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# MISSISSIPPIAN

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### SPORTS

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# Getting home:

## How one Ole Miss family weathered the storm



PHOTO BY: BAYLEE MOZJESIK

Gaby Altieri poses with some of her favorite trinkets brought from Puerto Rico. She keeps the engraved flag on her bedside table.

**SLADE RAND**  
MANAGING EDITOR

The coquis stopped chirping when Hurricane Maria hit. On a typical night, the nickel-sized frogs dominate the island air with their high-pitched call, reminiscent of cicadas in the Mississippi summer. For the past month, nothing has been typical in Puerto Rico, and the coquis have been quiet. "There's something missing,"

Gaby Altieri said. "I know that was kind of a punch in the heart right there."

Altieri is a junior political science major from Brandon. Born in Memphis and raised in Mississippi, she's a Southerner with a hearty Puerto Rican bloodline. Her parents, Frank Altieri and Wendy Rosas-Altieri, grew up 10 minutes apart on the western side of the island and moved stateside 26 years ago on their wedding day. When Maria began swamping the island, Rosas-Altieri and



PHOTO COURTESY: GABY ALTIERI

A fallen power line blocks part of a road in Puerto Rico. Hurricane Maria made landfall on September 20, 2017, and has left many roads unusable.

her sister, Mayra Rosas-Rexroade, were preparing to fly back to the states after visiting a relative in the hospital.

Hurricane Maria made landfall in Puerto Rico on Sept. 20 as a Category 4 storm with 155 mph winds. President Donald Trump called the storm a "monster" and the National Weather Service Miami warned that areas could be "uninhabitable" for months. Now, weeks after the storm hit, more than a third of the island still lacks drinking water, and 3 million American citizens' power remains off.

Altieri said her family's house where her mom and

aunt were staying still does not have lights or running water. Banks, gas stations and grocery stores are still experiencing hourslong lines, and many roads are still closed.

"I cried the other day pumping gas, because my aunt had to make an eight-hour line to get gas to make it to the airport," Altieri said.

Maria struck the coast the day before Altieri's mom and aunt were scheduled to fly back to the states. Not only did the storm devastate their travel plans, but it also meant the sisters had no way of talking to their family overseas. It was a week before Altieri

SEE PUERTO RICO PAGE 5

# AG says relocating war statues lawful

**MADDIE MCGEE**  
NEWS EDITOR

Debates surrounding Confederate monuments and their potential messages of history and racism have intensified across the country, and Oxford and Ole Miss now find themselves at the center of it all regarding the possible relocation of Confederate statues.

A recent opinion issued by Deputy Attorney General Mike Lanford said statues could be relocated as long as it remains on public, county property. The opinion applies to both the statue located on the Square near the courthouse and the memorial in the Circle.

In a statement to The Daily Mississippian, Ryan Whittington, assistant director of public relations for social media strategy for the university, said the attorney general's letter will have no effect on the work the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on History and Context is doing.

"As an educational institution, our guiding principle is that we have a duty to learn and teach from history, and contextualization was determined to be the most effective approach for our campus. We feel that contextualization, properly done, is an additive process and is an important extension of our university's



PHOTO BY: TAYLAR TEEL

The contextualization plaque and decorative base of the Confederate statue in the Circle are fixed after a driver crashed into them earlier this semester.

SEE STATUE PAGE 6

## COLUMN

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## ‘Looking at old photographs’



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO



**LIAM NIEMAN**  
OPINION EDITOR

In one of the most powerful and telling images of the civil rights era, a white teenager angrily shouts at a black teenager clutching a textbook to her chest and stoically walking to school. The black woman, one of the first nine black students at Little Rock Central High, is Elizabeth Eckford; the white woman, another Central High student, is Hazel Bryan.

There are many photographs just like this of the civil rights struggle of the '50s and '60s. In them, angry white people — brutal police officers, laughing young men or seemingly harmless schoolgirls — abuse and harass black men and women.

They spray protesters unrelentingly with high-powered fire hoses. They taunt the people sitting at a segregated Woolworth's counter and pour ketchup and mustard on their heads. They block children from walking to school.

This semester, I've been taking a course with visiting professor Ralph Eubanks that

looks at the changing image of the American South through documentary photography. Recently, we turned our focus to these civil rights era images, taken by photographers like John Vachon, Gordon Parks and Charles Moore.

Specifically, we began looking at pictures from the riot that rocked Oxford in 1962 when James Meredith tried to enroll at the university. As Sept. 30 rolled into Oct. 1, a crowd comprised of Oxonians, students and complete outsiders ravaged the campus and town. Much of this chaos was captured through the lenses of courageous photojournalists.

In these photos, lawmen joke and laugh wickedly as they wait for the inevitable tumult to begin, young men proudly wave Rebel flags and others take on the National Guardsmen charged with keeping the peace in Oxford.

This subject made me contemplate thoughts that've been churning in my head for a long time about the connections between history and photography, especially on this campus.

We tend to apply our own morals to history and assume that, had we lived in a past era, we would have done the right thing. We wouldn't have owned slaves or protested integration. Yet, in "A Muscular Empathy," Ta-Nehisi Coates asks readers to shy away from this typical belief and assume they would've done the wrong thing.

By believing we would've been able to do good, there is nothing

more to the thought, and it ends happily and naively. Rather than let this happen, Coates insists that we must assume guilt and ask why we would have done that.

The core of the second part of Coates' argument, based on "a muscular empathy rooted in curiosity," is that there is no reason why we could knowingly think we would do anything less than the most evil actions in the past. Coates writes, "The fact that we — and I mean all of us, black and white — are, in our bones, no better than slave masters is chilling."

And this logic makes sense — the chemicals that comprise our bodies and drive our thoughts are the same ones that comprised our forebears' bodies and drove their thoughts.

Photographs, rather than words, are far better at tangibly communicating this abstract connection. Reading a story or even a witness's description of a past event, it is easy to forget the physical, human connection between the characters and think of them as far different from ourselves.

Photographs, unfortunately, can do the same if we look at them as frozen moments of time, not pieces of a continued history. But if we look at them with the knowledge that the people we see in the photographs are part of the same complicated human ancestry, we are forced to muscularly empathize. We must make a conscious choice to look critically.

I remember the first time I

really looked and thought about the photographs that capture our campus's great tragedy. I remember how I couldn't shake the thought that those rioters had children and grandchildren who are living, that they probably go to school with me, that, ignoring my being a Yankee, that could've been me.

Though there is a visual connection, as presented in a Time magazine article and cover comparing 1968 to 2015, between photographs of the classical civil rights movement and the Black Lives Matter movement of our own era, I'm more interested in the real and physical connection, the forced muscular empathy of photographs.

It's one thing to look at a photograph of the present day and say it looks similar to something that happened in the past. It's another thing to say that, given the visual similarity and our humanity, the photographed event could happen today.

Sure, these civil rights era photographs provide a glimpse into our past. But they also undeniably say something about our present. They visually communicate the smallness of the space between our own time and the insanity of a previous era. Looking at old photographs should be a visual reminder, a warning of how close we are to violence and disarray.

*Liam Nieman is a sophomore economics and Southern studies double major from Mount Gretna, Pennsylvania.*

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Letters should include phone and email contact information so that editors can verify authenticity. Letters from students should include grade classification and major; letters from faculty and staff should include title and the college, school or department where the person is employed.



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MEMBER NEWSPAPER

COLUMN

# The University Greys: Students, soldiers, slaveholders



**ALLEN COON**  
STAFF COLUMNIST

As secession fever swept the Slave South, young white men joined state militias en masse. By May 1861, only four months after Mississippi leaders declared secession, almost every student enrolled at the University of Mississippi had enlisted with the Confederate Army.

Fifty-five students joined the “University Greys.” Seventeen enlisted with the “Lamar Rifles,” a Lafayette County militia. Others volunteered with various state regiments.

Many did not survive the Civil War.

