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# MISSISSIPPIAN

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI | SERVING OLE MISS AND OXFORD SINCE 1911

## FOOTBALL IS BACK.

See pages 5-12 for a special section ahead of the Rebels' home opener



## Lecture series begins with 'Protests in Football'

SLADE RAND  
DMEDITOR@GMAIL.COM

Regular season NFL football returned this week and so did the widespread controversy surrounding players' right to protest.

A Nike promo released Monday for the 30th anniversary of the "Just Do It" campaign featured former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick calling on viewers to "Believe in something. Even if it means sacrificing everything." This has reignited the national conversation about players kneeling or otherwise protesting during the pre-game national anthem.

However, before Kaepernick tweeted an image of Nike's new ad on Monday afternoon, professor Charles Ross was already preparing to lead a lunchtime talk on campus about race, society and professional football.

Ross, director of African American studies and a professor of history, began the Center for the Study of Southern Culture's weekly Brown Bag Lunch and Lecture series on Wednesday with a discussion titled "Protests in Football."

"One of the reasons I study sports is that sports illustrate a lot of aspects of human behavior," Ross said.

Ross originally planned to

SEE SPORTS PROTESTS PAGE 14

## Branch vies for Miss America title

BRIAN BARISA  
THEDMNEWS@GMAIL.COM

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.—Asya Branch, Miss Mississippi 2018, is in Atlantic City competing to become Miss America. The goal of her platform is helping children with incarcerated parents — something that is close to home for her.

"My platform could have been anything under the sun. It is more beneficial when it is something that you can relate to, and my platform — empowering children of incarcerated parents — I chose because my father has been incarcerated for half of my life," Branch said.

Her father, Anthony Branch, plead guilty to burglary, larceny of a dwelling, one count of armed robbery and two counts of kidnapping in 2012. Ever since the age of ten, Asya Branch has grown up with only her mother and older brothers. She said living without her father was a challenge.

"It was different. I was definitely a daddy's girl, and all the time, I was glued to his hip. It was a huge change for



PHOTO: BRIAN BARISA

Miss Mississippi 2018 Asya Branch prepares for her day's interviews at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

me," she said.

Branch has kept in touch with her father through letters and pictures, but she has rarely gotten the chance to talk to

him in person until a month ago, when she saw him for the first time in three years.

"My dad is my biggest fan. My dad is my biggest

supporter. When he gets out, we are going to watch the video of me winning Miss

SEE BRANCH PAGE 15

### ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Court says group can't stop contextualization

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — A Confederate heritage group has no special status to try block the University of Mississippi from adding historical context to Old South symbols, a state appeals court said Tuesday.

Sons of Confederate Veterans sued the university in September 2014 in

chancery court, weeks after Ole Miss administrators announced the university was taking steps to distance itself from plantation-era images on the Oxford campus.

In an effort to promote racial diversity, the school renamed a street that had been called Confederate Drive and installed

plaques to provide historical background, including on a Confederate soldier statue that has stood for generations in a prominent spot on campus.

A chancery judge moved the lawsuit to state circuit court, and a circuit judge dismissed it in March 2017.

The Mississippi Court of

Appeals on Tuesday upheld the dismissal, saying Sons of Confederate Veterans has "no interest separate from or in excess of that of the general public" in the university's actions.

"This matter affects the

SEE CONTEXT PAGE 15

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**COLUMN**

# On Nike's new campaign: 'Just Don't Do It'



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Corporations care about one thing: profit. They do not want to be your friend. They are not trying to make the world a better place. They are not dedicated to justice or freedom. They are only interested in making money.

From that point of view, Nike's new advertising campaign featuring Colin Kaepernick is a smart move. However, Nike's sponsorship of Kaepernick doesn't mean that the company has suddenly

developed that mythical entity, a corporate conscience.

For years, Nike's image has been tainted by its history of human rights abuses. In fact, groups such as United Students Against Sweatshops and the Worker Rights Consortium have spent decades exposing the company's poverty wages, long hours, unsafe conditions, use of child labor and other unfair and dangerous practices. When Nike factory workers around the world have tried to unionize, the company has responded by closing up shop and relocating to other countries with even weaker labor protection laws.

The Kaepernick announcement successfully diverted attention away from anti-sweatshop protests and refocused it on protests of a very different kind, as racists burn shoes and take scissors to socks. By adding the face of an internationally respected activist to its advertisements,

Nike is trying to convince the very people most likely to have boycotted its products in the past to go out and buy new ones, instead.

Corporate co-optation of progressive movements is nothing new. When Mississippi workers tried to organize a union at the Nissan factory in Canton, the company cracked down and was eventually found guilty of violating the workers' civil right to form a union. But instead of respecting workers' rights, Nissan began showering money on organizations including the NAACP, the Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement, the Mississippi Center for Justice, the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Foundation and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. In exchange for the cash, these groups stayed silent about their benefactor's union-busting behavior.

Unfortunately, Nike's sponsorship of Kaepernick

dilutes his message, as well.

As Fannie Lou Hamer famously said, intersectionality means that "nobody's free until everybody's free."

The cause Kaepernick is most closely identified with — the protest of police shootings and support for the Black Lives Matter movement — cannot be divorced from supporting workers' right to unionize or opposing sweatshop working conditions. All forms of oppression are intimately and inseparably linked together and must be fought collectively.

There is no ethical consumption under capitalism. Companies will ruthlessly seek to improve their own bottom lines at the cost of human rights. But we should at least stop patting them on the back when they try to hide their shame behind a mask of social justice.

*Jaz Brisack is a senior general studies major from Oxford.*



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Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for clarity, space or libel. Third-party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or "name withheld" will not be published. Publication is limited to one letter per individual per calendar month.

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**MISSISSIPPI  
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MEMBER NEWSPAPER

COLUMN

# Nike's campaign with Kaepernick is genius marketing

**ALYSSA MONCRIEF**  
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"Girls from Compton don't play tennis. They own it."  
 "Don't wait until you've won a ring to play like it."  
 "Believing in something, even if it means sacrificing everything."

These are just a few of the campaign slogans that Nike released Tuesday as part of its new ad campaign that features elite athletes such as Serena Williams, Odell Beckham Jr. and, infamously, Colin Kaepernick. The choice to use Kaepernick, the former San Francisco 49ers player who knelt during the national anthem in 2016, in the campaign is receiving both support and backlash from consumers, particularly through social media. As of Tuesday afternoon, Nike stock had dropped approximately 3.2 percent because of Kaepernick's involvement, according to CNBC.

Protesters on social media sites such as Twitter and

Instagram have taken their political discourse as far as destroying Nike gear and cutting the famous "swoosh" symbols off of their clothes. The #JustBurnIt challenge, a social media challenge to burn all Nike apparel, was even created in defiance of the #JustDoIt campaign. Others, however, such as Chicago Tribune columnist Kevin Williams, believe Nike's choice to use such a controversial spokesperson was bold yet genius.

The saying goes, "Even bad publicity is good publicity," right? By using Kaepernick, historically one of Nike's best-sellers in the jersey industry (even after he remained unsigned for the 2017 NFL season), Nike is clearly making a political statement that will pay off. The company is emotionally appealing to human rights activists, liberals and Democrats by rekindling the fire that NFL players created in the civil rights world when they decided to protest police brutality by kneeling during the national anthem.

This seems to be a carefully

planned move on Nike's part to create buzz and discussion of the brand and its political opinions. Financially, the company has found a new audience in supporters of Kaepernick's political movement who previously were not Nike customers. Although its stock dropped temporarily, Nike recently completed a deal with the NFL, a multi-billion dollar industry, to add the "swoosh" logo to all NFL players' gameday attire. Jocelyn Moore, the NFL's executive vice president

of communications and public affairs, even praised Kaepernick and his comrades for all of the social justice issues they had taken a stance on.

Nike is clearly not losing money any time soon. Kaepernick has much to gain from this deal as well, as portions from the profit of his apparel line with Nike will benefit his charity, Know Your Rights Camp, which is dedicated to promoting youths' self-awareness of rights and knowledge of civil liberties.

This multi-year deal also places Kaepernick in an elite bracket of athletes that includes Beckham Jr. and Williams. Although Kaepernick's #JustDoIt campaign may not seem like much more than a political proclamation against President Trump and conservatives, it is clearly a well-thought-out, economically cunning marketing plan.

