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**April 15, 2014**

The Daily Mississippian

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# THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

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

## MBA students support disabled teenager

BY KYLIE MCFADDEN  
kemcfadd@go.olemiss.edu

Students in The University of Mississippi's MBA program have started projects raising money to provide a wheelchair for a paralyzed teenager.

Shambrica Whitehead, a teenager from Quitman County, was paralyzed at the age of 14 due to an aneurysm that left her unable to use the left side of her body. She currently resides in a nursing home and therefore cannot receive government aid to provide her with a suitable wheelchair.

Several students in UM Professor Clay Dibrell's entrepreneurship class have created teams to raise money for a new wheelchair for Whitehead. A suitable nonmotorized wheelchair will cost \$3,500 for the necessary parts and assembly. Any additional funds raised will be contributed to Whitehead's continued medical and day-to-day needs, including her ongoing occupational therapy and tools to help her communicate more effectively.

The fundraising campaigns include selling wristbands, parts of the wheelchair and certificates for different donation amounts.

Dibrell commented on the need for the Ole Miss community's involvement in this project.

"Following Chancellor Jones' call for greater community service, it is important that our students feel empowered to solve economic or social problems through entrepreneurship, which may exist in their home communities," Dibrell said. "Further, the students are actually running these ventures and selling items. It is a great way to help demystify entrepreneurship and to give them greater confidence in their skills."

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## Affordable Care Act brings change to community assistants' salaries

BY MAGGIE MCDANIEL  
thedmnews@gmail.com

Compensation for community assistants at The University of Mississippi will undergo changes in the 2014-15 school year as a result of the Affordable Care Act.

Community assistants, formerly known as resident assistants, are responsible for supervising specific floors within residential halls or apartment communities.

According to Blake Weiss, junior psychology major and vice president of community assistant development for the UM Community Assistant Association, CAs were recently notified that they will no longer be able to work their six required desk hours in residence hall lobbies, starting in the 2014-15 school year.

According to Weiss, the CAs were informed on short notice, but he does not believe this was the intention of the housing department.

"The professional staff said they knew when we knew, and I believe them," Weiss said. "It was poor

timing, and there's a lot of change we can't manage."

A meeting was supposed to be held for all CAs to discuss the new plans on April 7, but it was postponed and held April 14.

"We are pausing to work with (the UM Community Assistant Association) to work with (the CAs) and find some creative ways to allow to have a better work balance," said Lionel Maten, director of student housing.

According to Weiss' own calculations, in the upcoming year the pay for CAs will decrease by 45 percent. Weiss said he has been compensated more this year for working desk hours as compared to last year. He said being a CA has not been the easiest job, but the increase in pay has made it easier for him to live on campus.

Weiss said the CAs are working closely with the professionals and staying optimistic about the possible change.

"I think there is a lot of transparency with the department," Weiss said. "It's very easy for us to work

See **ACT**, PAGE 5



CADY HERRING | The Daily Mississippian

Blake Weiss, a community assistant, discusses the changes to the position's pay.

### DM STAFF REPORT

## Ole Miss student journalists honored

University of Mississippi journalism students won five first-place awards and 11 finalist awards in the 2013 Region 12 Society of Professional Journalists Mark of Excellence contest. The awards ceremony was held Saturday, April 12 at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville.

First-place honor for Best Student Magazine went to the staff of "Land of Plenty," the depth report led by instructor Bill Rose and produced in spring 2013.

Individual first-place awards were presented to Phillip Waller for Non-Fiction Magazine Article for an article in "Land of Plenty"; Thomas Graning for Breaking

News Photography for a photograph in The Daily Mississippian; Katie Williamson for General News Photography for a photograph on theD-Monline.com; and Jonece Dunigan for General News Reporting for an article from her internship about last summer's Supreme Court ruling on gay rights and its impact on a couple in Quincy, Ill.

Finalist certificates were awarded to The Daily Mississippian, Adam Ganucheau, Phil McCausland, Ian Cleary, Katie Williamson, Ignacio Murillo, Thomas Graning, David Collier, Tim Abram, Sid Williams and Anna Ellingburg. All of the Meek School students competed in



The Daily Mississippian

Ole Miss representatives to the Region 12 Society of Professional Journalists conference pose with awards won by UM students Saturday. From left to right are Director of Student Media Pat Thompson, Lacey Russell, Phillip Waller and Thomas Graning.

