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Students vote to change activity fee



HG BIGGS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

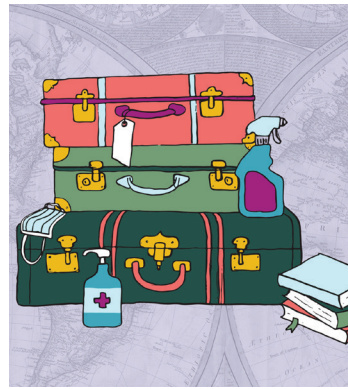
Alex Mabry (left) celebrates after hearing the announcement that the referendum to change the Student Activity Fee from \$5 per semester to \$2 per credit hour had passed.



STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY FORUM

On Friday, March 4, several University of Mississippi administrators and student leaders spoke at the State of the University Forum as part of the weekend's Black Alumni Reunion. The forum was held in the Triplett Alumni Center.

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SPRING BREAK

After two years of uncertainty, students, particularly seniors, are eager to enjoy their first spring break since March 2020.

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MARY BOYTE

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In the 2022 Associated Student Body spring elections, students voted to increase the Student Activity Fee from \$5 per semester to \$2 per credit hour per semester.

Sitting Attorney General and senior public policy leadership

and economics major Grace Dragna announced the results of the referendum, which passed with 79.42% of the vote. A wave of cheers accompanied Dragna's announcement.

Current treasurer Alex Mabry, who took a temporary leave of absence from ASB to campaign for the SAF increase, said she's glad campaigning for

the referendum paid off.

"This project has been a passion of mine since July. Honestly, I am so relieved that the campaign is over and overjoyed that the referendum passed after working nonstop to increase awareness and impact of the SAF," Mabry said. "Mostly, I'm just so grateful that the student body cares enough about

the SAF to have advocated for it themselves."

Mabry now looks to take the proposed increase to the Institutions of Higher Learning's Board of Trustees yearly meeting for them to approve and accept the changes. If that is passed, students will pay an increased SAF as early as fall 2022, but

SEE ASB PAGE 3

UM and OPD work to combat date rape drugs on and off campus

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In response to increased reports of drugging incidents both on and off campus, the Associated Student Body and the Oxford Police Department will soon roll out new date rape drug-detecting drink coasters at bars on the Square and at various locations on campus.

The coasters test for Gamma Hydroxybutyrate (GHB) and Ketamine. They do not test for Xanax or Rohypnol, which is commonly known as a "roofie." OPD found that GHB and Ketamine were the two most common substances used and those tests were available from the supplier at the time.

Users place a drop of their

drink onto the designated spots on the coaster. If the drink has been tampered with by one of these drugs, the spot will turn a dark shade of blue. The coasters also include the OPD and the Police Department Victim Coordinator's phone numbers for further help. Each testing coaster lasts five years before it expires.

Oxford Police Chief Jeff McCutchen said this is the first phase of an ongoing collaboration between the university and the police department in response to druggings. The coasters will be introduced the week after spring break.

"When everyone comes back from spring break, our downtown district will have some, and then we're going to go to the bars and give them

away and get their feedback," McCutchen said. "If (the bars) are like, 'hey, absolutely I'll stack these,' then we're going to make another big bulk order."

Substances that severely alter cognitive functions that are put in drinks typically act very quickly, and the substance leaves the person's system quickly as well.

"The thing that is so important to this (issue) is, we need a good timeline of where you were, quickly," McCutchen said. "If you went to a party before the bars, if you were out at another restaurant, you have all these investigative leads that the quicker we can get on, the better opportunity we have to identify who may or may not be involved."

Shelli Poole, the Assistant



GRACE TEMPLE / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

The front of one of the date rape drug detection coasters explains how to test drinks.

Director of Violence Intervention & Prevention Services at UM, said there have been a higher number of reports surrounding druggings in the community

this year.

"There were large numbers of people who reported being

SEE COASTERS PAGE 2

COASTERS

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drugged in the fall, and that carried over into the spring,” Poole said.

According to Poole, the VIP office has seen a different pattern in reporting this year. There have still been cases of one person allegedly drugging another person, but there have also been increased instances of “drink dropping,” which means that drugs are put in a few drinks at a time, rendering larger numbers of people incapacitated.

Poole warns students to continue to watch their drinks, to try to drink from the original containers and to keep them close.

“(Another) thing that’s super important is for people to stay together,” Poole said. “I’m always pressing that so hard because a lot of the time people (who have been drugged) don’t necessarily look different on the outside, which to me is very alarming.”

Poole said both the VIP and Title IX offices provide students with confidential support as well as academic accommodations.

The university also has a Medical Amnesty Policy, which allows for students to reach out and get help without

being punished if they are drinking underage or doing something they think might get them in trouble.

According to drinksafe.com, the most targeted demographic of date rape drugs is women, aged 18-24. Up to 80% of the date rapes occur when a woman is intoxicated.

That being said, anyone can be targeted and must be wary of their drinks.

Morgan Atkins, a senior public policy leadership major and ASB president, said druggings are not a new issue to the Oxford community. Students have even reached out to ASB executives about their personal experiences.

Due to COVID-19, many students are experiencing collegiate gatherings for the first time this school year, and ASB has been looking for ways to help prevent druggings and provide education for students on available resources if it does happen to them.

“We talked a lot about ways to put the power in the hands of the students, (so they can) really be in charge of their safety at the bars and be able to have an accountability measure for themselves to make sure everything’s okay,” Atkins said.

Off-campus resources include a Crime Stoppers

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE, Read carefully before using the DATE RAPE DETECTOR:

How the test is performed: it takes the activation of both test spots in one test character to fully test the beverage in question. Make sure both test spots are dry, and free of condensation from the drink container. Place drops of the beverage to be tested onto each spot using a swizzle stick or even one's finger. Rub gently. Do not mix the chemicals from each spot together. They should remain separated for best results. Wait until dry. The test can take a few minutes to dry and get a result, be patient. If either spot turns to a DARKER BLUE COLOR, a positive test result has occurred. Many colored beverages will impart a slight hue to the test spots, this is not a positive result. Tap water and certain mineral waters may impart a transient blue hue to the test spots while the test is drying. This is not a positive result, and should dissipate when dry. When in doubt with any beverage, always discard. Always use common sense and NEVER LEAVE DRINK UNATTENDED. NOT TO BE USED WITH ANY MILK PRODUCTS, OR BEVERAGES CONTAINING MILK PRODUCTS, CRÈME OR OILY LIQUORS. SOME FRUIT JUICES AND SOME WATERS MAY RENDER A FALSE POSITIVE RESULT.