Almost half a century later, on May 10, 1906, hundreds congregated on the University of Mississippi campus, where white women of the United Daughters of the Confederacy unveiled a statue honoring fallen Confederate sol-

diers, “the heroes of Lafayette County who made glorious many a battlefield.” Though not formally dedicated to UM student-soldiers, Civil War historian Don H. Doyle wrote that the statue was “a special tribute to the University Greys who had fallen in Pickett’s Charge at Gettysburg” in his book, “Faulkner’s County: The Historical Roots of Yoknapatawpha.”

Charles Scott, a former Confederate cavalryman and future gubernatorial candidate (his political platform sought “the preservation and maintenance of civilization and white supremacy in the south”), addressed the crowd.

“The Southern soldier, whether officer or private, fought neither for gold nor other gain,” Scott declared, but “battled for a principle, in which each believed with all his heart, soul, and mind.” Jeffrey Jackson, an associate professor of sociology at the University of Mississippi and co-chair of the UM Slavery Group said this is a “sincere fiction.”

This week, Jackson and another UM Slavery Group member, Anne Twitty, an associate professor of history, will present a collaborative study at the “Universities, Slavery, Public Memory & the

Built Landscape” symposium at the University of Virginia.

His still unpublished findings, supported by Twitty’s research on enslaved people owned by UM students between 1848 and 1850, suggest student-soldiers from the University of Mississippi fought not on principle, as former Confederates claimed and neo-Confederates continue to claim, but for the preservation of the peculiar institution.

According to Jackson, the University Greys were “overwhelmingly slaveholders, the children of slaveholders. In fact, their slaveholdings were much larger than the average Mississippi slaveholder.”

“Of the 55 university students who became a part of the University Greys, 48 came from slaveholding families, and every one of the 17 students enlisted with the Lamar Rifles came from slaveholding families.” Some owned more than 100 slaves: A University Grey student-soldier claimed 101 family-owned slaves, and the family of one Lamar Rifle enlistee owned 132 slaves.

The average Mississippi slaveholder in 1860 owned around nine slaves.

The average number of slaves owned by the family of a University Grey student-soldier? Jackson says “about 30.”

Jackson contends that estimates — informed by historical documents, census reports and slave catalogues — show that “students were coming from families that were becoming extremely rich extremely quickly due to slave labor. If you think about their motivations (for enlisting), these students were aware of the threat an abolitionist federal government would’ve had on their economic holdings, on their inheritance.”

Contemporary critics argue that the continued maintenance of a Confederate monument constitutes a public attack against black and brown students and glorifies a white supremacist Slave South. Its defenders claim it is a war memorial, a remembrance of those young white men “who made glorious many a battlefield,” a sacred shrine of Southern heritage.

Our administration compromised, constructed a contextualizing plaque — originally omitting any mention of slavery — and claimed the ordeal an “education opportunity.”

Now, only a month after an alleged drunk driver rammed the Confederate monument, destroying the plaque but only damaging the statue, we, the “Ole Miss family,” must again confront our Confederate

ghost.

Our administration, in all its wisdom, employed our Facilities Management Department and spent thousands in private funds repairing a Confederate monument and its plaque, completing a projected two-week process within three days.

That is thousands in private funds spent not on financing scholarships, renovating buildings or enhancing faculty development, but instead on reviving a racist relic.

Jackson and Twitty’s research regarding UM students’ slaveholdings only confirms a shameful truth long denied.

Our Ole Miss Confederate monument is no “education opportunity.” It is a symbol of white supremacy, a memorial of soldiers willing to sacrifice life and limb to preserve Southern slavery.

Our administration may no longer overlook the sinful stain of our slave past. We must reclaim our Circle and our campus.

We must demand our administration relocate the Confederate memorial.

*Allen Coon is a senior African-American studies and public policy leadership double major from Petal.*

GUEST COLUMN

# Response: ‘Elect McDaniel, oppose establishment’

**NICK LEWIS**  
GUEST COLUMNIST

*This guest column is in response to Will Hall’s column “Elect McDaniel, oppose establishment” published Oct. 16.*

While the night of Nov. 8 was a great rejection of the American establishment and an acceptance of waves of populism, it was also a day that the people who should have been crying were rejoicing.

President Trump loyalists are quick to blame Congress’ inaction as the result of his failed agenda, but this is an elementary argument. If Clinton had won and Congress wasn’t passing anything, the story would be that it was Clinton’s fault for pushing a liberal agenda Congress can’t pass.

But, of course, the Trump loyalists simply expect conservatives from across the spectrum to bend their knees to his factually baseless agenda. Not only is this expectation ridiculous, but it is hypocritical to the author’s later point that Mississippi needs a senator who will better represent

what he believes to be Mississippi’s interests.

This is all while ignoring the fact that Republican senators voting against Trump’s proposals tend to be looking out for their states’ interests. Point being, there was no “betrayal” by the Republican party, at least using the same logic the author uses.

The author also suggested that history will not remember the Trump administration’s first year for the failed legislative achievements or Twitter feuds but rather for Steve Bannon’s “crusade” to destroy the Republican establishment.

Excuse me for not believing the Trump administration will be defined by what an ex-administration official is attempting to do. I don’t think this assertion would hold much legitimacy with any person, yet alone someone such as a presidential historian.

The author falsely argues that “Bannon’s crusade found its first victory in the Alabama Senate race.” This is a misleading and false statement, seeing as it was a party primary win rather than the Senate race win.

Besides the fallacy of the

statement, the author thinks Roy Moore’s victory is an early sign of success for Bannon’s “crusade.” I would suggest otherwise and point him to the national polls regarding the president’s approval rating, particularly how they differ regionally. The president faces record low approval ratings nationwide but fares better in the Southeast.

That being said, a Moore win and a potential McDaniel win could be expected in states like Alabama and Mississippi. Moore’s victory will not reflect a greater trend in national Senate elections in 2018.

One way this will prove true is when senators outside the Southeast who voted against Trump’s proposals will get re-elected in their home states. If anyone disagrees, I will be willing to listen to your argument after the 2018 cycle.

The tone of the article I am replying to is conspiratorial, at best. It speaks of these mysterious “special interests” as some untouchable group that controls Washington by strings, rather than giving specific examples. It also fails to make the logical concession that these groups are made

up of humans just as political bodies are and that the humans who make up these interest groups may just have policy preferences similar to those of politicians.

The test the author suggests for electing new politicians isn’t merit-based. The test is to vote for someone only if he will enrage “opinion columnists at The New York Times” and pledge not to fall in line with party leadership. Surprisingly, the latter concept is a stranger argument than the former. In the author’s ideal world of a Senate filled with Moores and McDaniels, they would become the party’s next leaders.

In turn, these new party leaders would become the new establishment, the concept the author and many voters hate. This clear contradiction nullifies his broad anti-establishment argument, especially since it isn’t based on substantive grounds. The author of the article mentions no policy preferences that make McDaniel better than Sen. Wicker.

Lastly, the author suggests that it is a problem that Wicker has appeared on CNN with Sen. Cory Booker to advocate

for the removal of the state flag of Mississippi. The author seems to sarcastically call Booker and Wicker “friends,” as if this is taboo. This rhetoric is the same dangerous kind that divides our country.

Despite what some reading this article might think, I have been a Republican for as long as I can remember. While I have distanced myself from the party in recent years, I was never shy about reaching out to those who have different policy preferences than I do. It spurs debate and keeps ideas in check, often allowing people to have a better-developed view in the end.

Good for Wicker for appearing with a Democratic colleague on something they have similar ground on. For some of us, it is refreshing to see friendliness in politics. But I am probably what the author considers to be an establishment Republican and am just as evil as the author makes establishment people out to be.

*Nick Lewis is a senior political science major from Huron, Ohio.*

# Divine Nine take over Pavilion Unplugged



PHOTO BY: MARLEE CRAWFORD



PHOTO BY: MARLEE CRAWFORD



PHOTO BY: MARLEE CRAWFORD



PHOTO BY: SAVANNAH SMITH

Members of the Divine Nine fraternities and sororities stroll at Pavilion Unplugged on Thursday. PICTURED TOP LEFT: Jasmine Minor and KaLyndzeyia Gray, members of Delta Sigma Theta sorority. PICTURED TOP RIGHT: Alexia Washington leads Zeta Phi Beta sorority members. PICTURED BOTTOM LEFT: Omega Psi Phi fraternity strolls at the Pavilion. PICTURED BOTTOM RIGHT: Rachel Boone leads Delta Sigma Theta.