categories for large universities with enrollments over 10,000. Last year, UM had one national winner and two

national finalists. SPJ Region 12 includes Mis-

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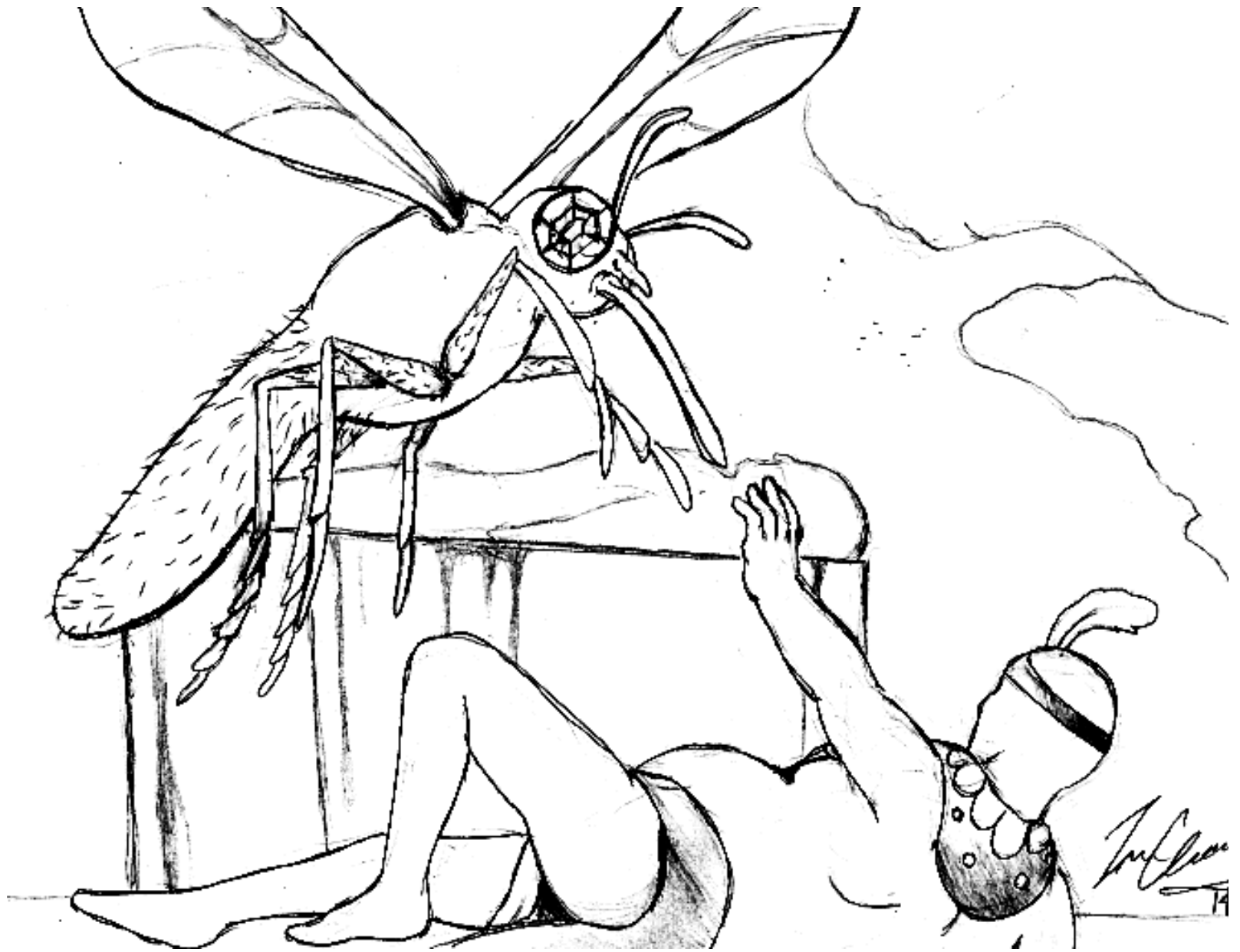
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**COLUMN**

## Incompetence leads to bill's failure



**BY ORION WILCOX**  
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On April 3 the Mississippi Legislature failed to pass a law banning texting while driving.

Mississippi, which has historically been slow to pass measures regarding safe driving, is one of only seven states without a texting-while-driving ban. House Bill 484, which would have levied a \$25 fine until July 1, 2015, and \$100 after that, on those caught texting behind the wheel, was killed in the House by a combination of incompetence and an unlikely confluence of interests.

In previous years, opposition to a texting ban has come

from right-wing conservatives who see the law as an infringement on personal liberty. Those opposing the texting ban view the legislation as a slippery slope that could lead to more restrictions on personal freedoms.

In recent weeks, these libertarian-leaning Republicans have found an unlikely ally in the Mississippi Black Caucus. Black legislators such as Rep. Ed Blackmon, D-Canton, have argued against the bill on the grounds that the law could be used to profile black drivers.

The reality, however, is that these interests should never have led to the bill's failure. The bill had already passed both the House and the Senate, and Gov. Phil Bryant had expressed his plan to sign the bill into law if it reached his desk. In the last hours of the

legislative session, however, the bill was brought up for reconsideration because of pure incompetence on the part of our state legislators.