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Great care should be taken when a test is positive. As with any laboratory test, definitive decisions should not be based on any single result method. A positive result does not mean that the drink in question has the illicit drugs, but only that there is something detected that should not be present. A DATE RAPE DRUG DETECTOR positive reading should never be used as the sole basis for determining the existence of illegal drugs. Upon a positive reading, do not consume the beverage.

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The back of the drug test coaster lists further instructions and caveats that could affect the test.

number that allows for individuals to report any crime they witness. Also the city has a Victim Services Coordinator who works with the police department and the university as confidential

resource individuals can reach out to for help.

“We want to find ways to build trust with our community, and especially with our students,” McCutchen said. “We’ve got

to find a way to say ‘you’re in a safe place here.’ It doesn’t matter if you’re underage or if there’s other substances you took. It has nothing to do with that. We care about what happened in that moment.”

Spring breakers puzzle their way through COVID-19 protocols

ELEANOR HOOVER

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This Friday, University of Mississippi students will be going on their first spring break since March 2020.

After two years of uncertainty, students, particularly seniors, are eager to enjoy some time off. However, they face unique challenges of traveling during a pandemic, especially for those traveling outside the country.

In December 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention began requiring “a negative COVID-19 viral test result taken no more than one day before travel” for all travelers above the age of two entering the U.S. from a foreign country.

Senior integrated marketing communications major Katie Reed is traveling to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic on Saturday. Because she is fully vaccinated and boosted, she is not too concerned about providing a negative test upon her return. If she tests positive before her departure from the Dominican Republic, Reed would not be able to re-enter

the U.S. until she completes a five-to-10-day quarantine in the hotel and provides a negative result.

“Most of my concerns are with getting stuck in a foreign country and not having a reliable source of information or a way to return to the U.S. We have not received any information from the resort or our travel agent on what will be done if any of us test positive,” Reed said.

For travelers like Reed who are staying in hotels, there is an added element of fear of having to pay for extra nights quarantining in the hotel.

“I know the resort and its management have been dealing with the pandemic for at least a year and have protocols in place, but it is still a little nerve-wracking that I may get stuck in the Dominican,” Reed said.

Senior marketing major Ainsley Priakos and senior psychology major Kennedy Orban do not share those concerns, as they are traveling to Priakos’ own home in Tulum, Mexico.

Orban has had travels interrupted before due to a positive test and is wary of having the same experience again.

“Considering my past

experiences testing positive with COVID-19 before traveling, I am going to be especially careful, even though I am fully vaccinated,” Orban said.

Priakos shared similar sentiments but is worried about not getting back to Oxford in time for the start of school should she test positive.

“I’m not too concerned about getting stuck because we have a house to go back to and don’t have to worry about re-booking a hotel,” Priakos said. “I’m more concerned about the fact that we leave on Saturday and if we were to test positive, we wouldn’t make it back for class on Monday.”

While the university will not require any proof of a negative COVID-19 test after the break, some universities are taking measures to ensure a safe return. The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign will require “one negative on-campus test result” before March 25, the end of the week after their spring break.

Last week, the University of Mississippi transitioned to optional masking in all areas of campus except on transportation networks and in healthcare settings. The

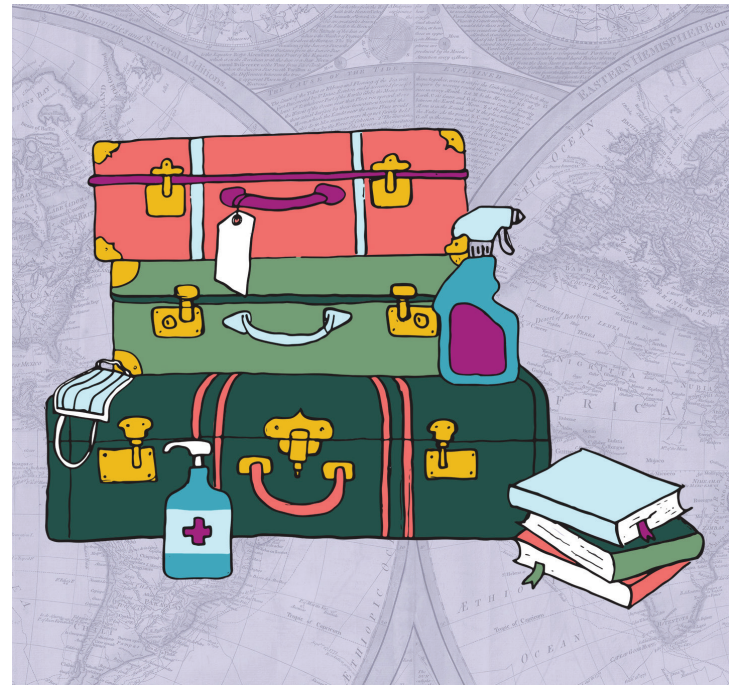


ILLUSTRATION: KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

university is not requiring students or faculty to be tested after the break.

Senior psychology major Kathleen Grennan is going on a Carnival Cruise from Florida to the Bahamas, but because she is not traveling by air does not need to provide a negative COVID-19 test at the end of the trip. However, that information was not explicit to her.

“I called the cruise line to confirm all the details on COVID-19 restrictions and they never really said anything about testing to get off the ship, but it’s not listed anywhere,” Grennan said. “Honestly, most of the instructions were pretty vague.”

Grennan did confirm with the cruise line that because she is fully vaccinated she does not need to provide proof of a negative test to enter the ship.

While COVID-19 travel measures are playing a large role in the logistics of travel, seniors are taking advantage of their last undergraduate spring break. Reed, Priakos, Orban and Grennan all said they were keen on taking the risk of traveling internationally this year in part to make up for lost time.

“This feels like a last hooray and something we can look back on and smile about,” Orban said. “We were going to go on a trip regardless of the circumstances.”

ASB
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more likely by fall 2023.

For executive officer positions, every position except attorney general was uncontested. With 58.63% of the vote, sophomore international studies and Chinese major Maddy Ryan won the position.

Ryan said she was at a loss for words.

“If you had asked me a year ago, I would not have believed I would be in this position,” Ryan said.

