of Leon
- The Shins
- Bassnectar
- Macklemore & Ryan Lewis
- Kendrick Lamar
- The Black Crowes
- Passion Pit
- Ellie Goulding

Beale St. Music Festival

- The Black Keys
- Alice in Chains
- Bassnectar
- Flaming Lips
- Phoenix
- The Smashing Pumpkins
- ZZ Top