Rep. Bill Denny, R-Jackson, motioned to table the bill because he claimed that he and other legislators were not aware that the bill would apply to all drivers and not only those under 18 years of age. In the aftermath of the motion, many legislators were not aware which bill was being reconsidered and simply did not vote to bring the bill up for a vote, killing the bill until next year.

The incompetence on the part of these state legislators is multifaceted. First of all, the bill was able to pass both the House and the Senate without a number of legislators being aware of the law's contents. Secondly, it appears

that these politicians hold the belief that somehow people become more capable of texting while driving as they get older, based on their preference for a bill only applicable to teenage drivers. Of course, another explanation is that the legislators simply did not want the law to curb their own texting habits.

*Orion Wilcox is a senior economics major from Bay St. Louis.*



THE DAILY  
**MISSISSIPPIAN**

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Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. 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.

Student submissions must include grade classification and major. All submissions must be turned in at least three days in advance of date of desired publication.



MISSISSIPPI  
**press**  
ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSPAPER



# The Titanic sails again

BY MICHAEL PRESTWICH  
maprestw@go.olemiss.edu

The Titanic has always held a mysterious, romantic place in our minds.

The tragedy of the “unsinkable ship” radiates throughout pop culture, spawning books, movies and TV shows. For one musician, the Titanic inspired a grand undertaking.

Brandon Michael Williams, an employee at The University of Mississippi Grisham Law Library, is releasing a self-produced album in conjunction with the 102nd anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic on April 15, 1912.

“The Pride of the Titanic” is an eclectic, energetic fusion of classical composition, electronic synth beats and a spoken script. Everything in the album,

excluding some of the spoken lines, comes straight from the mind and talent of Williams. It features cello, trombone, guitar, piano, mandolin and synthetic tones and beats. Individual songs on the album take the listener on a journey, transitioning from solemn piano tones to soaring electronic beats within an individual track.

“I was thinking a lot about technology and more organic things while making this album,” Williams said. “I wanted to experiment with how these contrasting elements worked with each other. Of course, a lot of the sound came from necessity, as I didn’t have actual drums to work with.”

The album was inspired by the story of Alexander Carlisle, the man responsible for the colossal

ship’s safety systems.

Prior to the launch of the Titanic, Carlisle became aware that the regulations for ships of such magnitude needed to change to accommodate the number of people. He didn’t push his case hard enough for change, and the Titanic was ill-equipped to handle the passengers when the ship capsized.

The album reimagines Carlisle as a guilty man, burdened by the weight of his inaction.

Carlisle’s guilt isn’t the only focus, though, as tracks like “A Lullaby for Sidney” perfectly capture the despair felt by passengers reconciling with the idea of their imminent death after discovering that they would not be able to get on a lifeboat.

The album is probably best described as a concept album, akin

to The Who’s “Tommy” or the Beatles’ “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band,” but labels are hard to assign to this work.

“I guess I’d say it’s an independent musical,” Williams said. “It’s kind of a cop-out to give it a genre, though. Genres can be very limiting.”

Seth Hecox, Brandon’s former bandmate and co-creator of the album “All Folked Up,” said that Brandon has always been driven to produce complex, ambitious, experimental work.

“Brandon’s style has sometimes been exemplary of musician-nerd songs, and sometimes focused on more simple melodies and instrumentation,” Hecox said. “He believes he is supposed to create something truly excellent and isn’t going to release anything that he doesn’t feel to

live up to other music that is out there, at least from a musician’s standpoint.”

“The Pride of the Titanic” fuses Williams’ penchant for both grandiose, orchestral stylings and simple piano and guitar melodies. With the aid of the spoken script, written by Williams, the album paints a cohesive picture of the tragedy of the Titanic. The album acts as a story within an album, and sometimes even a story within a story.

“The Pride of the Titanic” drops today, on the anniversary of the fateful voyage. It will be available at The End Of All Music (located on North Lamar), iTunes and Spotify. Do yourself a favor: Grab a set of headphones and let this album take you for a ride through time, space and music.



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## 'Sharing Cultural Diversity Together' with the African Drum and Dance Ensemble

BY AUDREY HALL  
alhall3@go.olemiss.edu

"It doesn't matter where you live, where you go to school; you do what's right, and that's what's important," said George Worlasi Kwasi Dor, holder of the McDonnell-Barksdale chair of ethnomusicology and associate professor of music at The University of Mississippi.

This is the message of "Brighten the Corner Where You Are," one of the songs Dor composed for the UM African Drum and Dance Ensemble's spring concert tonight.

The concert, "Sharing Cultural Diversity Together," will be performed by students, faculty, alumni and community volunteers who take part in the ensemble. They will be joined by special guest artist Misonu Amu, whose father Ephraim Amu is considered "the father of Ghanaian art music."

The first act will consist mainly of Ghanaian dances. The purpose of these dances and songs is to teach and in-

spire curiosity in multiculturalism.