Ryan acknowledged that her new job is not an easy one. She said she feels grateful for her friends who helped with the campaign and pushed her to step outside of her comfort zone.

“Even though I’m going into a position that I feel like can be isolating, I don’t feel like I got there alone,” Ryan said.

Ryan plans to assemble a team to look over the current student bill of rights, which has not been updated in 20 years. She plans to revise it and put it on a referendum in the fall elections.

Lila Osman, a junior public policy leadership major and ASB president-elect, is ready to take on her new role.

“I am very excited. I’m excited to take on this journey and to experience everything that comes

along with being the voice of the student body,” Osman said.

She believes the transition period will be crucial.

“I think that the transition is really going to be the make or break moment,” she said.

Osman is looking forward to getting to know the new executive board as well as learning from the old board.

Alex Nabors, a junior finance and real estate major, is excited to go from her role as a senator to vice president.

“It’s a refreshing moment, and I’m just so excited to serve next year,” Nabors said.

She plans to start her term by getting to know the new senators. The vice president oversees the senate, and Nabors wants to set clear guidelines in order to create an effective senate body. There were several write-ins this year, and Nabors said she wants to focus on making sure everyone knows what the job entails.

“I really want to make sure the passion and the work ethic is there,” Nabors said.

Junior journalism major Kaylynn Steen is the new secretary. She said Tuesday night was the perfect ending to an exciting campaign. She is ready to get to work.

“With the restructuring of the secretary department, there’s a lot of new moving pieces, so I’m really looking forward to getting my applications out there,



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(Left to right) Preston Antes, Lila Osman, Alex Nabors, Kaylynn Steen, Emily Hawes and Maddy Ryan on March 8, minutes after the ASB election results were announced.

putting those new people in, and getting all on the same page so we can really embrace student engagement this year,” Steen said.

Junior public policy leadership and economics major Preston Antes was elected judicial chair. He said he was grateful to see that the election process worked well and is focusing on assembling a good team in the weeks to come.

After serving as a comptroller

in the treasury department this year, sophomore accounting major Emily Hawes was elected treasurer. She expressed her gratitude for her friends who were there with her in the auditorium. While transitioning into the role, Hawes plans to learn from her predecessor Mabry and lean on the support system of her fellow board members.

Hawes plans to take this momentum and continue to

spread awareness about the SAF. According to Hawes, only 30% of Registered Student Organizations use the SAF.

“As I said when I was running in my campaign, my number one priority for next year is going to be increasing awareness of the SAF,” Hawes said.

All of the new ASB executive board members are looking forward to getting to work after some well-deserved celebration.

Rent increases hit Oxford residents hard

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Oxford renters are feeling the pinch of inflation on their lease renewals with rent price increases of hundreds of dollars over last year’s lease.

Max Hill with Collegiate Realty, a rental firm, has seen significant rent increases in Oxford and its surrounding areas.

“Among our owners the highest increase I have seen is 33%. Another at 19%. Most increases range from 10-15%,” Hill said.

This is tracking with nationwide trends, according to Rent.com: “one- and two-bedroom rents were up 22.6% and 20.4%, respectively.”

Maggie Craze, an environmental toxicology student and teaching assistant at UM, was given just two weeks’ notice that her rent would increase by \$100 if she didn’t re-sign her lease, which wasn’t up for renewal until July.

“I was so stressed and anxious because of my fixed income, so I just re-signed,” Craze said.

Wages have certainly not increased at the same rate as rent in America. The Bureau of Labor Statistics factored the rate of inflation into American wages and found a 1.7% decrease in the average nationwide hourly wage since January of 2021.

Although Chancellor Glenn Boyce increased the

minimum wage to \$12.50 per hour for full-time employees at the university, student workers still make as little as \$8 per hour, according to a student job listed at The Inn at Ole Miss on March 5.

Still more students live on fixed incomes, grants and scholarships, or loans taken at the beginning of the year based on estimated need. “We’re just grad students so even just an extra \$100 a month is a big deal,” Craze said. “I have a fixed income dependent on my stipend.”

Hill credits these increases to property availability.

“More would-be buyers have transitioned into rentals due to the very limited and overpriced buyer’s market,” he said. “The average Oxford



ILLUSTRATION: MICAH CRICK / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

renter is getting pushed further out into the county and even into neighboring counties.”

Still, property managers in neighboring counties are not avoiding the trend. One

property in Water Valley was listed on the Collegiate Realty website for \$900 on the morning of Feb. 24, a steal for the size and location.

By that evening, the new price showed up: \$1,200.

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10 honored at 2022 Black Alumni Awards Gala

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Returning black alumni gathered in The Inn at Ole Miss ballroom Saturday evening for the 2022 Black Alumni Reunion's Black Alumni Awards Gala. The sold-out event was preceded by champagne hour and immediately followed by an "Old Skool Jam" event. The evening was marked by fellowship, high spirits and celebration.

The presentation of awards began just after 8 p.m. Six awards, including the new Jackie Certion Guiding Light Award and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award, were given to 10 honorees.

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award was awarded to Eric Brown and Ryan Upshaw. Ryan Upshaw is the Assistant Dean for Student Services with the School of Engineering. Recipients of this award have shown a commitment to removing barriers and promoting justice and fairness.

The Celebrated Athletics Award was awarded to Derrick Horne and Jamil Northcutt. This award recognizes former Ole Miss student-athletes or coaches for success in the field of athletics after their tenure at the university.

The Alumni Achievement Award was awarded to Dexter McCain and Sunesia Williams. This award recognizes Ole Miss alumni for exceptional achievement in their chosen professional field. This award

acknowledges the entrepreneurial spirit, corporate prowess and dedication to succeed exemplified by alumni or former students.

The Dr. Jeanette Jennings "Trailblazer" Award was awarded to James Hull. This award recognizes Ole Miss alumni who served a vital role in the progress of black faculty, staff, alumni and/or students on the Ole Miss campus. Jeanette Jennings came to UM in 1970 as the university's first black faculty member.

The Rev. Wayne Johnson Community and Civic Award was awarded to Ravyn Hampton and Herman Hicks. This award recognizes exceptional service by Ole Miss alumni through commitment to their community in a civic, ministerial or volunteer capacity. An Oxford native, Rev. Wayne Johnson was instrumental in founding the Oxford Development Association.