*Alyssa Moncrief is a freshman political science and journalism major from Jackson.*

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# 92.1

# SHADES OF THE SEASON

## FROM POWDER BLUE TO ROLLING STONE

COMPILED BY LIAM NIEMAN AND CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

### Powder Blue

For the first time since 1994, the Rebels took to the field in 2014 wearing uniforms featuring this signature shade of blue to honor the legacy of the late Chucky Mullins. Since then, the color, which was painted by Tucker Manufacturing to replicate the 1994 color, has gained popularity among fans and players.



From Harvard red and Yale blue to sycamore green and sundance gold, these are the colors you might find on campus during the Ole Miss football

### Kabul Brown

Known equally as a backdrop for photos and as the start of the football team's walk to Vaught-Hemingway, the Walk of Champions arch serves as a landmark above the tents when the Grove swells with people. Like the sienna bricks themselves, the arch, in the words of 1962 lineman Sam W. Owen, is "a symbol of what can be accomplished with teamwork, loyalty and trust."



### Rolling Stone

The latest addition to Ole Miss Football's color palette is that of Tony the Landshark's silvery skin, which mimics his deep-sea inspiration. Like high-tech machinery, Tony's silver color is sleek and modern, perhaps representing the football program's look toward the future.



### Yale Blue & Harvard Red

The red and blue that eventually became Ole Miss' official colors were suggested in 1893 by professor and football coach A.L. Bondurant to reflect the colors of two of the country's elite colleges. Bondurant said these colors "would be very harmonious, and that it was well to have the spirit of both of these good colleges."



### Sundance Gold

Perhaps the strangest name for a college football bowl game is the Egg Bowl. The history of this annual matchup — which pits Ole Miss against rival Mississippi State — and its golden trophy has nothing to do with eggs. The trophy, which is supposed to depict one of the rugby-like balls commonly used in 1927, didn't earn its current name until 1978, when Clarion Ledger sports writer Tom Patterson coined the term.



### Spice Brown

Pigskin, prolate spheroid, football — whatever you want to call it, the ball is central to the game. Handcrafted in Wilson's factory in Ada, Ohio, official NCAA game balls are made from cattle leather and have a distinctive light brown hue.



### Sycamore Green

After years of playing on two different kinds of artificial turf — AstroTurf and FieldTurf — the Rebels began their 2016 season home effort on a natural grass field. In that game, Ole Miss beat Wofford 38-13.



### Chelsea Cucumber

In the months leading up to football season, Ole Miss Landscaping Services must deal with the Grove's deep shade as well as the Mississippi summer's heat. To strike a balance between these extremes, landscaping services plants a tall fescue blend of grass, which can survive in both conditions and has the Grove's distinctive light green color.

GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION: SARAH ROPER

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# SIU COMES TO TOWN

Ole Miss will face Southern Illinois in Vaught-Hemingway for this season's home opener on Saturday.

**JOSH GOLLIHAR**  
THEIDMSPTS@GMAIL.COM

The Vaught will be locked for the first time this season on Saturday as Ole Miss hosts the Southern Illinois Salukis in a non-conference matchup. Both teams are coming off convincing wins and will look to gain momentum early in the season. The balanced attack of the Ole Miss offense will clash with the Salukis' dependence on the run game.

SIU scored 49 points a week ago with 295 rushing yards. Junior running back D.J. Davis tallied the bulk of the yards, with 127. Nine different players recorded at least four rushing attempts in the 49-10 victory over Murray State. Of the 83 offensive snaps, 65 were rushing attempts. With the Alabama Crimson Tide coming to Oxford next week, this gives defensive coordinator Wesley McGriff a chance to evaluate his defense against the run.

"Offensively they do a good job of mixing personels," head coach Matt Luke said. "They're a smash mouth team, but they'll take their deep shots. They have a really big senior quarterback, they got a scat back. They did a nice job in the one game they have on tape."

The priority for the Ole Miss secondary this week will be to make tackles in the run game over dropping back into coverage. This will be the first week of adjusting to life without starting

defensive back Jaylon Jones. Jones left during the third quarter against Texas Tech with what would be later diagnosed as a torn ACL. Surgery later this week will have the talented corner sidelined for the remainder of the season. McGriff understands just how much of a loss Jones is.

"I am going to be clear: That is a tremendous loss for us in more ways than one," McGriff stated. "He is a tremendous asset in terms of his leadership, football intelligence and confidence. I always tell (Jaylon), 'You are a pro. You possess the skill set ... (to play at a high level.'"

Jones will be missed in the return game, as well. He recorded his second career kickoff return touchdown versus Texas Tech, when he went 94 yards to score. Jones now has a kickoff return touchdown in the each of the Rebels' last two season openers. These are Ole Miss' only return touchdowns since the 2012 season.

In addition to the well-known passing threat of the Ole Miss offense, the team's running game has flashed onto the scene as potentially special. Junior college transfer Scottie Phillips gashed the Texas Tech defense for 204 yards in his debut for the Rebels.

Phillips was the first player to eclipse the 200-yard mark for the Rebels since Brandon Bolden in 2010. Phil Longo already has an embarrassment of riches



PHOTO: AARON M. SPRECHER | AP

Ole Miss running back Scottie Phillips (22) carries the ball during the game against Texas Tech on Saturday, Sept. 1 in Houston. Ole Miss won 47-27.

to work with in his receiving corps, quarterback and offensive line. The one question mark for the offense was the running back position. It appears the question has been answered, a week into the season.

This weekend's matchup could be a potential trap game for the Rebels. A win against a Power Five opponent sits in the rearview mirror and No. 1 Alabama lurks in the shadows. The many new faces on

the Ole Miss sideline will need to stay focused to improve to 2-0. Stopping the run is never guaranteed by the Ole Miss defense, and the Salukis can move the ball if the Rebels are not prepared.

"I think what we've really focused on is us getting better and having a standard," Luke said. "We didn't play our best football in week one. There's plenty for us to get better at and that's what we're focused on."

## ON DECK FOR THE SEASON

Sports editor Justin Dial previews this season's game predictions

### SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SEPT. 8

Southern Illinois is simply outmatched in this game. Although upsets and scares happen all the time in college football (looking at you Penn State), that will not be the case this weekend. Vaught-Hemingway Stadium will be rocking on Saturday. I expect a blowout in the home opener.

### ALABAMA SEPT. 15

Now, the one that everyone's been waiting for: the Alabama game. Ole Miss opens SEC play at home versus the Crimson Tide. Alabama isn't going to stop the Ole Miss offense, and Ole Miss isn't going to stop the Alabama offense — unless Jalen Hurts is in the game. The question becomes: Who will win the turnover battle? If Ole Miss plays a clean game with no turnovers and forces a turnover or two, the Rebels take it. I'm going with the upset at home.

### KENT STATE SEPT. 22

Ole Miss comes into this game having just upset the No. 1 team in the nation with a trip to Baton Rouge on the horizon. The Rebels stumble into this game with an unfocused attitude in the first half but pick it up in the second and win convincingly to improve to 4-0.

### LSU SEPT. 29

The Rebels' first true road test comes in its week five matchup versus LSU. At this point, the Rebs are ranked in the top 15 nationally and are riding high. Unfortunately, it looks as if LSU may have found its guy with quarterback Joe Burrow. Burrow and the LSU defense defend their home turf and ruin Ole Miss' undefeated bid.

### ULM OCT. 6

The University of Louisiana-Monroe comes to town for homecoming on Oct. 6 and has a chance to pile onto the Rebel woes from a week prior. However, they don't get the job done. Ole Miss destroys ULM from the opening snap.

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# BECOMING THE MAYOR

A.J. Brown has no surprises left for the football world after his stellar 2017 campaign.



GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION: ELISE BRANDWEIN

## JOHN MACON GILLESPIE

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A.J. Brown has always been a special talent.

The Starkville native made waves in his high school career, accumulating 2,883 receiving yards and 35 touchdowns for his hometown Starkville Yellowjackets. Brown's road to Ole Miss did not happen overnight, however, and it took a lot of work on his part to join the conversation as one of the best wide receivers in the nation.