There's no further evidence of that power than the dancers of kpatsa, a recreation dance of the Adangme in Ghana. Dor and his daughter, Yawa, taught the dance to members of an Oxford Girl Scout troop, who will perform tonight with Yawa Dor as the lead.

Misonu Amu will sing three art pieces and play a Ghanaian flute, an atenteben, in a piece written by her father in the concert's second act.

Oxford native and Ole Miss alumnus Jason Gordon will lead "Love Your Neighbor As Yourself."

Gordon cites a friend's influence as inspiring him to join the Ole Miss African Drum and Dance Ensemble's class.

"It's a different form of music," Gordon said. "Everybody has a love of music, I believe. Music is therapy. I'm a musician and it inspired in me a greater appreciation for music in all cultures, especially compared to the music I grew up with. This program encour-

ages appreciation for culture and music, and I encourage everyone to come see it for themselves."

The main instruments used in the concert will be Ghanaian drums, but the more contemporary pieces include congas, the keyboard and guitars.

Dor has composed music for several historic events, including celebratory concerts of Ghana's 50th independence anniversary in 2007 and the 50th year of integration for Ole Miss in 2012.

When asked which of his compositions he was most excited to see performed, Dor laughed and answered that choosing one of them would be like choosing a favorite child.

He did, however, note his excitement for the aspect that Misonu Amu will bring to the performance.

"She's not singing in English, she's not singing in French or German. She's coming to sing in African languages," Dor said. "Two major African languages, Twi and Ewe. Anyone looking to learn about African culture will be excited about that."

Admission is free and the concert starts at 7:30 p.m. in Nutt Auditorium.



## Prison and poetry at the Powerhouse

BY CLANCY SMITH  
clsmith3@go.olemiss.edu

The VOX Press Artists Series will present "Poetry and Prison: An Evening with Judith Tannenbaum" at the Powerhouse Arts Center in Oxford tonight.

Judith Tannenbaum will be reading poems from her book "Disguised as a Poem," an acclaimed memoir about her time spent teaching creative writing in a maximum-security prison, San Quentin, in the 1980s.

"Her insights in the book are really amazing about how these creative writing programs actually, in some cases, help prisoners not return to prison because they're so inspired to write and live a creative life," said Louis Bourgeois, executive director of VOX Press.

Tannenbaum plans to recount the work she did as a part of the program and the people she encountered. She hopes to relay to the community the importance of these types of programs.

"Making art or music or writing can be such an important way to keep in touch with what is most deeply alive and human in a person," Tannenbaum said. "Everybody needs that."

VOX Press shares this sentiment, but also hopes to shed light on a broader issue within the prison system in the state of Mississippi.

In January, VOX Press began offering its own four-month creative writing class to prisoners in the Mississippi State Penitentiary through its Mississippi Prison Writes

Initiative.

"This is a new thing for Mississippi," co-founder Bourgeois said. "Most places in the country have these types of programs in their prison system, but Mississippi did not."

VOX Press, originally founded as a literary journal, has since expanded to include the VOX Press Artists Series and VOX's Educational Outreach Program.

"Our goal is to make people aware of the program and to also be aware that Mississippi houses an above-average number of prisoners," Bourgeois said. "A lot of this, we argue, is due to impoverishment and lack of social programs, so we want to bring awareness to this ongoing problem that is not going away."

Before Tannenbaum speaks, VOX will play recordings of songs from prisoners working in the 1930s and 1940s. The band Mayflower of Death will also be introduced to perform acoustic prison-related songs. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask Tannenbaum questions.

"We love audience participation, so we want the public to engage with Judith concerning this program and similar programs," Bourgeois said.

Tannenbaum said she enjoys having the opportunity to share her experiences with others. She travels often to talk about the program.

"My experience was a very profound one for me and I learned a lot from it, both as a teacher and a person," Tannenbaum said.

There is no charge to attend the presentation. Food and drink will be available for a small donation that will go toward the cost of hosting the event. Separate donations can be made to aid the Mississippi Prison Writes Initiative. Everyone in the community is encouraged to attend.

"We're all people, and people in prison are people, too, and have the same range of qualities that all human beings do," Tannenbaum said. "None of us are only the worst thing we've done or the best thing we've done."

Doors open at 6 p.m., and the event will begin at 7 p.m.



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## ACT,

continued from page 1

closely with them.”

Sophomore history major Alicia Bacon said she has enjoyed her first year as a CA and is reasonably concerned about the change.

She said she believes the upcoming year will be tough but worth it.

“I am very disheartened by these changes, as the added compensation from working the desk is extremely helpful, but I am optimistic that a compromise will be met that will help soften the blow,” Bacon said.

The change in the payment plan has not changed Bacon’s mind regarding returning as a CA. In her opinion, serving as a CA has made her a better person.

“Furthermore, it allows me to live on campus in a leadership capacity and sustain myself independently for the most part,” Bacon said.

Maten wants to make sure that the CAs have a good experience.