Jackie Certion Guiding Light Award was awarded to Morgan Taylor Jones and John Cochran. This new award is awarded to two University of Mississippi alumni who are current or retired teachers, administrators or advisors at a primary or secondary institution. This honoree should exemplify an extraordinary commitment to their students and community and strives to go above and beyond for the advancement of all students. Named for Jackie Certion, a beloved University of Mississippi administrator who passed in late



VIOLET JIRA / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

On the evening of March 5, at the Black Alumni Awards Gala, the recipients of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Celebrated Athletics; Alumni Achievement; Dr. Jeanette Jennings "Trailblazer"; The Rev. Wayne Johnson Community and Civic; and Jackie Certion Guiding Light Awards were announced.

2020, this is the first year this award has been given.

Martina McCrory, an attendee at Saturday night's event, knows what difference a UM faculty and staff can make in your life. She found her way to UM after being introduced to Donald Cole — a 2018 BAR awards gala honoree and celebrated Associate Professor emeritus — who offered her a full scholarship that was unclaimed.

"Within a week I was accepted," McCrory said. "I came here and completed my doctorate in chemistry — I was the first African American woman to get a doctorate in the chemistry

department here at Ole Miss."

Now living in Connecticut, McCrory has found she doesn't have the same kind of platform, which is why she returned for the reunion.

"To come here, it feels like being home," she said.

Nikitia Forest is a member of the Ole Miss class of 1994. She was a member of the Black Student Union, the Pre-Law Society and the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. She is currently a teacher in Maryland and, like McCrory, describes the university as a missing piece in her life that she loves to return to.

"Ole Miss and the Black

Alumni reunion is like coming home," she said. "Returning to Ole Miss and seeing the people that I used to know and love so dearly is like a piece of me coming back."

The 2022 Black Alumni Reunion is the first one in four years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is also one of the largest ever with over 600 attendees.

"It's a chance to reconnect. It's a chance to stay connected, to network," Forest said. "Enjoy each other's children and to continue to love and grow and love Ole Miss like we've always done."

Black Alumni Reunion hosts Battle of the Greeks Step Show

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With themes ranging from a New Skool vs. Old Skool Verzu Battle to Mortal Combat to the "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air," the Battle of the Greeks Step Show was a competition between alumni from eight of the Divine Nine organizations at the university during the 2022 Black Alumni Reunion.

The Black sororities and fraternities brought high energy, laughs and a lot of singing — in addition to stepping and strolling

— into Fulton Chapel on Friday night.

In the sorority category, four teams competed: Theta Psi chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; Lambda Sigma chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Tau Eta chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.; Xi Zeta chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

First Place: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

Second Place: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority

Third Place: Zeta Phi Beta Sorority

In the fraternity category,

four teams competed: Nu Upsilon chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; Lambda Pi chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; Eta Beta chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.; Eta Zeta chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

First Place: Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity

Second Place: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity

Third Place: Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity

The National Pan-Hellenic Council, also known as the Divine Nine, is composed of historically Black fraternities and sororities.



JACOB SMITH / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity performs at the Battle of the Greeks Step Show on March 4, as a part of the Black Alumni Reunion weekend.



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Administrators and student leaders discuss minority issues

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On Friday, March 4, several University of Mississippi administrators and student leaders spoke at the State of the University Forum as part of the Black Alumni Reunion. The forum was held in Butler Auditorium in the Triplett Alumni Center and was moderated by Teresa Jones, a student at the University of Mississippi School of Law.

Shawnboda Mead, vice chancellor for Diversity and Community Engagement, spoke about the growth of her division. When Mead started working for the office of Diversity and Community Engagement, her division consisted of herself and two graduate assistants. Her staff has now grown to 20, and the Center for Inclusion and Cross Cultural Engagement now employs a director, three assistant directors, a coordinator and four graduate assistants and has a permanent physical location in the Student Union.

“There cannot be diversity and inclusion work without community engagement work,” Mead said while describing the creation of the Center for Community Engagement.

The final section of Mead’s statement addressed three institutional priorities: institutional capacity for equity, cultivating a diverse and equitable community and fostering an inclusive campus climate. She described the individual equitable and action plans for each college on campus.

Next, Norris “EJ” Edney, the assistant vice chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion, discussed his personal experiences at the University of Mississippi and the discontent between the acceptance he felt while being recruited and his daily experience as a student. Edney’s address emphasized the importance of instilling a sense of belonging and self efficacy in students. He described how the Center for Inclusion was created to meet those gaps for minority students.

Edney also encouraged alumni to explore opportunities to partner with the university to help students, such as mentorships or giving keynote speeches.

Dee Harris, president of UM’s chapter of the NAACP and BSU vice president, and Jon’na Bailey, BSU president, gave reports on recent actions by both student groups and made a call to action to alumni. “I always said I wanted to be the Black girl that would make the road easier for the next

group of Black girls,” Harris said during the Q&A portion of the forum.

As a member of the Council of Black Student Affairs, Harris was instrumental in starting monthly meetings with Chancellor Glenn Boyce to discuss minority student issues.

Bailey assumed her position as a sophomore. Under her leadership, BSU hosted a welcome week for organizations under the Council for Black Student Affairs intended to reach out to students and determine current issues. Bailey also described the recent approval by Boyce to begin work on a multicultural center.

Both women discussed the various ways in which alumni could offer support to current Black students. Bailey emphasized the importance of “increasing our resources, not necessarily monetarily but time,” asking alumni to help students learn how to take practical skills outside of the campus by providing mentorships, workshops, and keynote addresses.

The individual presentations were followed by a period during which the audience could ask questions of the four speakers. Edney and Mead both explained how the university had shown clear support for minority engagement both



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(Left to right) EJ Edney, Jon’na Bailey, Dee Harris and Shawnboda Mead answer questions during the end of the State of the Union Forum as part of the Black Alumni Reunion on March 4.

through monetary and verbal efforts, but emphasized that the Inclusion and Cross Cultural Engagement Department was still understaffed, faced fundraising challenges and is now challenged by anti-diversity, equity and inclusion legislature passing through the Mississippi legislature.

“As Black students, we don’t have a place to go to just be our authentic black selves. In order to have a great experience here, we need a space,” said Bailey, who went on to explain that while the university offers internal support, having external support from alumni and building community connections will be invaluable.