## Kappa Alpha Theta Welcomes HOME Pledge Class 2017!



Kalen Ali  
 Jessica Arnold  
 Eleanor Atkinson  
 Peyton Baird  
 Taryn Bewley  
 Harley Bierman  
 Claire Blecher  
 Jay Blessing  
 Bailey Boarman  
 Jill Bockhorst  
 Abby Boras  
 Isabelle Bowman  
 Lauren Bradshaw  
 Mina Brandon  
 Julia Brennan  
 Sarah Briehn  
 Courney Brown  
 Katelin Byars  
 Michelle Cameron  
 Sophie Cantu  
 Emma Carney  
 Aly Carpenter  
 Rowan Cecil  
 Maddie Chance  
 Joely Cherry  
 Kenna-Lee Clark

Savannah Cook  
 Alexis Cooper  
 Kelcey Couevas  
 Olivia Coumou  
 Frances (Allie) Counts  
 Elexis Craft  
 Reagan Crockett  
 Daniella Davis  
 Mercedes Derenne  
 Erica Devin  
 EmmaBeth Dorris  
 Halle Claire Doshier  
 Sydney Driscoll  
 Emily Dunn  
 Claire Evans  
 Shelley Everett  
 Anna-Sloan Feigler  
 Kirsten Fowler  
 Samantha Frankenfield  
 Lauren Frazier  
 Maddy Friedman  
 Lucy Gebhardt  
 Meredith Glasgow  
 Carli Glenn  
 Karlie Grace  
 Chloe Grant

Katherine Grant  
 Michaela Griffin  
 Anna Beth Griffith  
 Bell Grisham  
 Kennedy Gross  
 Avery Gwynn  
 Alexa Hillis  
 Sophie Husslein  
 Katie Hutchcraft  
 Claire Hyer  
 Sydney Jackson  
 Meagen Kelleher  
 Francesca Kirdy  
 Kelsey Koenig  
 Amelia Lawrence  
 Sydney Lech  
 Deseray Lewis  
 Katlyn Lindsey  
 Megan Lofaso  
 Katie Maguire  
 Camille Maine  
 Katelyn McCrary  
 Cameron McCreight  
 Caitlyn McCullough  
 Katelyn McDonald  
 Shannon McElvain

Christina McGrath  
 Molly McIntire  
 Allie McSwain  
 Jordan Meredith  
 Alexis Meyer  
 Lauren Meyers  
 Peyton Middleton  
 Taylor Middleton  
 Mary Lindsey Mims  
 Emily Mitchell  
 Madeline Nash  
 Connor Neill  
 Mai Nguyen  
 Shelbi Padgett  
 Bianca Page  
 Virginia Parkinson  
 Meg Peterson  
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 Claire Toole  
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 Kelsee Tucker  
 Cory Tune  
 Sarah Utsey  
 Jordan Varma  
 Miranda Walsh  
 Maegan Whittington  
 Holly Williams  
 Jeannie Williams  
 Jessica Wilson  
 Shelby Wood  
 Ava Whitfield

**PUERTO RICO**  
continued from page 1

first heard her mother's voice again.

"I said 'Gaby, I'm calling you because I want you to hear my voice and know that I am OK,'" Altieri-Rosas said.

With no cell service or internet access, Altieri-Rosas relied on a stranger's kindness to keep in touch with Gaby. She said a neighbor named Carlos Vasquez allowed her to use his satellite phone and refused to accept cash payment for the phone's service charges.

"Without him, my husband would have not known that I was OK," Altieri-Rosas said. "This man has helped so many people."

The Rosas sisters spent the candlelit week in their deceased mother's house in Hormigueros, less than a 15-minute drive from the coastline. Altieri-Rosas said nearly her entire family lives in Hormigueros, and many of her cousins even live on the same street.

"All the houses around me are my aunts that are left now," she said. "The neighbors that I have are the neighbors from all my life when I was growing up."

The familial love surrounding Altieri-Rosas after the storm was not solely a product of her proximity to cousins but also of her neighbors' compassion. She said that if people cooked a meal, they tried to feed everybody. As soon as she could venture outside, she saw neighbors on their porches looking to see how everyone else was doing.

"With no power, no internet, no phone, no TV, people get out to talk their neighbors," she said. "At night, with a flashlight or lantern, we played cards or parcheesi, things that I haven't done since I was a child."

When the storm hit, Altieri-Rosas and her sister had already been in Puerto Rico for four days. They planned to fly out of San



PHOTO COURTESY: GABY ALTIERI

Gaby Altieri reunites with her mother, Wendy Rosas-Altieri, in the Memphis International airport after securing a flight out of San Juan, Puerto Rico. They had only spoken via satellite phone on two occasions while Rosas-Altieri was stranded in Puerto Rico for over a week.

Juan on Sept. 21, but Maria delayed their departure nine days. Altieri-Rosas said the storm left the majority of roads into San Juan impassible and knocked down two of the airport's three control towers. She could not book or confirm her rescheduled flight from the blacked-out island, so that was left to Gaby.

Once Altieri booked her mom and aunt's flight home, the worry had still not blown over. She said she heard rumors that the airport did not actually have power and airlines were not allowing anyone to check bags.

"For me, I couldn't sleep," Altieri said. "Really, my whole entire life was consumed with looking up stuff about the hurricane."

A week after the storm, Altieri-Rosas and her sister filled their rental car with gas, packed their purses with bread and water and ditched their suitcases at their grandmother's house. She said she did not know what to expect at the airport or if she would even be flying out that day. The 100-mile drive that usually should take two hours instead lasted around six.

"When we drove to

the airport, that's when I saw the devastation of the island," Altieri-Rosas said. "It was unreal. It just looked like you had burned it. All the stuff was either gray or black."

**'Gaby, I'm calling you because I want you to hear my voice and know that I am OK.'**

- Wendy Altieri-Rosas

She and her sister made it to the airport the day before their flight and planned to sleep there that night. Upon arrival, Altieri-Rosas said there was still no power, and the cramped building was not ventilated.

"That actually was the scariest part for me. Even worse than the storm, it was the scene at the airport," Altieri-Rosas said.

They needed a new plan. "We found a cousin of ours," she said. "We're a pretty big family. She lives close to the airport and said, 'I have no power,



PHOTO COURTESY: GABY ALTIERI

Debris left over from Hurricane Maria's landfall obstructs a road in Puerto Rico. Blocked roads and a lack of electricity have made traveling across the island a challenge. Gaby Altieri's mom and aunt were unable to get to the airport for their initial flight home because of debris like this.

but I have water. You are welcome to come."

They spent the night at the cousin's house in San Juan and caught their early-morning flight from San Juan to Atlanta the next day. Altieri-Rosas said there were 28 wheelchair-assisted passengers on the flight, and she realized how lucky she was to have secured a seat.

"Until the plane was in

'Hey, we're on our way to the airport. You need to come get us.'"

When she first heard from her mom eight days after the storm hit, Altieri created a GoFundMe for hurricane relief and set the goal at \$1,000. She reached that goal in six days and said she now hopes to raise at least \$2,000 to send to Puerto Rico in the form of food, cash or other supplies.

"I started it because I was desperate," she said. "I wanted to feel like I was doing something."


The combined support for Puerto Rico in donations from the states and national unity on the ground has given Altieri hope. She praised the relief efforts of celebrities like Marc Anthony and Ricky Martin and said she is excited for this weekend's Puerto Rican Day Festival in Memphis, which will help fund recovery.

Altieri said the coquis in Puerto Rico are starting to chirp again.

the air, I didn't breathe calmly," Altieri-Rosas said.

Altieri burst into tears when she saw her mom and aunt leaving the terminal in the Memphis airport.

"We had no communication," Altieri said. "They called me, like,



sa

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The 30-minute show is the ONLY LOCAL television newscast generating news directly to and for Ole Miss, Oxford, and Lafayette County.

**STATUE**  
*continued from page 1*

responsibility to educate. The Attorney General's letter of October 2, 2017 to the Lafayette County Board of Supervisors does not change the university's approach of contextualization."