Although it has taken years for Brown to reach his peak at Ole Miss, Starkville High School photographer Thomas Brown has seen Brown play football since his peewee days and said his talent was always superb.

"A.J. was a natural talent from the beginning," Thomas Brown said. "I personally didn't see anything that stood out physically like you see in some kids that are better just because of their size or speed. A.J. was just good. His ball skills and hand-eye coordination were there as a seven-year-old."

According to Thomas Brown, A.J. Brown sat out of football during his junior high and freshman years but returned to the gridiron for his sophomore year of high school and never looked back.

"In tenth grade, I noticed he was back," Thomas Brown said. "When we played West Point, I noticed that they would always kind of plug A.J. in here or there, even on defense. So (his) being relied on as a tenth grader at a 6A school against one of the best opponents and rivals stood out to me."

It was after his sophomore season that A.J. Brown began adding size to his talent.

"The coming out party was 11th-grade year," Thomas Brown said. "He really grew a lot. I thought he was headed toward playing tight end — he had gotten so big. I remember going to the spring practice game

thinking, 'Man, A.J. is going to have to play with his hand on the ground,' but when he started running I was like, 'Oh, man, he hasn't lost a step.'"

A.J. Brown's talent in high school was quickly noticed by his teammates, as well, including former Starkville quarterback Brady Davis.

"From the very beginning, I knew he was different," Davis said. "God blessed him with the physical attributes and all the ability in the world."

Davis now plays quarterback at Illinois State University but still works out with Brown on occasion, when he returns home to Mississippi. According to Davis, he can see Brown's talent shine through in his work ethic and drive in the weight room.

"What sets A.J. Brown apart is his work ethic," Davis said. "Every time we are both in Mississippi, we are working every day. And for him, that is just one of his two or three workouts for that day."

That work ethic paid off during Brown's senior season as he helped lead his Yellowjackets to their first state championship since 2012.

"At (that) point, I think everybody in the nation knew about A.J. Brown," Thomas Brown said. "No surprises. He had just as good of a senior year with everyone in the stadium knowing the ball was going to him. Every single game, it was only a matter of time before A.J. struck."

All the way to the state championship game versus Petal, A.J. Brown continued to make highlight-reel plays that kept his national hype going.

"As usual, A.J. put his stamp on that game with a deep ball that kind of wrapped up and summed up his high school career," Thomas Brown said.

A.J. Brown's work ethic and success impacted the Yellowjackets who would play in his wake.

According to current Starkville running back Rodrigues Clark, who

was just a freshman during

Brown's senior season, Brown was frequently found practicing and working by himself outside of practice hours.

"He put in work behind closed doors," Clark said. "I remember going out to the field thinking I (was) the only one there, and just seeing him work by himself was so shocking."

Clark and Brown have formed a relationship since Brown's graduation, and now that Clark is a senior at Starkville, Brown encourages him to keep working toward another state championship, which would be the school's first since Brown's senior season.

"It plays a big role in my life just knowing I can look up to him and (Mississippi State's) Willie Gay," Clark said. "My confidence is at 100 percent. A.J. just tells me to keep balling."

According to Davis, after seeing Brown excel in high school, there was never any doubt that he would be among college football's elite in a matter of time.

"I knew A.J. had the potential to be the best wideout in the country," Davis said. "And I think he is just that — if not the best player in college football."

With Brown being from Starkville, he's added an extra variable to the Egg Bowl every season he has been a Rebel. In 2017's installment of the rivalry, Brown yelled to the crowd, "This is my city," after

scoring a touchdown. The Rebels won the game 31-28.

Last season, Brown accumulated 1,252 receiving yards and 11 touchdowns, which were enough to earn him All-SEC and All-American honors as well as to secure his win of the C-Spire Conerly Trophy. Those numbers were also enough to give him the school single-season record for receiving yards.

Brown's 2018 campaign got off to a hot start, as well, as he hauled in a touchdown pass and 93 yards against Texas Tech in Houston. Brown was one of four Rebel wideouts to have more than 60 receiving yards in the season opener. He has quickly become a fan-favorite at Ole Miss and has once again attracted national attention as he did in his high school days. He is a projected first-round pick in the 2019 NFL Draft, and if he continues to live up to his potential, he could be a force to be reckoned with at the professional level.

At this point, however, no one is surprised.

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# LUKE FAMILY TIES

The Luke family has a legacy spanning multiple generations at Ole Miss. With Matt Luke now at the helm, his hope is to continue building upon that legacy.

## JUSTIN DIAL

THEDMSPORTS@GMAIL.COM

Long before Matt Luke was officially named the head coach of Ole Miss Football, before he declined several other scholarship offers to stay home and play at Ole Miss as a walk-on, he was just a kid from Gulfport.

One may wonder why anyone would give up opportunities such as paid tuition and the strong likelihood of playing time early in one's career, but it was never a question for Luke of where he was going to attend.

It was Ole Miss. It's in his blood.

The Luke family is legendary on Ole Miss' campus. Luke's father, Tommy Luke, played defensive back for the Rebels in the 1960s under Johnny Vaught during the Rebels' "glory days." He wound up at Ole Miss because his sister was enrolled there at the time.

"She came up here, and I starting visiting up here with her," Tommy Luke said. "I was only recruited by Ole Miss and Mississippi State. I liked it (at Ole Miss), so I had to come."

What the siblings didn't know at the time was that their decisions to attend Ole Miss would shape their family's lineage, the history of Ole Miss and the Rebel football program for generations to come.

Matt Luke grew up sharing a room with his older brother, Tom, in Gulfport. He was born and raised on the Gulf Coast and attributes much of who he is today to his upbringing there.

"Growing up on the coast, I guess, is probably the farthest you can get from Oxford, in Mississippi," Matt Luke said. "I loved growing up there — very proud of that. My oldest son's name is Harrison, after Harrison County."

Matt and Tom Luke are seven years apart, so there wasn't really much competition between the two in anything. Sports, wrestling or whatever it was, the age gap was just too vast for Matt to make up.

"By the time (Matt) was eight years old, I was in high school. By the time he was really playing football, I was already in college," Tom Luke said. "It was hard to have athletic (competition). But we shared a room growing up, and the one thing we had in common was the love for Ole Miss."

The brothers' love for Ole Miss stems from their father, who, admittedly, didn't have to push his love for his alma mater onto his sons. The Luke family would travel to Jackson or make the drive up to Oxford to see the Rebels play as often as possible, but living in Gulfport with three kids didn't make that an easy task for Tommy Luke.

"Every time (Ole Miss) played in Jackson, we tried to make it, and we'd come up (to Oxford) for homecoming every year," Tom Luke said. "We'd make that five-hour trip (to Oxford), and we'd always go into the book store — always buy a jersey. It started with my dad's No. 35. Then, we started to grow a connection to other players,

and we'd have those numbers with our names on the back."

In his early years, Matt Luke wasn't the sports guy that one might expect a future head football coach to be. He was more into Star Wars and things of that nature until he got up to third grade, when he started playing football.

"I can see how a sibling getting dragged to my events may have a negative effect (on his interest in

frequent mandatory outings may have stunted Matt Luke's personal interest in playing sports. When he finally did start playing, though, he was prepared. Although he wasn't the athlete that his brother was, Matt Luke had a strong work ethic instilled in him as a child.

"It just came easy to Tom," Tommy said. "(Matt) worked hard because he had an older brother who was good. He felt like everyone expected him to

offer him a scholarship to play quarterback and, along with that opportunity, a chance to continue his family's legacy in Oxford.

"As soon as Ole Miss offered (me a position), the party was over," Tom Luke said. "It was an easy decision."

Playing at quarterback for Ole Miss from 1989-91, Tom Luke had a solid career under center for the Rebels. Because he was a quarterback, Tom Luke had a different playing style than his brother, who was a lineman in both high school and college.

"(Their positions were) dictated by their body types," Tommy Luke said. "(Tom) was a little skinny thing until he began to gain some (weight) in high school when he started lifting weights. Matt, of course, had the body of a lineman. He played middle linebacker and center throughout all of high school."