While many alumni were amazed by the progress the university has made and the

accomplishments of the student leaders, Ruth Ball, president of the Oxford/Lafayette chapter of the NAACP, reminded all in attendance that “we still have a long ways to go,” mentioning the recent number of voting laws passed across the country in one of the final statements of the afternoon.

Ball also stated, “If you don’t have a vision, your people perish” and encouraged Harris and Bailey to continue their work as student leaders.

The State of the University Forum then concluded with a final thank you by Teresa Jones, and the alumni and speakers mingled before leaving to attend the Battle of the Greeks Step Show in Fulton Chapel.

Black Alumni talk Ole Miss memories during BAR panel

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Ole Miss Black alumni gathered for “A Different Decade Panel Discussion” on Saturday to take a trip down memory lane and reminisce about their time at the university.

The panel included Jonalyn Moore Venton, class of 2010; Doyal Siddell, class of 1979; Bernard Lloyd, class of 1980; Tejuan Leland, class of 2008; Ivory Williams-Shelby, class of 1980 and Robert Walker, class of 1968. The discussion was moderated by Brenda Lockett,

class of 1981.

Lockett started the discussion by asking panelists about the influential figures who came into their lives during their time at the university.

Although they accredited many faculty, staff and students, Donald Cole, former assistant provost and assistant to the chancellor for multicultural affairs, was named by every panelist as someone who had positively influenced them as students.

“Dr. Cole was our chancellor. Everybody else (above Cole) was messing up, but not Dr. Cole,”

Moore Venson said jokingly. “Dr. Cole took care of us.”

The panelists discussed the good times they had as students at the university, but they also reminisced about the challenges they had.

A common theme throughout the afternoon was that although the university and Oxford was desegregated during the time many of the panelists attended, most of their experiences revolved around feeling accepted and safe because of other Black people at the university.

Moore Venton, a graduate of the communication sciences and disorders program, shared about a time one of her professors called her and other Black classmates out in front of the class while they were asking about notes they may have missed from a previous class.

“We bonded together because we were all we had,” she said.

In a different decade and the same degree program, Lockett recalled a time when a professor told the Black students that the field they were going into was a “white man’s profession.” She failed the class six times, but she refused to give up.

“I felt like I was in a swamp,” she said when asked if she felt like she was on an isolated island at the university. “When I left, I left here running away. I wasn’t trying to come back and change nothing. I just wanted to get out of here.”



HG BIGGS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

(Left to right) Doyal Siddell, Bernard Lloyd, Tejuan Leland and Ivory Williams-Shelby were four of the six panelists during the “A Different Decade Panel Discussion” on March 5.

Lockett was not the only one who felt this way. Williams-Shelby, the first African American woman to earn a master’s degree in urban planning, had the same feeling, saying that as Black students, they were “in the city, but not of the city.”

“We came here with a focus to get out, and if we were going to change Ole Miss, we were not going to try to change it while we were here,” she said.

One thing all members echoed, however, was that they ultimately came back because they wanted to not only see the progress the university had made, but to also continue helping other Black students who decide to attend the university.

When asked if they had any regrets about choosing to attend the University of Mississippi, the panelists said no. One overarching reason, in addition to paving the way for Black students, was that the resources they found at the university

allowed them to go back into other communities and bring positive change.

“Many of the people who were there during those days went back into the larger society and did some things that made it much better, not just for Black folk, but for whites as well,” Walker, the first Black mayor of Vicksburg, said.

Black students at the university today experience many benefits Black alumni did not have decades ago, but knowing they built a community for Black students that has persisted overtime is something they take pride in.

“It means seeing those who have come here after James Meredith and myself evolve. It means being able to rub shoulders with distinguished folk,” Siddell said with tears in his eyes. “It means legacy building, and I’m beyond blessed in that regard.”

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"I Am A Man"

As we approach the 54th anniversary of the historic Memphis sanitation strike, we look back at the events that led to it and the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

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Torrential rain and flooding complicated the already freezing weather in Memphis on Feb. 1, 1968. The city's sanitation barn would not allow Black workers to enter, even for shelter, so Echol Cole and Robert Walker climbed into the back of their garbage truck to wait out the storm.

An electrical malfunction triggered the truck's compacting mechanism. Despite the frantic efforts of the truck's driver, Cole and Walker were crushed to death.

Twelve days later, as many as 1,300 sanitation workers walked off the job protesting low wages, unsafe and unsanitary working conditions and discrimination by the city. Mayor Henry Loeb III declined every demand and gave several ultimatums even as five tons of garbage piled up on the streets of Memphis.

Although the Memphis City Council voted to recognize the union and increase wages, the mayor blocked those efforts. It was under Loeb's administration that the sanitation department's working conditions worsened. Dilapidated trucks were still running, leading to Echol Cole and Robert Walker's deaths, and Loeb refused to grant overtime to workers. Workers' wages were so low that they were often forced to use food stamps to feed their families.

If workers declined to work overtime, they were fired. If they were injured, they were fired. They had no benefits, meaning the widows of Cole and Walker received no compensation after their husbands were crushed to death by a malfunctioning truck. They worked in disgusting conditions and were not allowed to shower at the sanitation barn. Upon arriving home, they would often find maggots in their work boots.

The sanitation workers union, called The American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, and its allies staged a sit-in at Memphis City Hall after Loeb's refusal to provide sanitation workers with humane working conditions and higher wages. Police descended on the protesters, beating them with clubs and spraying them with mace.

James Lawson, an ally of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., helped organize a committee of local ministers to rally the striking workers. He spoke during a news conference, saying "When a public official orders a group of men to 'get back to work and then we'll talk' and treats them as though they are not men, that is a racist point of view. At the heart of racism is the idea, 'a man is not a man.'"

King was in Mississippi at the time, forming a protest caravan for his new initiative, the

Poor People's Campaign. Just an hour west of Oxford, Marks was then the poorest city in the poorest state in the nation. King saw the malnourished children of sharecroppers in a defunded school, shoeless, eight of them sharing a single apple, and was devastated. He wanted them to be seen in the nation's capital.

Journalism professor Joseph B. Atkins has studied the labor movement for decades. He spoke of the unfortunate media and political silence with regards to King's involvement with the labor movement, saying they only speak of his massive contributions to advancing civil rights.

"When Martin Luther King Jr. came to Memphis to support the sanitation workers, he not only stood up for the civil rights of those workers, he stood up for all workers who deserve a fair deal and a voice in their working lives," Atkins said. "It cost him his life. It's a part of his legacy of courage that we should always remember."