Lee Tyner, the university's attorney, declined to comment on the university's plans based on the opinion.

Katrina Caldwell, vice chancellor for diversity and community engagement, said the decision to keep the statue

over Confederate statues in Charlottesville, Virginia, the Board of Supervisors called a meeting, during which Oxonians in favor of and against the statue presented their opinions.

Some residents said they think items like Confederate flags and statues should be in a museum, while others argued the statue downtown has been a part of Oxford since 1907 and serves as a memorial to those who died during the Civil War.

The residents' concerns prompted the Board of Supervisors to request an opinion from the attorney gener-

the opinion said.

At Monday's Board of Supervisors meeting, President Jeff Busby announced that a five-person contextualization committee will be formed to determine the fate of the statue and its location on the Square.

This decision is reminiscent of the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on History and Context, established in 2016 by Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter, that works to provide context for sites on campus. One of its first projects was completed last March when the committee added a contextualization plaque to the Confederate memorial statue in the Circle.

Caldwell said the committee has helped the university understand how to move forward with understanding campus symbols, buildings and history.

"We engaged consultants and learned about strategies used by other institutions that are also working to understand their past," she said. "As an educational institution, we have embraced an educational strategy, and only time will tell whether this educational strategy is more effective than the strategies embraced by other institutions. One thing is for sure: It is more effective than doing nothing, like some institutions have chosen to do."

Donald Cole serves as assistant to the chancellor for multicultural affairs. He said aspects of the statue are problematic, and its prominence in the Circle has the potential deter prospective students.

"Its size and location gives the impression that it represents the university," he said. "Perhaps, at one time in history, this might have been the case. But as our canon, values and beliefs have developed, the statue has become increasingly more complex, misunderstood and dividing. It still has lessons to teach, and its present location inter-



PHOTO BY: TAYLAR TEEL

A passerby comments on the contextualization plaque in front of the statue located in the Circle on campus.

feres with its message and the lessons we want to teach."

Cole said many people have suggested the Confederate cemetery on campus as a more suitable location for the

statue.

Cole also said that while the university's dedication to contextualization is a good first step, there is still work to be done in educating students on what they can learn from the statue.

"We all share in improving the comfort level of our campus, and contextualization, relocating, removal, renaming, balancing or altering will not compensate for change of heart resulting from additional knowledge gained, research conducted, sound reasoning applied and a deep desire to discover the truth," Cole said.

Both Caldwell and Cole said it is important to learn from the mistakes of the past to ensure a better future for the state and the university.

"It is important to connect with each other to understand and convey that while our state and campus have some painful eras in history, we must work together to ensure that the abhorrent aspects of that history do not define our state or university," Caldwell said.

**As our canon, values and beliefs have developed, the statue has become increasingly more complex, misunderstood and dividing.'**

- Donald Cole, assistant to the chancellor for multicultural affairs

in its original location means the community must now prove it doesn't condone the racism some associate with Confederate memorabilia.

"We now have a duty to engage our community in ways that make it clear that the perceptions of race that were formulated and defended during that era no longer have a place on our campus," she said.

After the August protest

al's office about relocating the statues.

The attorney general's response said memorials to any war may not be entirely removed, only relocated to an equally prominent area in the county.

"In the case of the county, for example, a monument may be 'moved' within the county jurisdictional limits to some other more suitable location on county property,"

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# ‘Mississippi is finally going to tell the truth’

## Director discusses Mississippi Civil Rights Museum

JACQUELINE KNIRNSCHILD  
STAFF WRITER

“I’m gonna keep on a-walkin’, keep on a-talkin’, marchin’ down to freedom land,” Pamela D.C. Junior, director of the first state-sponsored civil rights museum in the nation, sang to the audience gathered at the library Thursday afternoon.

“Do you realize that you are a light?” Junior asked the crowd. “Lights came into the state of Mississippi — black, white, yellow — to change Mississippi, and they did, so your lights can do the same thing. Your lights can come together as one and make the state of Mississippi the greatest place to live.”

Junior’s goal is that the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, opening this December in Jackson, will not only illuminate historic truth and tell the stories of the bright lights who persevered, fought and changed the state and country forever, but will also inspire spectators to unearth their own inner lights and set out on the path toward progress in Mississippi.

Junior said the “Two Mississippi Museums” initiative idea, which also includes the Museum of Mississippi History, emerged about 10 years ago. Since then, the Mississippi Legislature and the Foundation for Mississippi History raised \$90 million to fund this 200,000-square-foot center that stores more than 22,000 artifacts.

Junior held a 17-yearlong position as manager of the Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center and is a board member for the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area and Mississippi Book Festival. She describes herself as a “little shy girl in

west Jackson.”

Junior attributes her success to her ancestors, who were among the 3,000 people who came to America in the slave trade. She wears dangly, clinking bracelets to remind her that everything she does is for her fearless predecessors.

“If they could make it over on this ship, if they could go to a store counter and take all that they took, well, little old me, I got to get up in the morning and always be the best that I can be,” Junior said. “What is your excuse?”

The museum consists of eight galleries, beginning with a timeline of the transatlantic slave trade and slave life on cotton plantations, then moving on to the Emancipation Proclamation.

Junior said that in this section of the museum, people may need to catch their breath because the images will be brutal — the exhibit will show the realities of the lynching and Jim Crow laws.

“We ain’t playing with you. The governor said there may be some things that you might not like,” Junior said. “But it’s meant to tell a comprehensive history of Mississippi. Mississippi is finally going to tell the truth.”

The third gallery, “This Little Light of Mine,” the one closest to Junior’s heart, gives viewers a break from the wickedness they just experienced in the first two exhibits.

“This great big space will have a 37-foot sculpture entangled with lights, and as more people walk in, the lights start dancing and moving, and then you’ll hear children sing ‘This Little Light of Mine,’” Junior said. “It’s amazing.”

The fourth gallery includes first-hand accounts of black Mississippians who served in World War II. The fifth



PHOTO BY: CHASE ROBERTS

Pamela D.C. Junior, director of the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, speaks at the J.D. Williams Library on Thursday.

explores the 1960s, what activist Bob Moses called the “tremor in the middle of the iceberg.”

The sixth and seventh exhibits, “I Question America” and “Black Empowerment” explore how local movements grew into state campaigns and successes such as the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the March Against Fear.

Lastly, the museum will ask viewers “Where do we go from here?” and give them an opportunity to write down their thoughts, comments and reflections on how the museum affected them.

“After you’ve gone through one to seven, you’re probably crying. You can’t breathe, and now you need to wake up and ask ‘How can I help?’” Junior said. “Until we do this together, we will always be 50th in education,

economics, everything. It’s time for a change.”

Laura Wilson, an English Ph.D. student, said she was holding back tears for a lot of the lecture.

“There’s too much willful ignorance and many incomplete histories, so a museum like this will tell the full story,” Wilson said.

Greg Johnson, the blues curator of the university library’s Archives and Special Collections, said the department was happy to provide the Jackson museum with scans of images from its collections.

“It’s so important for our state to acknowledge the wrongs that we’ve done,” Johnson said. “We need to be confronted with evil because it allows us to move on.”

Tickets to the opening reception are free to reserve on the Mississippi Civil

Rights Museum website.

Paige Williams contributed reporting to this article.

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# A mother's message

DEVNA BOSE  
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

'I was just numb. He was my only son.'

**"M**y only son, William Scott Smith, decided to leave this world on May 3, 2015."

His story starts unassumingly, like any other. He had a loving mother, a band of misfit buddies and a talent for playing guitar.

But digging a little deeper, one would find a boy whose depression and anxiety quickly spun him into a web he couldn't untangle. He spiraled, finding solace in joints and cigarettes in his backyard treehouse — until, one day, he climbed up the tree to escape for the last time.

His loving mother hasn't sat down since.

Pam Smith, a senior collections assistant in the Office of the Bursar, has worked tirelessly for the past two years to raise awareness for suicide prevention in memory of her son. A board member of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention for the state of Mississippi, a co-organizer for Oxford's Out of Darkness Walk for Suicide Prevention and a full-time employee of the university, Smith is known for her passion and willingness to share her story, as personal as it may be.