Four years after his brother graduated from Ole Miss, Matt Luke graduated high school and received several scholarship offers. However, like his brother before him, he did not have one from his dream school. He contemplated accepting an athletic scholarship to Rice but ultimately decided against it. Instead, he chose to take on the challenge of walking on to the Ole Miss football team.

"For me, it's where I wanted to be," he said. "I had some scholarship offers. But I just felt like maybe I had a chip on my shoulder, and I knew I was gonna be good enough (for Ole Miss' team). I just felt that way. I just came here and worked really hard and earned everything I had."

Matt Luke was right — he successfully walked on and played at center for Ole Miss from 1995-98. He eventually became a leader in the locker room and ultimately served as a team captain. He had no intentions of becoming a coach until he got his first taste of coaching during his final year of playing for Ole Miss.

"The turning point in his career is when (Ole Miss) went to the (Independence Bowl)," Tom Luke said. "Coach (Tommy) Tuberville had left for Auburn, and coach (David) Cutcliffe had come in. (Matt) had the opportunity to sit in front of a chalk board and talk (about) how coach Cutcliffe's offense was going to be relayed to his teammates — using (their) old terminology — for that one game."

Ole Miss wound up winning that game convincingly — with a final score of 35-18 — under interim head coach Cutcliffe. Matt Luke had played an integral role during the matchup, both on the field and behind the scenes on the chalkboard. That game was the pivotal moment in Matt Luke's career — a moment that would change his life forever.

Originally, Tommy Luke was averse to either of his sons getting into the coaching profession.

"Matt, I have never recommended



PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

Head coach Matt Luke watches the team run drills during practice over the summer.

“

It was my lifelong dream. My dad and my brother were my role models and my heroes. I wanted to be just like them.”

Matt Luke  
Ole Miss Football head coach

sports,” Tom Luke said. “Instead of getting to play all the time, (Matt) had to travel to watch me play all-star baseball games or high school baseball games.”

Throughout Matt Luke's childhood, family trips to watch his brother play occurred near-weekly. These

be good, and once he got into it, he really started liking it.”

Tom Luke approached high school graduation with several scholarship offers on the table. However, he didn't yet have one from the only school that mattered to him: Ole Miss. Eventually, Ole Miss did

1967: TOMMY LUKE, MATT LUKE'S FATHER



PHOTO: OLE MISS YEARBOOK

Head coach Matt Luke's father, Tommy Luke (35), poses for a team photo in 1967.

1991: TOM LUKE, MATT LUKE'S BROTHER



PHOTO: OLLIE BROCK | OLE MISS YEARBOOK

Tom Luke prepares for a play versus Tennessee in 1991.

1998: MATT LUKE

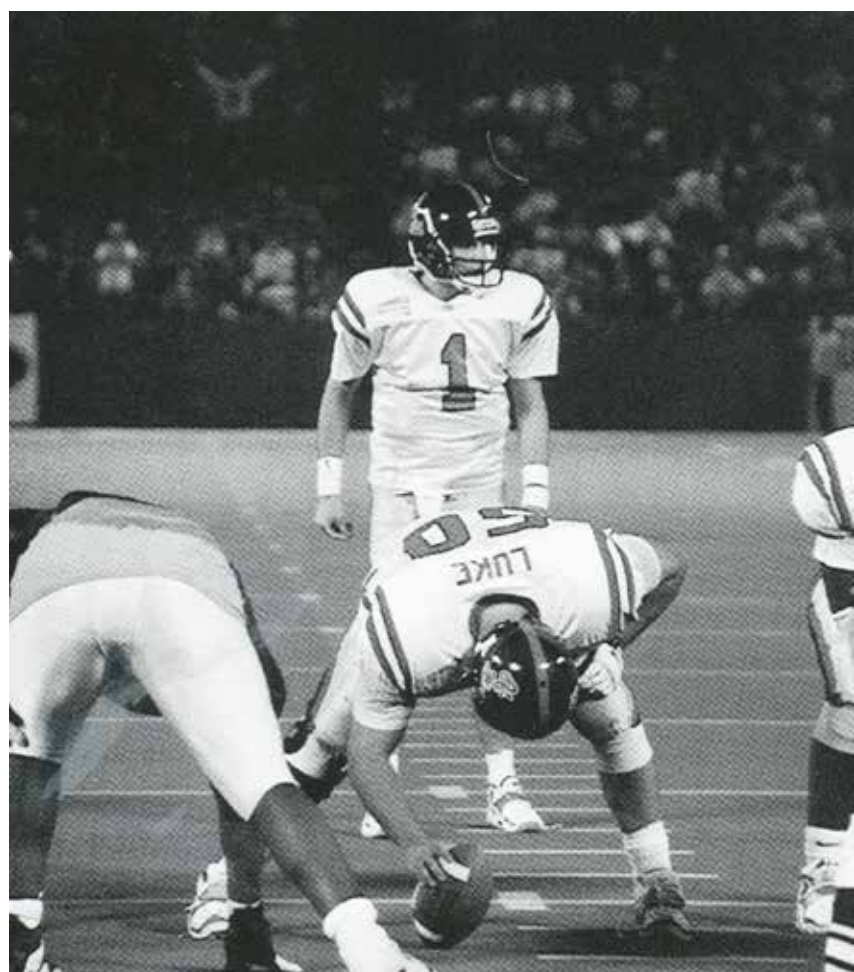


PHOTO: JASON BAKER | OLE MISS YEARBOOK

Matt Luke snaps the ball for Ole Miss in 1998.

anyone go into the coaching field, but I think you're an exception," Tommy Luke said, giving advice to his son. "I think you're just cut out (for it). You're very knowledgeable about everything, and you know how to do it."

Matt Luke spent his fifth year at Ole Miss as a student assistant coach to Cutcliffe. Luke had exhausted his eligibility as a player, so for him, this was the next best thing.

"Several people tried to talk me out of it," he said. "Coach (Cutcliffe) really said, 'I want you to give this a shot. I want you to try it for one year; I think you'll be really good at it.'"

Following that year of student coaching, Matt Luke graduated and was forced to go elsewhere to gain more coaching experience.

According to Tommy Luke, Cutcliffe called Matt Luke and said, "You know I can't hire you straight out of college — you can't do that in the SEC. You're gonna have to go off to another school, and when I get an opening, I'll hire you back."

So that's what Matt Luke did. He spent two years as Murray State's offensive line coach to prepare himself for a return to a position in an SEC program.

Cutcliffe kept his word. In 2002, he rehired Matt Luke as an offensive line and tight ends coach, a position which Luke held for three seasons.

"It was my lifelong dream," Matt Luke said. "My dad and my brother were my role models and my heroes. I wanted to be just like them."

In 2004, Ole Miss fired Cutcliffe and replaced him with Ed Orgeron, who retained Matt Luke on the coaching staff for just one season.

Following the 2005 season, Luke — who continued to hold the same coaching position — served under Cutcliffe at Tennessee for two years before following him to Duke. There, Luke served as a co-offensive coordinator and the offensive line coach.

After six years away from Oxford, Matt Luke was rehired by the university in 2012, when Hugh Freeze became the head coach. Under Freeze, Luke spent four years as a co-offensive coordinator and the offensive line coach.

During Freeze's tenure, Tom Luke's son Cale Luke continued the Luke tradition by enrolling at Ole Miss. He was the third generation of the Luke family to attend Ole Miss, and like his uncle, Cale walked on to the football team and received a scholarship before his time in Oxford was up.

"Watching (Cale) graduate was more fun than anything," Tommy Luke said.

In summer 2017, Freeze resigned as the head coach of Ole Miss Football because of allegations of personal misconduct. Matt Luke was named interim head coach on July 20, 2017, as the Luke name became even further embedded in the lore of Ole Miss.

"Obviously it was exciting," Tom Luke said. "But at the same time,

there was no doubt in my mind that (Matt) was the perfect person (at) the perfect time. I think it (was) a perfect scenario ... and I still feel that way, two years later."

As Ole Miss' interim head coach in 2017, Matt Luke led the Rebels to a 6-6 record. That may not sound too impressive at first, but considering that he was thrust into the position late into the offseason, finished 3-1 in the Rebels' last four games and topped the season off with a road win in the Egg Bowl, Luke showed that he can win at the college level.