When King was called for help with the sanitation strike, he sent the Poor People's Campaign on without him. His assassination days later temporarily derailed the campaign.

On March 18, 1968, King spoke at the Bishop Charles Mason Temple.

"You are demonstrating that we are all tied in a single garment of destiny, and that if one Black person suffers, if one Black person is down, we are all down," King said to a crowd of over 25,000 people.

On March 28, the union and its allies led by Lawson and King marched the streets. They carried signs saying "I Am A Man," a phrase borne of America's long-time refusal to recognize the humanity of Black people. Others met in a church for rest and regrouping. King's entire philosophy was nonviolent protest, using civil disobedience to fill the jails.

Despite this, people in the protest began throwing things and breaking shop windows. Police responded with heavy force, fatally shooting a young African-American teenager and injuring dozens of others.

A small group of young grassroots revolutionaries called "The Invaders" who did not share the philosophy of nonviolent protest shouldered the blame for the violence from outsiders, although representatives insisted they were merely acting as security.

A weary King delivered a rallying speech at the Mason Temple coined "I've Been To The Mountaintop" on April 3, referring to the 1,300 sanitation workers striking.

"Now we're going to march again, and we've got to march again, in order to put the issue where it is supposed to be — and force everybody to see that there are thirteen hundred of

God's children here suffering, sometimes going hungry, going through dark and dreary nights wondering how this thing is going to come out," King said. "That's the issue. And we've got to say to the nation: We know how it's coming out. For when people get caught up with that which is right and they are willing to sacrifice for it, there is no stopping point short of victory."

The next night, as King prepared for dinner with his fellow ministers, he was killed by a single bullet while standing on the balcony at The Lorraine Motel.

Days later, as protests rang out nationwide, President Lyndon B. Johnson declared April 7 a National Day of Mourning for King. Coretta Scott King flew to Memphis to support the striking sanitation workers days later, then took the helm of the Poor People's Campaign caravan to Washington.

President Johnson sent Labor Secretary James Reynolds to Memphis in the wake of King's assassination to help settle the sanitation workers' dispute. On April 16, 1968, the City of Memphis



PHOTO COURTESY: SAM MELHORN / AP PHOTO VIA THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

Martin Luther King Jr. and Rev. Ralph Abernathy, right, lead a march on behalf of striking Memphis sanitation workers March 28, 1968. The dignity of the march soon gave way to disorder as a group of about 200 youths began breaking windows and looting. King agonized over what had happened. Within a week, King was dead, killed by an assassin's bullet at Memphis' Lorraine Motel.

agreed to higher wages and other changes, including recognition of the sanitation worker's union.

The American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees continued the push for better working conditions,

eventually becoming the most influential labor union in Memphis. They focused heavily on the employment discrimination provisions in the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which opened public sector jobs for women and minorities.

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TikTok offers unprecedented window into war

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Everyday citizens in Ukraine have taken to social media to record what is happening in their country in real-time, from their bomb shelter experiences to attacks on Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, to drone footage of bombs being dropped.

News correspondents such as VICE Media's Matthew Cassel have been on the ground recording the war in Ukraine through short TikToks. Viral videos of bombs being dropped on buildings and people evacuating have been published on thousands of media outlets.

Webb Lewis, the assistant director of marketing, brand strategy and social media for the University of Mississippi, said that following the war in real-time on social media is fascinating and horrifying at the same time.

"To pick up your phone in the comfort of Mississippi and see a live TikTok of fighter jets and bombings going off in Ukraine

is epic," Lewis said. "It's hard for it not to have an impact on the way you view things, and it's kind of wild to think that we have that capability to see and to begin to try and understand what is actually happening there."

Lewis said the current wave of live video platforms is changing how viewers see world events.

"Five years ago, if you would have said we're gonna have live feed from a warzone? People probably wouldn't have bought that. But here we are, and we're seeing this now. Social media platforms continue to present ways for us for users to put out authentic content, to tell their story, to use their microphone, to sound the trumpets about the successes that they're personally experiencing and the nightmares that they're living through," he said. "While it's tough to watch, there may be a sense of comfort that comes from them being able to share that with people, because they're getting to share a story

that in years past never would have been broadcast."

More firsthand videos, interviews and photos are available now than ever before. This widely available content — both real and unverified — presents a challenge for how traditional media treats breaking news events.

"You can't take everything that you see at face value," said WTVA Interim News Director Craig Ford. "I guess that part of our responsibility as traditional media is to kind of sort through what's out there and tell people hey, this is legit, and this is not."

False information about the war in Ukraine has already spread quickly, such as a viral photo of a formation of jets that were supposedly Russian fighter planes flying over Ukraine. The video was actually years-old.

In a Feb. 25 interview with NPR, Sam Gregory, the program director of Witness, a nonprofit focused on the ethical use of video in humanitarian crises, said the spread of misinformation taking place on



VIOLET JIRA / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

TikTok in particular is having lasting effects on viewers.

"This is the first time TikTok has really been central in a conflict situation of this scale," Gregory said. "The volume of misleading videos does seem

new to me. Some people are doing it because they want attention, some people want to monetize it, others are doing it potentially as misinformation and disinformation."

Anna-Claire Campbell crowned UM's Most Beautiful

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During the annual Parade of Beauties, Anna-Claire Campbell was crowned most beautiful on Saturday, March 6. She was among 80 contestants competing at the Gertrude C. Ford Center for Performing Arts.

These young women were judged based on an evening gown portion that counted as 80% of their score. The competition was narrowed down to 25 candidates, focusing on overall beauty, poise, grace and stage presence. There was also an interview segment focused on personality, speaking ability and confidence that counted toward 20% and determined the top 10 and winner.

During the interview portion, Campbell, who is a

member of the UM Agriculture Club and on the Chancellor's Honor Roll list, was asked what a recent goal was that she had accomplished this year.

Campbell, who hopes to work with a creative agency as an account planner after graduation, answered by saying over the summer, she got a job at the beach.

"It's been a goal of mine ever since I got to college. I was very hesitant going into it, as it was my first time ever being out of Mississippi for such a long period of time and away from family and friends," Campbell said. "But it was a growing experience and I was able to get a glimpse at what adulthood would look like and how to be independent and I'm very grateful for it."