“At the end of the day, we want to make sure the CA experience is of value,” Maten said.



FILE PHOTO (KATIE WILLIAMSON) | The Daily Mississippian

Carter Tuck gets covered with colorful powdered dye during the Ole Miss 5K Tie-Dye Dash Oct. 27, 2013. This photo placed first in the General News Photography category at the SPJ Region 12 Conference Saturday.

## HONORED,

continued from page 1

Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas and Tennessee. Representing the school at the SPJ regional conference were Lacey Russell, DM editor-in-chief for 2014-15; Phillip Waller, yearbook editor-in-chief for 2014-15; Thomas Graning, DM multimedia editor for 2014-15; and Director of Student

Media Patricia Thompson. SPJ workshop panelists and speakers included journalists and recruiters from National Geographic, the Los Angeles Times, The New York Times, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette and KOCO-TV in Oklahoma City.

First-place regional winners automatically advance to the competition for national SPJ awards. Mark of Excellence judges choose only

one national winner and two national finalists in each category. A finalized list of winners will be announced May 7 and presented at the national SPJ conference Sept. 5 in Nashville.

## MBA,

continued from page 1

The class was introduced to Whitehead’s needs by Angela Box, her occupational therapist. Six of Dibrell’s student groups chose to focus their entrepreneurial projects on raising money for the wheelchair.

“Each member of my group was deeply moved by Whitehead’s story and wanted to do what we could to help her,” said Jessica Turner, one of Dibrell’s students. “It was a no-brainer for us. We felt we had to help her.”

Adrian Skogeng, a student of Dibrell’s, said it is important that students understand the significance of the project.

“We believe it’s important for the Ole Miss students and the rest of the Rebel community to understand how much more Shambri would be able to do and how much it will affect her life by finally getting a wheelchair that’s meeting the required standards for her condition,” Skogeng said.

The fundraisers, which are available for online donations, will continue until April 29.

**SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION**

**Samra Ward**

B.A. IN PSYCHOLOGY  
 “#LiveTweetMyLecture: A Look at Note-Taking Consolidation, Retention, and Test Performance in the Students using Twitter vs. Traditional Typed Notes”  
 Directed by Dr. Matthew Reysen

**Tuesday, April 15th at 12:00 pm**  
**Honors College Room 311**

The defense is open to the public. If you require special assistance relating to a disability, please contact Penny Leeton at 662-915-7266.

**SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION**

**Cara Thorne**

B.S. IN CHEMISTRY  
 “Evaluating the Efficacy of Small Basis Sets and the Counterpoise Procedure to Reproduce Complete Basis Set Limit Higher-Order Correlation Corrections for Weakly Bound Molecular Clusters”  
 Directed by Dr. Gregory Tschumper

**Tuesday, April 15th at 2:00 pm**  
**Coulter Hall Room 204**

The defense is open to the public. If you require special assistance relating to a disability, please contact Penny Leeton at 662-915-7266.

**SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION**

**Ginny Geddie**

B.A. IN FRENCH  
 “The Use of Occitan Dialects in Languedoc-Roussillon, France”  
 Directed by Dr. Allison Burkette

**Tuesday, April 15th at 3:00 pm**  
**Bondurant Hall Basement**

The defense is open to the public. If you require special assistance relating to a disability, please contact Penny Leeton at 662-915-7266.

## STREET CLOSINGS/TOWING

Please be mindful where you park your car beginning on **Thursday** evening as parking will be limited or closed in some areas.

On **Friday, April 25th North Lamar** and **Monroe Ave.** will be closed to traffic as the stage is being set up. Cars will be towed on North Lamar and Monroe Ave. beginning at 4am on Friday, April 25th.

On **Saturday, April 26th**, towing will begin at 4am on all streets on the Oxford Square.