It didn't happen all at once, Pam said. When Scott became a teenager, she said he adopted "semi-gothic" traits.

"He wanted to paint his nails black, but I didn't let him do that," Pam said with a grin.

His self-expression flourished as he got older, and his relationship with his father began to change.

"I told his father that just because we lived in Mississippi, he didn't have to be a country boy," Pam said. "They have the same temperament, and one day, they actually got into a fist fight."

His father moved out, and Scott's behavior deteriorated. Pam began to notice the smell of marijuana coming from his bedroom. Shortly after, she

SEE SCOTT PAGE 9

**SCOTT**  
continued from page 8

received a call from Scott's school saying he'd been expelled after officials found a joint in his backpack.

"If you want a pain in your heart, go to the sheriff's department to pick up your child," she said.

And that's when Scott broke down. When they got home, Scott told her he needed help, and Pam sprung into action. She had him admitted to Parkwood Behavioral Health System, a psychiatric hospital in Olive Branch, where he was held on suicide watch for three days.

"While he was there, I locked up everything in the house, even ibuprofen," she said. "I cleaned out everything in his bedroom and treehouse. I found so much, you know, paraphernalia."

After insurance stopped covering Scott's stay at Parkwood, he was forced to stay home alone all day as Pam worked. She tried to get him re-enrolled in school, but the superintendent refused.

Regardless, Pam kept pushing. She bought him a GED study guide, and Scott agreed to enroll in training at Camp Shelby. Things seemed to be looking up, but Pam later found out the progress was only surface-level.

On the morning Pam will never forget, Scott was in a good mood. He was making strides with his guitar-playing and had just created a new band. Pam decided to cook Scott's favorite meal, fried steaks and gravy, and he happily agreed to eat dinner with her before he headed upstairs. When he came back down, though, his mood had changed entirely.

"By the time I got through, he just had this different look on his face," she said.

Scott and his girlfriend were fighting, and he told his mom casually, "I'm going to walk around Harmontown. I'll be back later."

Pam asked him to stay, but before she knew it, he was out the door.

Scott's curfew was 10 p.m., and when Pam woke up in the morning, she expected to see him sleeping on the couch as he usually did on nights he came home late. But he wasn't there.

She looked around town all day and called his friends, but no one seemed to know where Scott was. It wasn't until hours later that it dawned on Pam that he might be in his treehouse.

"That's where I found him."

For months after that day in May, Pam was living her nightmare. She grieved. She cried. She screamed at the sky.

"I was just numb," she said. "He was my only son. I'm never going to accept it."

At the funeral, her son's friends told her, "Our person is gone. What are we going to do?" And that's when she finally understood that, even though she might never be able to accept it, he was called home for a reason.



Pam Smith



William Smith with his father

COURTESY: PAM SMITH



Pam Smith's tattoo

PHOTOS BY: DEVNA BOSE

"I realized then — my son was a counselor. He spent so much of his time helping other people," she said. "I do believe that maybe God needed a counselor up there with him in heaven."

The thought comforted Pam and helped her through the darkest of times. Scott was a listener and confidante, taking on the problems of his closest friends as his own, without regard for himself. Scott was outgoing and loving. Because of him, Pam's house was always full. He was a person who naturally and genuinely loved and cared for others, and he got it from his mom.

Pam used grief to fuel her passion for suicide prevention. She joined the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and is now a board member. With AFSP, she has raised money, spread awareness and helped pass bills. She has sent letters to senators and the president of the United States. Pam hasn't stopped fighting and doesn't plan to anytime soon.

"I found that it's OK to cry," she said about overcoming grief. "Now, screaming — I don't know if that works or not."

Even though Pam Smith lost her only son to suicide just two years ago, it's hard to imagine her being sad. Maybe she's just too busy for anyone to tell.

She helped with Oxford's Out of the Darkness Walk for Suicide Prevention for the past two years, and the chairman of the walk, Maddy Gumbko, said it wouldn't have been nearly as successful without Pam.

"When I first met her, you could tell that she was really grieving. She has gained so much courage since," Gumbko said. "Last year, she didn't want to speak at the walk, but this year, she did."

When she first met Pam, Gumbko had just lost a close friend to suicide and said that even though her interactions with Pam reopened painful, fresh wounds, they opened her eyes.

"It's still just as heartbreaking, but

Pam's openness about her story made me realize that to be able to have conversations about suicide, we have to be able to talk about it," she said. "She has such a passion and fire and drive to change the world and save lives in memory of her son."

Pam hopes that by spreading awareness about the cause, her son's legacy as a "counselor" can live on through her.

"This is an issue we don't talk about enough," Pam said. "By talking about it and making a personal connection with people, we can save more lives."

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among teenagers and the 10th leading cause of death in the country. White males, like Scott, accounted for 7 out of every 10 suicides in 2015, and those numbers are climbing.

Statistics like that are why Kathryn Forbes, president and co-founder of the Ole Miss chapter of Active Minds, a national organization that promotes mental health awareness and education on college campuses, is bringing light to suicide awareness and prevention here at the university.

"One in 4 college students struggle with mental illness. It's so important to be open about it so people know they're not alone," she said. "I love how open Pam is about her story, because the more open you are, the more people will come up to you and tell you that they are suffering, too. We need to have these conversations to reduce the negative stigma around mental health."

Pam recently got a tattoo on her forearm — a guitar with Scott's name inscribed across the front.

"Scott wanted to get a tattoo, and I wouldn't let him," she said. "Finally, before he died, I told him that I'd get a tattoo with him, so this is for Scott."

Pam imagines Scott still plays his guitar. He probably still smokes cigarettes, too, with his messy black hair across his forehead. But most importantly, she thinks he is still helping others, and as long as he is, she will be, too.

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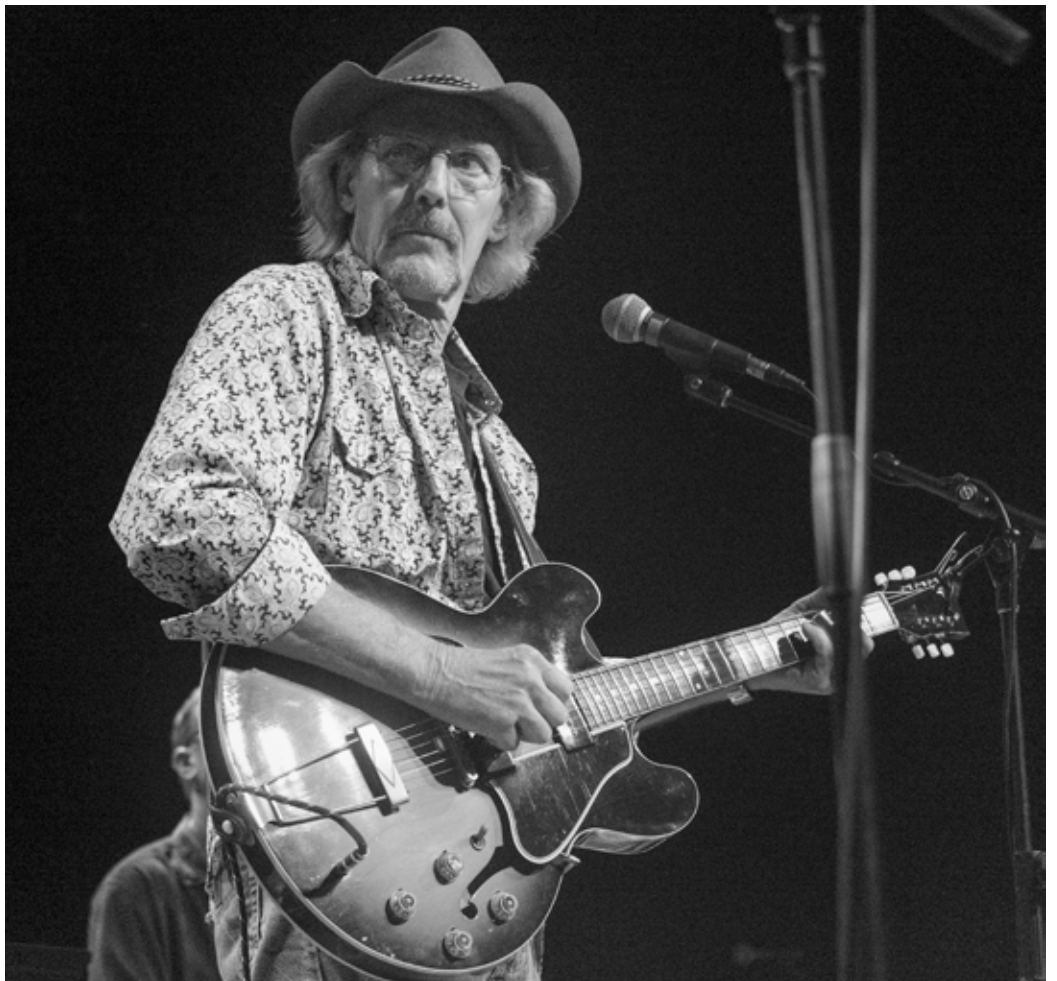
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# THACKER MOUNTAIN