Judges for the event consisted of Lisa Ivy of Oxford, Dallas Cupit of Grenada, Danielle Maury of Oxford, Christine Williamson of Chattanooga and Jima Alexander of Pontotoc. The presenters were Sydney Russell, Most Beautiful 2021 and Abigail Church, Miss University 2022.

The escorts for the evening were provided by the Ole Miss Army ROTC, Chris Moody and Reese Wall.

The top 10 candidates were Maggie Ulmer, Sydney Borries, Mallory Edgin, Olivia Irby, Julieanna Jackson, Mary Bratton Guest, Caroline Parnell, Carson Avery, Connor Dowdell and Janis Kruger.

Violet Jira contributed reporting.



PHOTO COURTESY: ZOE KEYES / THE OLE MISS

Anna-Claire Campbell, a senior integrated marketing communications major, is crowned at the 2022 Parade of Beauties.

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No. 2 Ole Miss wins rubber match against UCF

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The Ole Miss baseball team bounced back Sunday from their first loss of the season and dominated UCF by a score of 9-1 to take the series and improve to 10-1 on the season. The Rebel pitching staff capped off its impressive weekend with a dominating performance and the offense looked like itself again after being held scoreless in game two.

The bullpen looks DEEP

The Ole Miss bullpen gave up only two runs the entire weekend, and its best pitcher, Jack Dougherty, didn't even make an appearance. Ole Miss brought in seven different pitchers, and all of them looked more than capable of competing at the SEC level. When you include Dougherty

and Wes Burton, who didn't pitch in this series, Ole Miss has nine guys who it can feel confident about bringing in from the pen. If the production from everyone continues, that will be a massive upside for this team, especially when you consider that the starting pitching is going through its struggles. This deep of a bullpen gives the Rebels a ton of options to work with in the bullpen and in the starting rotation, which is likely to get moved around after the latest performances.

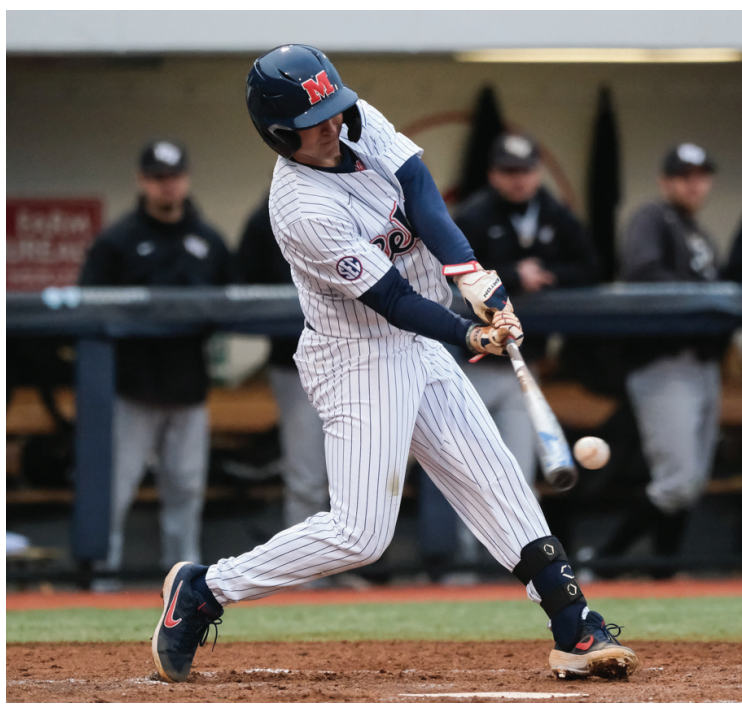
This is a really good win

If you were wondering why Ole Miss seemed to not play as well as they have been this weekend, the answer is that UCF has a very good baseball team that will win a lot of games this season. The Knights showed they have some real arms on their roster and can hit efficiently as well.

This Ole Miss baseball team is legit, and I think UCF taking a game from the Rebels says more about them as a team than it does about Ole Miss. The Rebels will be a great team and one loss doesn't change that, but for UCF it shows that they can compete with anyone in the country. With teams all around the country losing to inferior opponents, this win for Ole Miss is a big one, as it was able to come out of the weekend with a road series victory against a scrappy team that could possibly make its way into the Top 25 soon. If UCF continues to impress and has the season that they should, then this series win will become one that looks really good on Ole Miss's resume in May.

Hello Hayden

In his third game back after missing time with a hamstring injury, Ole Miss catcher



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Ole Miss second baseman Peyton Chatagnier bats during a game against Virginia Commonwealth University on Feb. 25.

Hayden Dunhurst showed he is fully back and ready to go in his game three outing. He went 2 for 4 at the plate with a walk and three runs scored and looked more comfortable at the plate than he has so far this season. Dunhurst started

out the season slow before his injury and hadn't really settled in since returning. If he is back swinging it well, then that adds another threat to this offense, which is already one of the best in the country as it is.

Fourth quarter surge not enough for Ole Miss to overcome No. 1 South Carolina

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No. 4 seed Ole Miss failed to complete the come from behind victory Saturday to upset No. 1 South Carolina in the SEC Semifinals, losing 61-51. This was the third time both teams faced each other in the season, including a 29 point loss to South Carolina in January and a more recent 71-57 loss to South Carolina in the SJB Pavilion on Feb. 27.

Ole Miss was looking for the upset in their first semi-finals appearance since 1993, while South Carolina had hopes of reaching their seventh straight SEC conference title appearance.

After a strong defensive first quarter by both teams, the game started to slip for the Rebels. The deficit would grow as large as 20 points, but Ole Miss refused to give up. In the fourth quarter everything seemed to go right for the Rebels.

The stingy defense forced eight turnovers, which led them to extra possessions and was just what they needed to get senior center Shakira Austin and company going. Austin struggled to get things going through the first three quarters in the game, but came alive in the fourth

Austin scored 14 points in the fourth quarter alone and senior guard Angel Baker fought to keep the Rebels in the game. The Rebel offense needed all of Baker and Austin's points to dig them out of the hole. The Rebels only scored 30 points in the first three quarters versus 21 points scored in the fourth.

Baker started out hot for the Rebels early in the game, contributing with eight of their first points. Baker would finish with 20 points, going 9-15 from the FG and 2-4 from the three-point line.

Offense was at a premium this game, however, Ole Miss wasn't able to get things

going offensively throughout most of the game. They shot 34% from the field, 33% from the three-point line and made only 50% of their free throws.