"(Matt being head coach causes) a mixed emotion," Tommy Luke said. "You know how tough it's gonna be. You win, and everything is great. You lose, and you're the worst ever. I didn't know if I wanted Matt to go through all that or not, but he was (more) worried (about) us having to put up with all that talk."

Following the Rebels' Egg Bowl victory in Starkville, Ole Miss removed the interim tag from Matt Luke's title and introduced him as the new head football coach. Luke's dream of becoming a head coach was finally achieved at his destination school, his alma mater.

"(Being named head coach is) obviously a great honor at any school, much less your alma mater," Luke said. "At some point (in life) I've been a fan, a player, a coach, an alumnus, a graduate assistant — I've pretty much been everything you can be. (This is) not a job — I am truly emotionally invested."

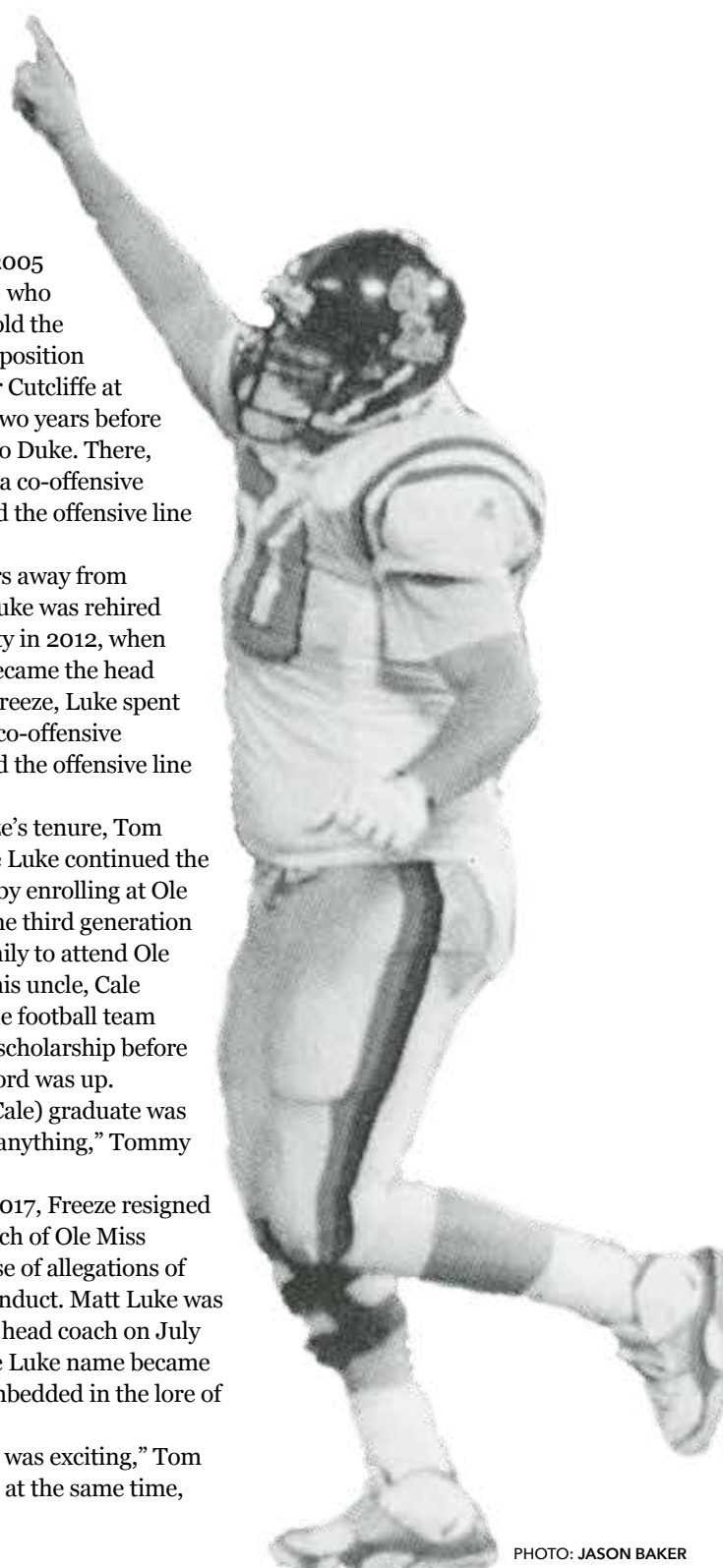


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# KNOX BROTHERS

Assistant sports editor Ben Miller sat down with Luke and Dawson Knox to talk about football and life.

**BEN MILLER**

THE DMSPORTS@GMAIL.COM

**Q: How did you end up playing on opposite sides of the ball?**

Dawson: Well, I've been on offense my whole life. I've played quarterback, a little receiver, so I've had no type of defensive background. And when I got here, I just walked on as a tight end because I already knew how to run routes, but I had to learn how to block. If I was to do anything on defense, I would have no idea what I was doing.

Luke: For me, I played offense pretty much my whole life, too, up until my senior year. I played a little DB before that, but I was mainly an offensive guy – that's where I got most of my reps. But senior year they put me at linebacker just to see how I would do, and I did pretty well. So I just grew to love that more than tight end. I thought I was going to play tight end in college just like Dawson, but I started to love playing defense and was better at it.

**Q: What brought you to Ole Miss?**

Luke: Really it was just him. Like, before Dawson came here, I didn't have much connection to Ole Miss,



FILE PHOTO: ARIEL COBBERT

Tight end Dawson Knox gains yards for the Rebels during the game versus Auburn last season. Auburn won 44-23.

at all. Since he came here, I've been a huge fan, and that's one of (the) biggest reasons (that) I came here – just that he was here. I've got about three other guys on this team that went to my high school, so that played a part in it, too.

Dawson: Yeah, I really had no idea about Ole Miss before my first visit here. I came to a game once during my sophomore year of high school with a friend who was a Texas fan. Texas was playing down here, so I was actually wearing his Texas gear and supporting (its) team. That was the first exposure I had to Ole Miss. Then once I visited,

I just fell in love with everything, and it was over from there.

**Q: Dawson: Being the older one, you obviously probably beat up on Luke a fair bit. But were you ever protective over him from other people?**

Dawson: Yeah, it was always sort of like, 'I can mess with him all I want,' but as soon as someone else from outside of the family starts messing with him, I'd get protective. Like, if he got in a fight with somebody in camp, I'd definitely take his side, but I mainly take

him under my wing for the most part, because he's always been able to stand up for himself.

Luke: I'd choose his side if it came down to it, but nobody really messed with him. (I) haven't really had to do that.

**Q: Favorite band?**

Luke: Zac Brown Band. I knew Dawson would be slow, so I had to just get mine in quick.

Dawson: Well, I like a lot of different types of music, but the Zac Brown Band would have to be up there for me, too.

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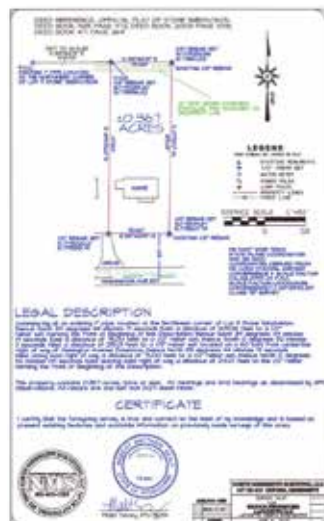
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# BLESSING IN DISGUISE

It's time to revisit the case of Shea Patterson and Jordan Ta'amu.

**JOSH GOLLIHAR**  
THE DMSPORTS@GMAIL.COM

Saturday brought on a new beginning for two programs — one at the forefront of national conversation, the other placed on the back burner. One has a high-profile coach, and the other's coach has his dream job. One has an elite defense, and the other has the best wide receiver group in the country. Both have one thing in common: Ole Miss quarterbacks.

Shea Patterson was a blue-chip prospect coming out of high school and headlined the 2016 Ole Miss recruiting class. Tabbed as the No. 1 dual-threat quarterback, Patterson was perfect to set the college football landscape ablaze under Hugh Freeze's offense. After Chad Kelly suffered a season-ending injury, the Patterson era began more quickly than expected. Leading a second-half comeback on the road against Texas A&M, Patterson gave the Rebel faithful a glimpse of greatness. Sadly, he would never reach the levels of Archie, Eli or Chad.