PHOTOS BY: MARLEE CRAWFORD

TOP LEFT: Bonnie Bishop sings "Ain't Who I Was" from her most recent album at the 20th anniversary show of Thacker Mountain Radio Hour at The Lyric on Thursday. BOTTOM LEFT: Long haul trucker and author Finn Murphy talks about his book, 'The Long Haul: A Trucker's Tales of Life on the Road,' during Thacker Mountain Radio Hour. Murphy has spent the last 30 years moving people's belongings, covering more than a million miles across the U.S. RIGHT: Kenny Brown performs his signature North Mississippi Hill Country blues for a packed Thacker Mountain Radio Hour at The Lyric on Thursday. Brown, a skilled slide guitarist, has been playing for over 40 years.

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# Choose your own adventure: Game day edition

**JONATHAN GIBSON**  
ASSISTANT LIFESTYLES EDITOR

**1** You awaken to a bright light flashing across your face and an alarm wailing in your ear. You leap out of bed, ready to attack. The room is empty. The blinds have fallen off your window — again — and you forgot to turn off your alarm before you fell asleep. It was just a dream. You look at your phone. Your mother texted you: "Hey, are you awake?" "We just got on the road." "Can't wait to see you, sweetie!"

**IF YOU IGNORE THE TEXTS: GO TO 2**

**IF YOU REPLY: GO TO 4**

**2** You sigh loudly and put your phone in your pocket. She always texts you at the worst times. You go to the kitchen and begin cooking breakfast. You hear the faint sound of a police siren approaching. There's a knock at the door. A battering ram blasts through the cheap pine as a dozen officers run into your apartment. Because of your inability to respond to your mother's texts, she assumed you were murdered in cold blood in your kitchen. The officers, seeing you in the kitchen with a knife, assume you are the murderer. Unfortunately, you piece this all together as you are tackled to the ground by the boys in blue. Guess you won't be going to the game after all. Why did you not just text her back?

**THE END.**

**3** You muster up the courage and begin walking aggressively toward the group of tourists. With all the strength you have, you start pushing past them, fighting their claws, fanny packs and drinks that are just a little TOO full and overflow out of the cup every time someone bumps into them. You're now covered in beer and sauces of various colors and smells, but at least you made it out. In the distance, you can see Vaught-Hemingway, and you know you only have a little time left to get to your seat.

**IF YOU TAKE THE WALK OF CHAMPIONS: GO TO 7**

**IF YOU TAKE THE EASTERN ROUTE: GO TO 8**

**4** You send her a short reply: "Yes, I'm alive." Now you have to find something to wear. The weather said it would be sunny and 75, but since this is Mississippi, it could be anywhere from 50 to 95 degrees at any given time. You put on your favorite cute outfit and head out to tailgate.

**GO TO 6**

**5** You look to your left and see a crumpled Hawaiian shirt on a lawn chair. You quickly put it on, making sure to leave an uncomfortable number of buttons undone. You jump to your feet and start walking toward the group of tourists, who all appear to be middle-aged and don't seem to have a tent or friends. They give you confused glances at first, but in your best drunken impression, you start the Hotty Toddy chant and begin taking chicken wings from a random tailgating family's buffet table, so the group accepts you as one of its own. You may have lost your soul and may be eternally bound to these wandering freeloaders, but that's better than being on their bad side. This might not be such a bad deal after all.

**THE END.**

**6** You get to the Grove and immediately regret your decision. You feel a trickle of sweat run down your back as you check the weather again. How is it 96 degrees? It was literally cold enough for a parka yesterday. You look down to see that your designer shoes have been covered in some otherworldly mixture of mud, beer and ... barbecue sauce? You frantically try to save them from destruction, but while you're wiping them off, you're approached by a pack of ravenous, deranged tourists — the most dangerous natural predator to the college student on game day.

**IF YOU TRY TO ESCAPE: GO TO 3**

**IF YOU TRY TO BLEND IN WITH THEM: GO TO 5**

**7** You decide to take the Walk of Champions, but within moments, you feel a rumbling under your feet. Is that ... an earthquake? A stampede? You turn around, ready to meet your fate. What lies in front of you is the most terrifying sight you have ever seen. It stands at 6-foot-7, weighing in at 325 pounds, with more muscles than Arnold Schwarzenegger himself. You can barely contain your fear. The Grove squirrel, genetically altered from years of eating discarded pizza crusts and lapping up puddles of sugary beverages, has raised itself up on its hind legs, teeth bared.

**GO TO 10**

**8** You take the eastern route around the back of the stadium, and you can already feel the excitement buzzing. You hand your ticket to the security guard, get your clear bag checked and head into the stadium. You can hear the "Hallelujah" chorus softly echoing through the halls as you make your triumphal entry.

**IF YOU GET IN LINE FOR CONCESSIONS: GO TO 9**

**IF YOU GO STRAIGHT TO YOUR SEAT: GO TO 11**

**9** There are zero people in line as you head to the concession stand, but 36 people somehow get in line in front of you before you make it there. But that's OK. There are still 30 minutes until the game starts. What could go wrong?

**GO TO 12**

**10** You frantically look around for a weapon of some sort to defend yourself, but you immediately remember that weapons of any kind are forbidden on university grounds and in the stadium. While inconvenient in this instance, you admire the administration for always seeking to create a safe environment for enjoying the game day festivities. However, while you were thinking these things, the Grove squirrel was preparing to attack. With a swift blow to your face, you're knocked unconscious. You wake up in the hospital, surrounded by an anxious-looking mother and disappointed father. You try to explain what happened, but how could they believe you? Your father tells you, "You should learn to pace yourself" and "I thought we taught you better than this." You missed the game AND disappointed your parents, but now you'll think twice before feeding the Grove squirrels, and maybe you'll do a better job cleaning up after you tailgate.

**THE END.**

**11** You go to your gate, squinting as the sun shines in your eyes and the field comes into view. You made it. Your seat is waiting. You think back on the adventures you've been through today. The game is about to start. Are you ready? After a day like this, you feel more ready than ever.

**THE END.**

**12** You finally make it to the front. It's \$23.50 for a pretzel. "What a deal," you think. You're overcome with joy — until you turn around and see that the entire stadium is empty. You look at your watch. It's 10:45 p.m. How is this possible? Your desire for unhealthy snacks has finally backfired on you — but not with high blood pressure and weight gain, like your silly doctor said it would. You have missed the entire game. Oh well. At least you have a delicious pretzel to make up for it. You take a bite. It's stale.

**THE END.**



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# EDITOR TO EDITOR

## REBELS VERSUS TIGERS

Brandon Adam, The Daily Reveille assistant sports editor, joins The Daily Mississippian sports editor Grayson Weir to discuss Saturday's rivalry game between Ole Miss and Louisiana State University.



**BRANDON ADAM:** Is Ole Miss going to consistently run the ball?

**GRAYSON WEIR:** The majority of the offensive focus will remain in the air and around Shea Patterson. However, running back Jordan Wilkins has emerged as a reliable option on the ground, rushing for more than 100 yards on 18 carries last weekend against Vanderbilt. While LSU's defense is a much bigger beast than that of the Commodores, offensive coordinator Phil Longo will certainly attempt to establish a balance between the run and the pass early on.