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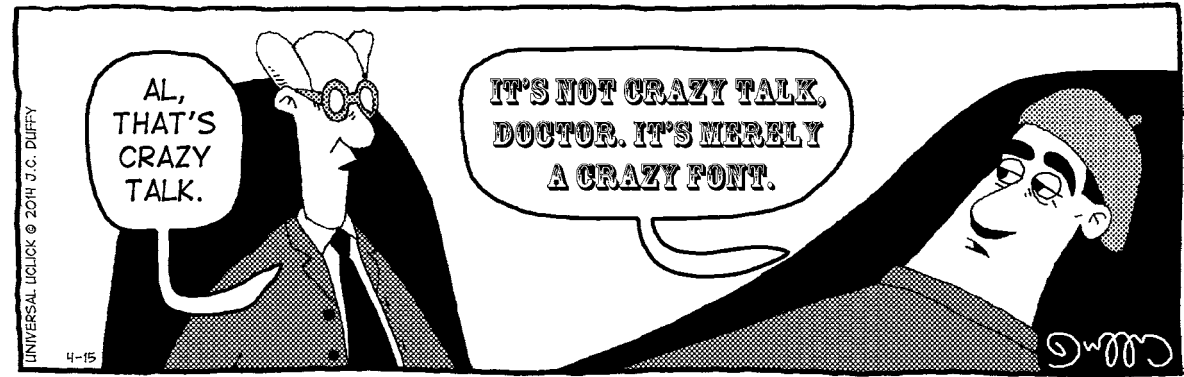
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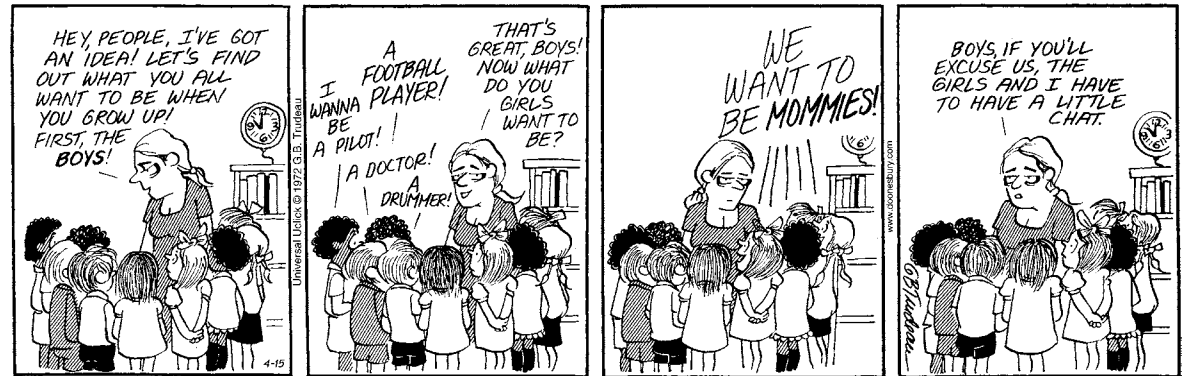
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2	3				7		

**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**

**SUPER TOUGH**

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

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**ACROSS**

- Notorious pirate
- An evening out
- Take over (hyph.)
- Heavy metal
- Concerning (2 wds.)
- Gaicho's rope
- Rest
- Church table
- Any person
- Golf pegs
- "Witness" folk
- Evening service
- Measure speed
- 911 responder
- Penuriously
- Standings
- Kind of premiere
- Dartboard locale
- "Gotcha!" (2 wds.)
- Blender output
- "Puppy Love" performer
- Shady
- Esprit de —
- Too exacting
- Birdbrained
- Sz. option
- Tenant's obligation
- Petition
- Trouser feature
- Client mtg.

**DOWN**

- Bolshoi rival
- "Goodnight" girl
- Bubbletops
- Forensic sci. tool
- Train restaurants
- Alpaca habitat
- "— bien, monsieur!"
- Constantly, to Poe
- Studied hard
- More honey-tongued
- Dobbin's dinner
- Nile god
- Road crew's need
- Things
- Usher's beat
- Lap dog, slangily
- Loses steam
- Change form, in sci-fi

**PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED**

POP	JUDE	SPOIL
HERO	URAL	MULTI
URLS	MEDITATION	
BUYSUP	AAH	TONE
	USSR	SILLO
TAJMAHAL	NASCAR	
ABU	FORAY	GEODE
COLD	TEPID	AMIS
IVIED	REPRO	BEE
TEABAG	LEAVEOUT	
	USER	SWAT
CRAG	NEB	ALUMNI
LONGFELLOW	DIAN	
ALTER	AURA	ESPN
NEEDY	XRAY	SOS

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20					21					22				
23			24						25					
			26					27					28	29
30	31	32				33						34		35
36						37						38		
39						40						41		
			42		43					44				
			45						46			47	48	49
			50	51					52				53	
54								55				56		
57								58				59		
60								61				62		

**Congratulations**

to our newly initiated members:

Lauren Klein  
Bailey Kennedy  
Christine Sim



## SPORTS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

## Softball hosts Alcorn State in doubleheader



FILE PHOTO (THOMAS GRANING) | The Daily Mississippian

Carly Hummel releases a pitch during softball game earlier this season.

Fresh off a tight, hard fought three-game series against No. 11 Kentucky, the Ole Miss softball team will take the field again Tuesday for a doubleheader against Alcorn State at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. CT at the Ole Miss Softball Complex.

Ole Miss is 11-2 all-time vs. Alcorn State, and swept the Lady Braves in the final doubleheader of the season last year, 8-0 (5) and 10-1 (5).

After dropping three close games to No. 11 Kentucky over the weekend, Ole Miss head coach Windy Thees talked about needing to get the big hit in tight games.

"I want our girls to relax a little bit, sort of exhale and come back and step into the box and really work on driving through some pitches and get lots of RBIs," Thees said. "I really want our kids to relish the opportunity to

come up to bat with people on base and get RBIs, let our pitchers take the mound and work on their pitches, make good pitches and get soft contact for our team to make outs on."