Within the first seven games of the season, the Rebels suffered four losses — three of which were blowouts — and lost Patterson to a knee injury that cost him the rest of the season. Ole Miss' first half against LSU would be the last time Patterson took the field as a Rebel.

Patterson joined a group of players, including high-profile recruits Deontay Anderson and Breon Dixon, that left Ole Miss in a mass exodus as a result of the NCAA investigation and subsequent sanctions. His decision led to an

interesting meeting at the Oxford IHOP with Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh. Harbaugh was in search of a competent quarterback, and Patterson was in search of a way out. They were a perfect match.

The unlikely union between the two led to hyperbolic proclamations across the country. Matt Hayes of Bleacher Report wrote an article titled "QB Shea Patterson Ready to Be Michigan's Savior After Escaping Ole Miss Wreckage." There are two things to dissect here. First, Michigan's recent result against Notre Dame proves that the work of a "savior" is not as easy as writing words on paper.

When he left Ole Miss, Patterson left behind an experienced offensive line with four returning starters as well as a wide receiver corps as deep and talented as any in the country. In his first game this season, Patterson had to operate without one of his top receivers — Tarik Black, who injured his foot in practice — as well as without an offensive line capable of keeping the Fighting Irish's front seven out of the Michigan backfield. Constant hits and humidity led to Patterson suffering cramps throughout the second half.

The play-calling from Harbaugh was clearly not built for the skillset of a player like Patterson, who spent most of the game under center. Coach and quarterback are not clicking yet. On Saturday, Western Michigan will offer the duo another chance to build some offensive momentum that Michigan desperately needs as it nears a three-week stretch of matchups versus top-15



PHOTO: ROBIN ALAM | ICON SPORTSWIRE VIA AP IMAGES

Michigan quarterback Shea Patterson (2) is tackled by Notre Dame defensive lineman Julian Okwara (42) and Notre Dame defensive lineman Jerry Tillery (99).

opponents. And, of course, Michigan's high profile rivalry game versus Ohio State at the end of the regular season looms, as Ohio State is looking as good as ever. If Patterson cannot lead the Wolverines to victories in these matchups, the savior may join the long list of Harbaugh's underwhelming Michigan quarterbacks.

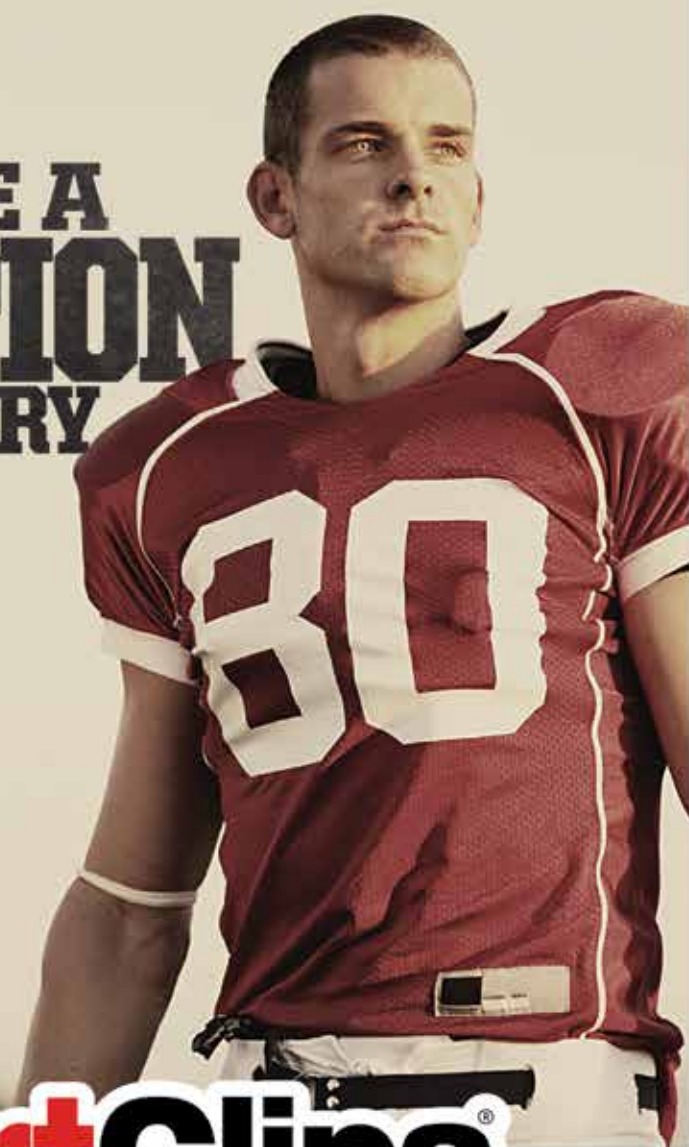
On the other side of the divorce are Matt Luke and the Rebels. Ole Miss is in the second season of its two-year bowl ban. There is little to no pressure on Luke except to build the program for when the time comes again for Ole Miss to play for bowl berth. Ole Miss' current roster puts the team in a perfect situation, moving past the 2018-19 season. The "Nasty Wide Outs" can scare any defense they face, and Scottie Phillips has already established himself as a playmaker at running back.

The Rebels' real star is the man who filled in full-time following Patterson's

injury and took in stride all the hardships and responsibilities an SEC quarterback faces. This man, Jordan Ta'amu, was a no-name junior college transfer from New Mexico Military Institute who chose a backup role with the Rebels over a chance to start for Minnesota. Nobody expected that the player waiting in the wings was ready to explode. Ta'amu burst onto the scene by leading the Rebels to three wins, among which was a statement win in the Egg Bowl, that brought the Rebels' season to a .500 record. The Rebels' offense has stabilized considerably since Ta'amu — whose fit in Phil Longo's system seems more natural than Patterson's was — began starting at quarterback regularly.

With no expectations and no bowl game coming, the JUCO transfer with a depth chart full of talent may be in a better situation than the Wolverines' "savior."

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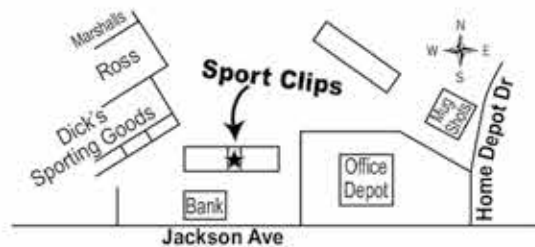
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# Memphis author explores Greek life issues through fiction

**ANDREW OSMAN**  
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Memphis-based author Lisa Patton will preview her latest novel, "Rush," which depicts sorority recruitment at Ole Miss, at 5 p.m. Friday at Off Square Books.

A former student at the University of Alabama, Patton is no stranger to SEC traditions and college life in the South.

"Rush" is set in a fictional sorority on the University of Mississippi campus and allows readers to experience the behind-the-scenes lives of sorority members, freshmen going through recruitment and sorority employees.

The book's plot follows the distinct, but intersecting, lives of three people

involved with Ole Miss sororities: Lilith Whitmore, the president of Alpha Delta Beta; Cali Watkins, a potential new member with everything but the pedigree to get her a bid; and Miss Pearl, Alpha Delta Beta's housekeeper.

Patton said her hope with this novel was "to write something with meaning and that had a message."

Although she attended Alabama, Patton said the decision to set "Rush" at Ole Miss felt right.

"I wanted to set my characters in Memphis and have them go to Ole Miss," Patton said. "It felt very natural."

Patton said the book is primarily about women's lives but also deals with equality and inclusion.



"The main message is that young women have a voice, and young women today are learning to use that voice," Patton said. "They can use their voices for change."