**BA:** How confident is the team that the receivers will be able to separate from LSU's cornerbacks?

**GW:** Very. A.J. Brown, despite suffering an injury against Cal, leads the SEC in receiving yards, and DaMarkus Lodge is not far behind in fourth. And that's before you factor in D.K. Metcalf, Van Jefferson and Wilkins out of the backfield. While LSU may boast some of the top cornerbacks in the nation, the size, athleticism and depth of the Nasty Wide Outs will make separation a non-issue.

**BA:** Does Ole Miss have the size inside and the speed outside to stop LSU's run game?

**GW:** The run defense has been a question mark all year, and Vanderbilt's Ralph Webb running for 163 yards on 23 carries was considered a success. Sad, I know. That being said, the talent is there. Breeland Speaks, Josiah Coatney, Benito Jones, Victor Evans and company are all defensive linemen who can run like linebackers. Their size and speed don't add up, and that certainly plays in the Rebels' favor when it comes to their opponents trying to run in between the tackles. Should the big fellas do their job and force Guice to bounce it outside, the second and third levels have been unable to wrap up, allowing the rushing yards to accumulate like the national debt ticker. This will be the biggest point of emphasis and biggest concern coming into the game; Guice will most likely run up and down the field.



**GRAYSON WEIR:** Addressing the elephant in the room ... this weekend's matchup marks once-LSU-commit Shea Patterson's first game against the Tigers and head coach Ed Orgeron's return to Oxford. Does this add another layer to the already established rivalry, or is it just business as usual?

**BRANDON ADAM:** If not for the "The Blind Side" clip, most of the players and fans don't remember that coach O was in Oxford. Thus, his return is not a big talking point. He did, however, say that he wants to say hello to the cook at the Exxon that serves chicken on a stick. With Shea, too, most casual fans have forgotten about him not committing to LSU and that his brother was on staff. Especially considering his move to IMG for senior year, it's Ole Miss week and business as usual.

**GW:** LSU held Auburn and quarterback Jarrett Stidham to a 34 percent completion rate, and it appears "DBU" is holding true to its name in Baton Rouge. In Oxford, Patterson is averaging 357.2 passing yards per game, and WRU is holding true to its name. How does the defense plan to approach the prolific passing attack?

**BA:** LSU is going to play man coverage for most of the game and force the Ole Miss receivers to beat it. It is what it has done almost every time it played Ole Miss. LSU won't be afraid of having young cornerbacks go man-up with Ole Miss' best receivers (Tre'Davious White covered Treadwell in 2014).

**GW:** Danny Etling will be under center the majority of the game for the purple and gold, but coach O has hinted at a wildcat-esque package for redshirt sophomore Justin McMillan. Is this package something the Tigers will use often? What's the purpose?

**BA:** He is going to be a seldom-used part of the offense; nothing will be based around him except for a couple of snaps here and there.

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# LSU defense a challenge for Patterson, receivers

**SAM HARRES**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The SEC giveth, and the SEC taketh away.

After dropping a 37-7 blowout to Mississippi State, the now-No. 24 LSU Tigers were teetering on the brink of irrelevancy. But the Southeastern Conference, ever the unpredictable mistress, suddenly ebbed in LSU's favor, with back-to-back wins over then-No. 21 Florida and then-No. 10 Auburn. With a renewed sense of purpose, the 5-2 Tigers are next in line to visit Oxford this weekend for a bout with the struggling Ole Miss Rebels.

Hugh Freeze, the former Ole Miss head coach, left behind a program in chaos. After four consecutive top-20 recruiting classes, including a top-five group in 2016, the Rebels' 2017 class fell out of the top 30. That's a death sentence in SEC Land. But that's not all — Freeze took plenty with him. The former play-caller left Mississippi's flagship program without an identity. The Rebels, a defensive juggernaut throughout the late 2000s and early 2010s, have struggled without the ball for the past three seasons.

Through six games, the Rebel defense has conceded an average 37 points per game, 116th in the FBS. Aside from senior standout Marquis Haynes, whose 27th sack last weekend broke the school record for sacks in a college career, the Ole Miss defensive unit is largely toothless. LSU has

not captured many headlines on offense, but it often doesn't have to. The Tigers rely on staunch defense, led by formidable linebacker Arden Key, to suffocate opposing offenses. This year's iteration of LSU defense ranks 22nd in the nation, holding opponents to an average of 315.3 yards per game. The Rebels won't have it easy Saturday, but they certainly won't go down without a fight.

Among FBS schools, Ole Miss ranks 29th in total offense, generating 462.5 yards of average offense per game. With that said, 77.2 percent (357.2) of those yards arrived in the air. The Rebels, it's been noted, are running a rather one-dimensional Air Raid. Which is not good news, considering LSU ranks 14th among FBS schools in passing yards allowed (170.6). Offensive coordinator Phil Longo, hired during the offseason, ignited the FCS at Sam Houston State. His offense accumulated more than 4,500 passing yards and 2,000 rushing yards, unparalleled among Division I programs. But so far, his system has not

transferred well into the SEC. It could be a lack of talent, but Longo's scheme seems too simple

to succeed. Opponents figure out quarterback Shea Patterson early and counter in the second half.

Patterson, the top-ranked quarterback in his recruiting class, debuted in front of more than 100,000 fans in College Station, Texas, last year. The man is no stranger to pressure. But his tendency to roll out of the pocket early and hold on to balls that should have been thrown away continues to concern fans and coaches. His arm is no joke: He broke the school's single-game passing record against UT-Martin this season, but the jury remains out on Patterson's next-level decision-making.

A talented group of receivers, known collectively as the "Nasty Wide Outs (NWO)," adds to the passing threat, but teams have begun countering with deep, zonal coverage. A.J. Brown, D.K.

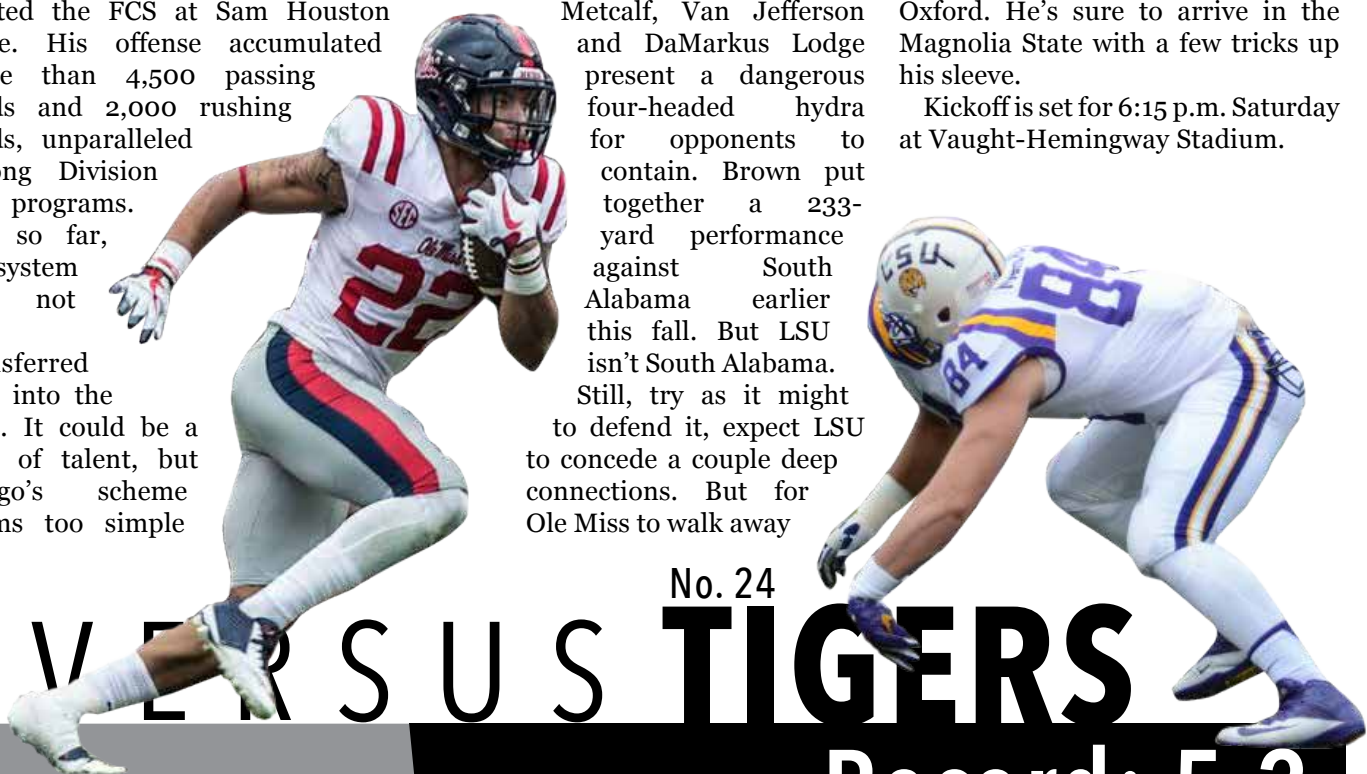
Metcalf, Van Jefferson and DaMarkus Lodge present a dangerous four-headed hydra for opponents to contain. Brown put together a 233-yard performance against South Alabama earlier this fall. But LSU isn't South Alabama. Still, try as it might to defend it, expect LSU to concede a couple deep connections. But for Ole Miss to walk away