Sophomore shortstop Haley Culley led Ole Miss (20-22) at the plate last week, with a team-high five RBIs and tied for the team lead in runs scored and hits. For the year, Culley is batting .314, and, along with junior third baseman Allison Brown, is one of just two Rebels who has started every game this season.

Senior pitcher Carly Hummel also had a strong week for the Rebels. The Bakersfield, Calif., native threw a team-high 17.2 innings for the week, including a whopping 8.2 innings Sunday in the Rebels' series finale vs. No. 11 Kentucky. She also led the team in strikeouts (17) and ERA (2.38) for the week.

**REBELS,**

*continued from page 8*

into the weekend, the bullpen pitched 125.2 innings and only allowed 28 earned runs during that stretch, earning a 1.73 ERA.

**Hitting:** The Rebels' offense has been on fire lately, and the team is second in the conference in team hitting, posting a .310 batting average after this weekend. Last week, the Rebels scored nine runs on 14 hits against Memphis, eight runs on 16 hits against Murray State and got 23 runs on 46 hits in the three games against Mississippi State. The team has hit 25 home runs this season, which is also second in the SEC. Ole Miss also has the most hits in the conference with 422.

The Rebels have many individual hitters who are making waves in the SEC, as well. First baseman Sikes Orvis is tied for second in the SEC with eight home runs. Catcher Will Allen has the sixth-highest batting average in the SEC at .353 and is second in the league with 40 RBIs. Center fielder Auston Bousfield leads the league with 55 hits, and both Allen and Austin Anderson are tied for second in that category with 53 hits each. When left fielder Braxton Lee gets on base, he is an opposing team's worst nightmare, leading the SEC with 19 stolen bases on 22 attempts.

The pitching and hitting statistics are impressive, to say the least. But the key for the Rebels as they continue SEC play will be consistency. It is imperative that the Rebels avoid any slip-ups like three weekends ago at Alabama when the Crimson Tide swept the Rebels.

Make no mistake — the Rebels are hot, having won eight of the last nine games. However, being hot at this point in the season isn't what will get the team to Omaha. Take Mississippi State



FILE PHOTO (ADITYA KHARE) | The Daily Mississippian

Sam Smith releases a pitch during baseball game earlier this season.

last season. The Bulldogs posted a very mediocre SEC record at 16-14 during the regular season but sparked near the end of the season. The Bulldogs powered through the regionals and super regionals and made it to Omaha. They stayed hot until the national championship, where they lost to UCLA.

This week, Ole Miss entered the top 10 rankings in the USA Today poll. Depending on which rankings you prefer to reference, the Rebels are in or near

the top three in RPI rankings. Rebel fans are starting to realize this team is a good team, which is true. But the better question to ask is, "Are they great?" We will see as the season plays out. But don't book your tickets to TD Ameritrade Park in Omaha just yet — at least not until we see if the the Rebels can maintain their consistency closer to the end of the season. For now, Rebel fans can quietly listen to the kids' "Omaha" chants and hope that this year is the year.

## CLASSIFIEDS INFORMATION

To place your ad in The Daily Mississippian Classifieds section, visit:  
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The DEADLINE to place, correct or cancel an ad is 12 p.m. one day in advance. The Daily Mississippian is published Monday through Friday when school is in session except during the summer session which is Tuesday through Thursday.