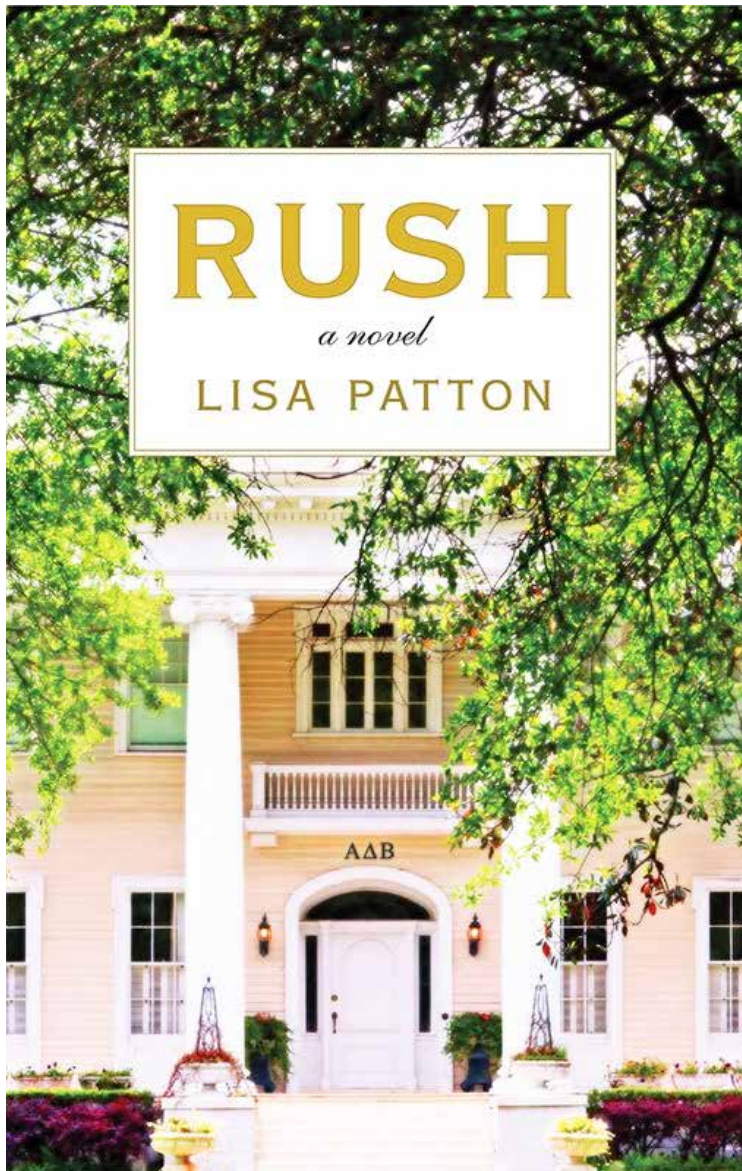
To ensure the book presents accurate information, Patton spoke with women involved in Greek life at Ole Miss, LSU and Alabama as well as housemothers and housekeepers at Ole Miss.

"Rush" is Patton's fourth novel. She was inspired to write her first book, "Whistlin' Dixie in a Nor'easter," after working in Vermont as an innkeeper.

After this, though, Patton said she realized that the North was not for her and returned to Tennessee. In Memphis, she worked in the music industry as a manager at the Orpheum Theatre, a promoter for a radio station and a music producer, before returning to her writing.

This will be Patton's fourth time at Square Books, and the store's special events coordinator, Alissa Lilly, is particularly excited about having Patton visit again with a novel Lilly thinks many will relate to.

"Patton is a best-selling Southern writer, and we are so excited that she's doing an event here for 'Rush,'" Lilly said. "We think it will be a big book for our community because it is set here in Oxford on the Ole Miss campus and is about sorority life in the South."



PHOTOS COURTESY: LISA PATTON

Lilly, who was a sorority member at Ole Miss in the 1980s, said she loves the book, noting how true-to-life Patton's writing is.

"Even though this is a work of fiction, I think (that) the author does a good job of capturing the culture of sorority life and that readers will enjoy peering into that world — into its good parts and not-so-good parts," Lilly said.

Lilly said she thinks the book will be engaging even for those who haven't had first-hand experiences like Patton's.

"I think people who read 'Rush' will not only be entertained by the book's engaging story but will also be deeply moved by the

struggles and achievements of its central characters," Lilly said.

Lilly said she is unsure if the book could lead to changes in Greek life on the Ole Miss campus.

"The book raises some serious, thought-provoking questions (about) issues of race, fairness and economic diversity within sorority culture — both for the sororities themselves and how the system as a whole treats the employees who work in the sorority houses," Lilly said. "Hopefully, it will spark conversations on campus and provide a backdrop for heightened awareness and positive change."

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# SPORTS PROTESTS

*continued from page 1*

tell the story of how a group of black players forced the American Football League to move its 1965 All-Star game from New Orleans to Houston, but Nike's new ad prompted him to rework the lecture. By the time Wednesday's Brown Bag Lunch arrived, Ross had pulled together a new presentation taking a look at how Kaepernick's experience resembles that of the 21 players who boycotted the AFL in 1965.

"Some 50 years before Colin Kaepernick took a knee in protest of police brutality and continued racial discrimination in America, black AFL All-Stars had successfully challenged racism in the city of New Orleans," Ross said.

The group of AFL players who boycotted the league's All-Star game in 1965 did so for reasons similar to those that led Kaepernick to take



PHOTO: SLADE RAND

Professor Charles Ross lectures on the role of protests in professional football in the Overby Center on Wednesday. The Ole Miss Center for the Study of Southern Culture hosted the discussion.

his first knee in 2016. Those 21 players voted to boycott after their experiences with discrimination and

mistreatment peaked upon their arrival in New Orleans for the All-Star game in January 1965. Ross said that many black players struggled to find desegregated restaurants in town at which they could eat and that others were berated with racial slurs while walking around the French Quarter.

Ross also pointed out that the 20-something-year-old players behind the All-Star game protest were around the same age as Emmett Till at the time of his murder in 1955. Ross said these players' reactions to Till's murder likely played a role in their decision to protest, much like the deaths of young, unarmed black men at the hands of police motivated Kaepernick to take his knee.

"Both protests are, arguably, linked by the historical events that provided the context and rationale for the participants to take the action that they did," Ross said.

He said protests from within the sporting world garner heightened public attention because of the boundary-

breaking nature of sports themselves. Ross said fans and players often leave their social, ethnic and cultural differences at the door when it comes to attending sporting events together.

"Sports kind of brings people together where you aren't really that bothered by those differences ... during those couple of hours," Ross said.

Ross said he expects these sorts of on-field protests to continue throughout this NFL season and hopes the discussion around them becomes less divisive.

"Hopefully — maybe at some point — we'll come on back around to what the original issue is: We need to figure out a way to come together and deal with many of the issues that divide us as citizens in this country," Ross said.

The Center for the Study of Southern Culture has sponsored its Brown Bag series since the 1980s, according to director Ted Ownby. He said the Southern studies department hosts these discussions over lunch

to encourage students with busy schedules to attend without having to miss out on grabbing lunch.

"It becomes kind of an easy way for people to stop and hear something smart without having to break up the rest of the day," Ownby said.

He said this fall's series will focus on "Sports in the South," with conversations about golf's desegregation and the history of wrestling in the South scheduled for later this month.

"We didn't realize there would be such an immediate relevance when we scheduled (this Wednesday's) talk," Ownby said.

Ownby said that this series' focus on sports culture is intended to draw in students who might not have been as interested in the topics of past Brown Bag Lunches.

"I'm hoping people would say, 'Let's think about how to study (sports and society),' or (say), 'Let's think about what those have in common,' when they don't seem to have a lot in common," Ownby said.