with a win Saturday, it'll take more than passing.

The Rebels need a run threat. Without one, their offense is predictable and easy to defend. Jordan Wilkins, a running back who sat out in 2016 because of academic ineligibility, could add some unpredictability to the mix. The senior started off slowly in 2017, but two 100-plus-yard games against Alabama and Vanderbilt hint at better things to come. He won't single-handedly bail out the Rebels, but it's a start.

First-year head coach Matt Luke has his work cut out for him Saturday. A win is certainly not out of the question; as of Wednesday, the Rebels are just seven-point underdogs in Vegas. But Ed Orgeron, current head coach at LSU and former Ole Miss head coach from 2005 to 2007, knows his way around Oxford. He's sure to arrive in the Magnolia State with a few tricks up his sleeve.

Kickoff is set for 6:15 p.m. Saturday at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium.



## REBELS VERSUS TIGERS

Record: 3-3

**Total offense** No. 29 in nation

AVERAGING 462.5 YARDS OF OFFENSE PER GAME

**77.2 percent** or 357.2 yards

OF OLE MISS' OFFENSE CAME VIA PASSING

Record: 5-2

**Total defense** No. 22 in nation

AVERAGING 315.3 YARDS CONCEDED PER GAME

**Pass defense** No. 14 in nation

AVERAGING 170.6 YARDS CONCEDED PER GAME

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY: HAYDEN BENGE

### PATTERSON

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This year's Magnolia Bowl will feature two high-powered offenses: one anchored in the run game, the other rooted in Patterson's arm and ability to find the "Nasty Wide Outs" downfield. Through six games, the Rebel offense has amassed 2,143 yards passing, and receivers A.J. Brown and DaMarkus Lodge both sit in the top five of the SEC for receiving yardage, with Brown leading the group. Patter-



PHOTO BY: MARLEE CRAWFORD

Quarterback Shea Patterson attempts a pass before being tackled during the second half of the game against Alabama earlier this season. Alabama won 66-3.

son, who has completed 156 of 237 attempts, holds the utmost faith in his pass catchers.

"If I see any of those guys with a step on the defensive back, I'm letting it go," Patterson said. "Just put it in the vicinity. They're big guys. I trust them to go get it if I just let it fly."

Beyond Saturday's contest, Patterson has his sights set on the biggest stage, to which he is no stranger. Assuring his dedication to staying the course, a successful career at the helm includes competing for a national title.

"With all the stuff that

has gone on over the last year and a half with this program, it's making the team closer," Patterson said. "We're not going anywhere. We're going to keep fighting. We're going to be back on top soon."

Between his upbringing, on-field singularity and humble nature, Patterson is different. His whole life, the golden boy from Toledo has broken the mold. But no matter the circumstance, he took command of his surroundings and never lost sight of who he is.

"I'm adaptable."



# With humility and adaptability, Patterson breaks mold

**GRAYSON WEIR**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Between assignments, blocking schemes and adrenaline-pumping rap beats, football players have a lot going through their heads as they get off the team bus and march toward the stadium. For Shea Patterson, it's all Motown.

"It just gets me in a good mood, always has," the Toledo, Ohio, native said with a shrug.

As a fourth-grader growing up in the Midwest, Patterson didn't know he'd be under center. After surpassing the 95-pound weight limit in his local league, Patterson was forced to play up against sixth-grade opponents, lining up as a fullback and linebacker. Since then, he's come a long way, with football always at the forefront.

"I don't know what I'd be doing if it wasn't football. I really don't know," Patterson said. "I've always had a Plan A, and that's the only thing I've ever worked for."

Patterson's days in Ohio came to a conclusion in 2008 when his family relocated to the Rio Grande Valley, the heart of Texas football. The family moved the year Patterson entered middle school. He had found his place at signal-caller, and his dazzling playmaking ability garnered the national spotlight before he even took a snap at the high school level.

"My favorite pass I've thrown came when I was in seventh grade," Patterson said with a smile. "I had three dudes on my right arm, so I switched the ball over to my left and completed a pass 20 yards down field."

When Patterson finally did take the reins at Hidalgo High School, the 6-foot-1, 180-pound freshman excelled. In only nine games, the 15-year-old phenom threw for 1,863 yards, ran for 649 yards, accounted for 27 touchdowns and won a district championship. Coaching staffs and analysts across the nation took note and placed him at the top of the 2016 recruiting class rankings.

That summer, his father accepted a promotion and informed his family they would be moving to Shreveport, Louisiana. Upon arrival, Patterson was again met with high expectations

and did not disappoint. In his two years at Calvary Baptist Academy, Patterson culminated more than 5,000 yards in the air, added 375 on the ground and illuminated scoreboards with 78 total touchdowns en route to back-to-back Louisiana Division III state championships. His success at Calvary solidified his spot atop the recruiting ranks and rack in Division I offers, culminating in his commitment to Ole Miss in February of his junior year.

"I just have fun with it," he said, addressing the constant scrutiny. "I have a great support staff around me, and my family is awesome. I just control what I can control and let the rest take care of itself."

Though his commitment to Ole Miss was all but finalized, the recruiting continued, and Patterson enrolled at IMG Academy, a boarding school and sport-training destination in Bradenton, Florida, for his senior season. While Patterson continued to light up the stat sheet and the scoreboard, LSU and its head coach, Les Miles, remained particularly persistent. Hoping to lure the nation's top recruit from their SEC West rival and keep him in state, the purple and gold were unsuccessful.

The Tigers, for the first time since Patterson's arrival in Oxford, will take the field Saturday at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium. While it may not have locked down the quarterback from upstate, the program received an influx of commitments from his friends, teammates and gridiron colleagues. Devin White, who currently starts at linebacker for LSU's defense, was one of those who headed to Baton Rouge.

"Devin White was one of my best friends in high school," Patterson said. "We text. We watch one an-

## SHEA Patterson AT A GLANCE



ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	TD	INT
237	156	65.8	2143	17	6

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY: ETHEL MWEDZIWENDIRA

other on TV. We Snapchat. We keep each other updated on how we're doing. I talk to all of those guys all the time."

Safe to say, the rivalry comes with an added motivation to come out on top.

"Anytime you can get a win in the SEC is huge," Patterson said. "But knowing all those guys and at one point late in my high

school thinking I was going to end up there, (a win this weekend) would be huge. It would be really huge."

Adding extra sentiment to the game, his brother Sean resigned from his position with LSU just days before Patterson's commitment. Hired as an associate director for recruiting operations just six days later, he joined the Ole Miss staff

and has been in Oxford since.

"It's been a dream of ours (to reunite) since the recruiting process started," Patterson said. "He's a worker. He's a grinder, and so we're always working to prepare. But more importantly, he reminds me to just go out and have fun."