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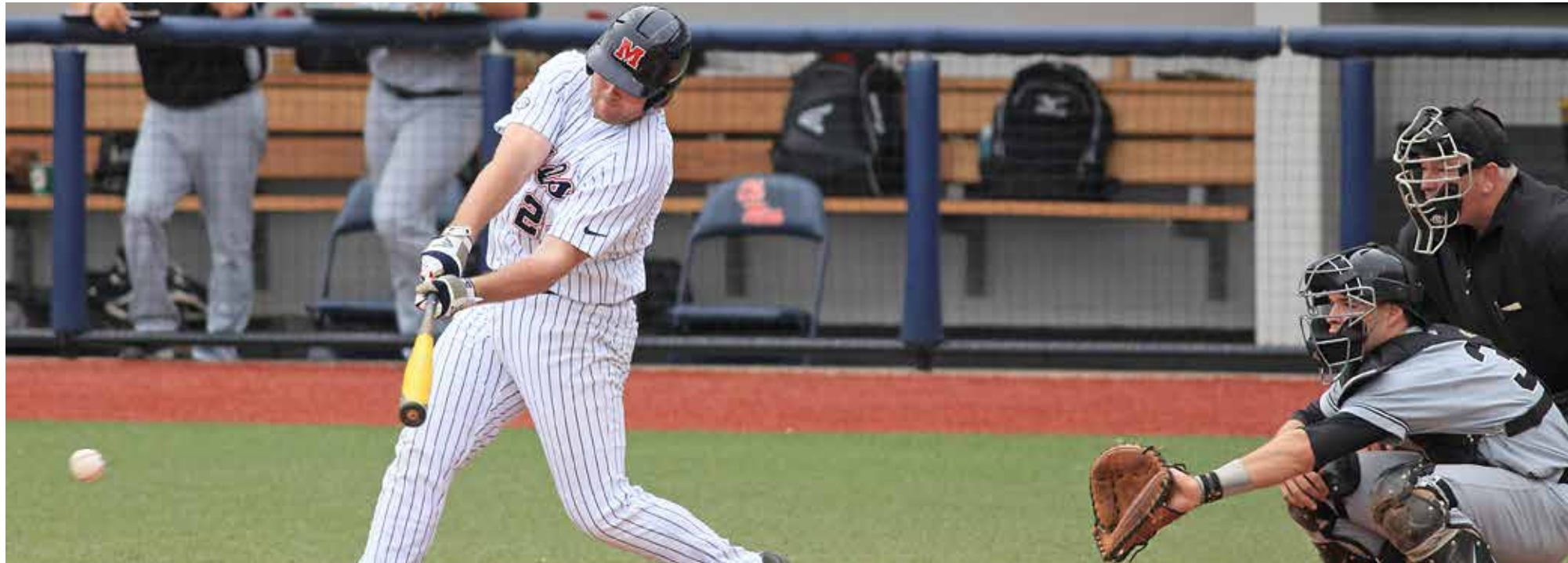
**STUDENT DELIVERY PERSONNEL**

needed. The Daily Mississippian has openings for students to deliver the paper during the summer semester two days each week. Early morning hours. Good pay. Must be reliable, have own transportation and have no 8 a.m. classes. If interested, pick up an application in 201 Bishop Hall.

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COLUMN  
**Consistency key for Rebels to make Omaha**



Sikes Orvis hits the ball during a game against Arkansas-Pine Bluff.

FILE PHOTO (ALEX EDWARDS) | The Daily Mississippian

**Congratulations**  
**Giovanni Biffle**  
 Senior Liberal Arts Major

**for winning an iPad in the  
 YEARBOOK RAFFLE**

The names of more than 750 students who had their portraits taken in October and January for the 2014 The Ole Miss annual were entered into the raffle, and Giovanni's name was randomly selected.

Giovanni says a friend persuaded him to participate to prove he could win.  
**"This is the first time I've ever won anything,"**  
 he says.

**BY ADAM GANUCHEAU**  
 thedmsports@gmail.com

"Omaha! Omaha! Omaha!" The chant echoed through Dudy Noble Field at Polk-DeMent Stadium in Starkville Sunday as the Ole Miss Rebels were in the midst of throttling cross-state rival Mississippi State to take the series. Granted, the chants were coming mostly from red-and-blue-clad school kids who made the trek down south with their parents, but the chants were audible, nonetheless.

Let's be honest, though. Those kids were merely verbalizing what many of the Rebel faithful were thinking: Could this be the year the Rebels punch their ticket to Omaha?

It's easy to think that way as you are straight embarrassing your rival on their own turf in front of their self-proclaimed highest weekend attendance for a single college baseball series

ever. It's easy to think that way as you are wrapping up the fifth series win over Mississippi State in Starkville in six tries. It's easy to think that way when you're riding the high of knowing the bragging rights are yours, at least until the Rebels face the Bulldogs for the last regular-season matchup of the year next week in Pearl.

This Ole Miss baseball team might be for real. We're just over halfway through the season, so it's hard to know for sure, but let's take a closer look at the statistics to help determine if this year might be Ole Miss' best chance to get to Omaha in at least five years.

*Pitching:* After this weekend, Ole Miss is second in the SEC in team pitching, yielding just a 2.19 ERA from the mound. The weekend starters look very reliable; at times, they even seem unhittable. Friday night starter Chris Ellis has been a solid counter to SEC foes' aces this season. Going into

the Mississippi State weekend, Ellis was holding opponents to a .235 batting average. Against the Bulldogs, Ellis pitched 6.2 innings, giving up just one earned run on eight hits.

Saturday starter Christian Trent was holding opponents to a .203 batting average going into Saturday's game against Mississippi State. Against the Bulldogs, he pitched very well, going 6.2 innings and giving up just two runs on eight hits.

Sunday starter Sam Smith picked up his seventh straight win against Mississippi State this weekend, and many regard him as one of the top Sunday starters in the league.

The bullpen continues to be extremely productive for the Rebels this season, despite giving up four runs in the bottom of the 10th inning Saturday in Starkville, giving the Bulldogs the win. Going

See **REBELS**, PAGE 7

**the Ole Miss yearbook**

**because you're going to want to remember.**  
 \*Available FREE in the Student Union  
 April 21-25, 11am-3pm

\*Free for students who have paid full tuition for the 2013-2014 school year.