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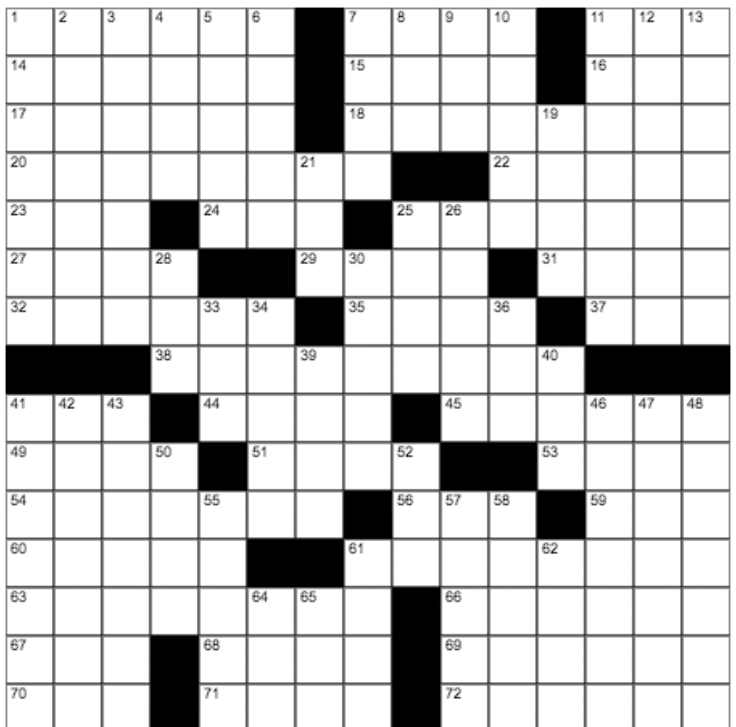
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- 33 Slice of history
- 34 Sum
- 36 Sloppy place
- 39 Capone foe
- 40 Possess, to Burns
- 41 Lascivious
- 42 Pacify
- 43 Capital of Venezuela
- 46 Fiasco
- 47 Shah, e.g.
- 48 Small house
- 50 Diplomacy
- 52 Chinese "way"
- 55 Feeble peevish complaint
- 57 World-weary
- 58 Thaws
- 61 Romanov ruler
- 62 Narrow inlets
- 64 Suffix with ball
- 65 Suffix with fail



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## SUDOKU®

Puzzles by KrazyDad

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

### HOW TO PLAY

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats.

### DIFFICULTY LEVEL

#### NOVICE

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

# UM alumna reflects on Miss America win, offers advice

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Miss Mississippi 2018 Asya Branch is representing the University of Mississippi in this year's Miss America competition, but she will not be the first Rebel to grace the Miss America stage.

Miss America 1960 Lynda Lee Mead — who has since married and prefers to use her husband's last name, Shea — is an Ole Miss alumna who won the title after winning Miss Mississippi in 1959. Another Ole Miss student, Mary Ann Mobley, won Miss America just one year before Shea's reign.

"It was an incredible shock to me," Shea said. "I went to the Miss America pageant knowing I couldn't possibly win because Miss Mississippi had won the year before, so I was just trying to do the best I could and not embarrass my state."

Shea's participation proved to be far from embarrassing. She said that the personal interview portion was her favorite part of the competition and that talking to the judges was a pleasure.

A lot has changed since September 1959, when Shea competed for the crown. One big change is the discontinuation of the swimsuit portion of the competition — a topic Shea is on the fence about.

"I have to say, I am conflicted about the whole thing — I really am," Shea said. "Personally, I never felt exploited (during the swimsuit portion)."

The elimination of the swimsuit segment follows controversy surrounding former CEO of the organization Sam Haskell, who is also an Ole Miss graduate. Haskell resigned in December after leaked emails revealed controversial comments he made about contestants.



Miss America 1960 Lynda Lee Mead

"I know Sam Haskell personally. He's a very fine man, and I regret tremendously the misunderstandings that have caused him to have to resign," Shea said. "We're headed in a new direction, and I'm just very hopeful."

Although this year's competition is surrounded by controversy, Shea said she hopes the Miss America organization, which she calls the largest scholarship pageant in the world, will continue.

"More scholarship money is given to young women through the Miss America organization than (through) any other organization specifically for women in the country," Shea said. "It's very very important that it keeps going."

Shea said she encourages Branch, who is already in Atlantic City preparing for the competition, not to worry too much and enjoy the experience as much as she can.

"There's nothing specific

you can do to increase your chances of winning other than do the things that you do (in) the very best way that you can," Shea said.

Shea has not attended a Miss America competition since 2009 and will not be attending this year. However, she is hoping to attend the 100th anniversary of the competition in 2021.

This year's Miss America competition will air live from 8-10 p.m. Sunday on ABC.

## BRANCH continued from page 1

Mississippi together," she said.

To help advance her platform, Branch developed "Love Letters," a program that donates paper, envelopes and stamps to incarcerated parents to help them reach out to their children. Most recently, she has been visiting schools around the state to talk to children about her experiences and to encourage them to be persistent.

"I want to tell them that no dream is impossible," Branch said. "You know, your circumstances don't have to define your future. You can progress through anything. You have to use your situation to strengthen you, and you just have to learn from it and move forward. Just know it doesn't have to hinder you in any way."

Ole Miss graduate Christine Williamson is Miss Tennessee 2018 and will also be participating in the pageant. She was a broadcast journalism major and news anchor for NewsWatch Ole Miss during her time as a student.

The competition's winner will receive a \$50,000 scholarship. Live coverage of the Miss America competition will be broadcast from 8-10 p.m. Sunday on ABC.

## CONTEXT continued from page 1

public interest and may be brought, if at all, only by the Attorney General or a district attorney," the appeals court judges wrote. "We find that SCV's members have no private right that entitles them to require that UM refrain from implementing its diversity plan."

In July 2017, the university announced it would put up signs acknowledging that some buildings on campus were built with slave labor. The university also announced then that it would remove the name of James K. Vardaman from a building. Vardaman, a white supremacist, was Mississippi's governor from 1904 to 1908 and a U.S. senator from 1913 to 1919.

The move to add historical context to some places and to rename others at Ole Miss has been happening amid debate in many parts of the U.S. about how to deal with the public display of symbols and monuments tied to slavery and the Confederacy. New Orleans is among the places that have recently removed Confederate monuments. Harvard University last year acknowledged its ties to colonial-era slavery, and Yale University rebranded a residential college that had been named for a 19th century U.S. vice president who supported slavery.

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**REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE**

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# Students' coastal communities endure tropical storm

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Tropical Storm Gordon swept over the Mississippi-Alabama border Tuesday night, knocking out power for thousands of Mississippians in the storm's path.

It was expected to make landfall as a hurricane but never reached sufficient strength. On Wednesday, Gordon was reclassified as a tropical depression. Since then, the storm has dropped heavy rains across Mississippi but has spared the families and communities of two Ole Miss students.

Mississippi has reported no major destructions or casualties thus far, but the storm caused a tree limb to fall on a mobile home in Pensacola, Florida, killing a 2-year-old child.

"Hearing (that) a baby's life (was) taken due to extreme weather is always saddening," Naoime Young, an Ocean Springs native, said. "Whether it is thousands (of lives) or one life taken — no matter what, it is a detrimental impact and (is) sad information for all coastal residents."

Young, a junior integrated

marketing communications major, asked her family if they had been affected at all, to which they responded, "No, not one hair."

However, she wasn't afraid for her family. They lived on the coast when Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005; they evacuated for it and all tropical storms or hurricanes after that. Now they're used to it, she said.

"During this time of the year, the television in the living room is solely on our local news channel, WLOX, and we keep a close eye on updates in case of a possible unfortunate turn of events," Young said.

Flash flood warnings were issued from the Florida panhandle up through parts of Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Iowa and Illinois.

Young's mom stocked her car with supplies and filled it with gas in case water got into gas lines, advising Young to do the same even though she's in Oxford.

Taylor Creel, a junior marketing major from Biloxi, said his parents told him the only effect back home from Gordon was rain.

Hurricanes are a constant threat from June to October,



PHOTO: DAN ANDERSON | AP PHOTO

Trucks with the Alabama Department of Transportation work to block off a flooded part of US Highway 98 while fighting rain from Tropical Storm Gordon on Wednesday in Spanish Fort, Alabama.

and Creel described hurricane season as always being scary when it comes around.

He said his family often puts up window shutters, fills the bathtub with water in case pipes burst and buys plenty of food and water.

Even though Creel's family wasn't affected this week, Gordon caused him to think back to Hurricane Katrina.

When Creel was seven years old, he and his parents experienced Katrina, a category 3 hurricane — that is, one with 100-140 mph sustained winds — when it made landfall on Mississippi's coast, with winds stretching across 400 miles.

"We lost everything," Creel said.

While his mom, a nurse,

stayed to work in the hospital, he evacuated to Jacksonville, Florida, with his aunt. "Only to come back to an empty lot where our house used to be," Creel said.

With more than 200 Katrina deaths lingering on Gulf Coast residents' minds just as they do on Creel's, residents now prepare more, just as they did for Tropical Storm Gordon.



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