The most shocking stat was that Ole Miss got outrebounded by the Gamecocks 44-28. South Carolina controlled the glass and tempo, which made things difficult for the Rebels to climb back out on top.

Even with the game seemingly lost, the Rebel defense kept South Carolina under 65 points.

South Carolina only shot 16% from the three-point line, going 2-12 thanks to tight perimeter defense by Ole Miss. But the strong third quarter would help sustain South Carolina despite the fourth quarter effort by Ole Miss.

The season is not lost for the Rebels. They will be in the NCAA Tournament in the coming weeks but will have to await the selection show to see where they will land.



PHOTO COURTESY: JOSH MCCOY / OLE MISS ATHLETICS

Ole Miss guard Angel Baker drives down the court during a game against No. 1 South Carolina on Feb. 27.

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Women's golf places sixth at the VyStar Gators Invitational

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The Ole Miss Women's Golf team took part in the VyStar Gators Invitational March 5-6, where they placed sixth on the leaderboard at the conclusion of the tournament.

Ole Miss shot 864 (+24) as a team with their best rounds coming from rounds one and two where they posted a 285 (+5) in each round.

The University of Florida and Michigan ended up in a tie for first where they each shot 851 (+11) as a team.

The Rebels' leader from the tournament came from junior Andrea Lignell. The native of Sweden finished in a tie for fourth and got out of the gates early with a first

round score of 69 (-1). Lignell would end the tournament with a score of 212 (+2).

With her fourth place finish, Lignell earned her third career top five finish with the Rebels. All three have come during the 2021-22 season.

Junior Chiara Tamburlini also had a solid performance. She finished in a tie for 12th with a three-day score of 213 (+3). Her best round of the tournament came from the first where she shot a 69 (-1).

Tamburlini sank a team-leading nine birdies over the tournament, including back-to-back birdies on holes 14 and 15 during the final round.

Freshman Natacha Host Husted found her way into the top 30 with a final score of 218 (+8) which put her

in a tie for 26th. Other Rebels who participated in the tournament were senior Julia Johnson who shot 221 (+11) and freshman Maddie May who finished with a 235 (+25).

Ole Miss will be taking part in the Valspar Augusta Invitational held in Augusta, Georgia. They will be playing on the Forest Hills Golf Course on March 12-13.

Final Results from the VyStar Gators Invitational:

T4. Andrea Lignell: 69-70-73-212 (+2)

T12. Chiara Tamburlini: 69-72-72-213 (+3)

T26. Natacha Host Husted: 77-67-74-218 (+8)

T38. Julia Johnson: 70-76-75-221 (+11)

T69. Maddie May: 78-76-81-235 (+25)



PHOTO COURTESY: TODD DREXLER / SESPORTSMEDIA.COM

Andrea Lignell competes during the 2021 NCAA Women's Golf Championship.



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OPINION

Russian authoritarianism isn't unique

HAL FOX
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Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine has cemented a hard truth that our generation must reconcile with: ours is an age of increasing authoritarianism that we must fight against.

Motivated by nationalism and facilitated by Russia's authoritarian, undemocratic political system, the Russian invasion of Ukraine has brought an unseen level of violence to Europe since the Yugoslav Wars of the 1990s and shown that the consequences of authoritarian government extend beyond harmful domestic policy.

Authoritarianism, without the checks on power inherent in democratic systems, allows countries like Russia to initiate war without popular consensus. And clearly, as we can see from the protests that have erupted throughout the country against the war, the actions of Russia can not be said to be democratically justified by the people.

The empathetic compulsion to help Ukrainians that I have seen so many Americans express is admirable and good, but we should keep in mind that posting Instagram infographics and donating to the Ukrainian government won't solve the crisis alone. While helpful, none of these actions address the root cause of the violence in Ukraine in the first place, authoritarianism.

Authoritarianism is a global issue. In saying that, I don't simply mean that authoritarianism is a problem outside of Russia and Ukraine, I mean that authoritarian governments across the world draw political legitimacy from each other's continued existence.

The more corrupted a nation becomes with nationalist and authoritarian rhetoric, the more likely the country next to it is to suffer the same fate. This creates a global culture in which authoritarian governance becomes more popular

and morally acceptable. Compounding this problem is the fact that, the more successful authoritarian countries become, the more likely other nations are to imitate authoritarian models.

Authoritarianism is not just a Russian issue. Authoritarian regimes and tendencies have been emerging and intensifying all over the world, with many democratic nations electing right-wing populists that undermine the democratic process and push nationalist narratives.

The United States is no exception, evidenced by Donald Trump's attempts at election subversion in 2020 and policy pursued by Republicans across the country pushing for voter suppression laws. In Mississippi, Republican legislators betray their commitment to conservative values and democracy in favor of educational authoritarianism, banning instruction on critical race theory. Authoritarianism is

clearly not just a problem abroad, but something that we have to confront within our own borders.

The best way to combat authoritarian governments is to ensure that your own government maintains and promotes democracy above all else. The warmongering, authoritarian rulers in the world today have shown that we can not treat authoritarian governance as a far-away issue. Beyond mistreating their own citizens, many authoritarian nations, such as Russia, are itching to expand their territory and accomplish political goals through invasion and war. In a nuclear world, this could lead to global annihilation.

If we are to counter these nations and prevent the

violence they aim to bring about, then we need to maintain a powerful, global coalition of democratic states. Additionally, if we want to protect other countries from invasion by rogue states in the near future, then we must also prevent our own nation from slipping into authoritarian, undemocratic governance — a task I fear will be hard to prevent. I hope our generation is up to the challenge, because if we are not, I am certain that Ukraine won't be the only democratic country in jeopardy in the coming years.

Hal Fox is a sophomore majoring in Chinese and international studies from Robert, Louisiana.

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Men's basketball comes up short on senior night

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The Ole Miss Men's Basketball team lost to Vanderbilt 63-61 on Saturday in the final game of what was a brutal regular season for the Rebels.

Ole Miss had a chance to win the game, or send it to overtime, in the final seconds but once again failed to pull through in a game that was there for the taking. Matthew Murrell and Austin Crowley led the Rebels in with 15 points, while Nysier Brooks scored 12 in his final game in Oxford.

The first half saw both teams trading baskets and leads until Ole Miss grabbed a lead with 4:16 left in the half and held onto it for the remainder of the half. The Rebels took a 33-26 lead into

halftime after a James White buzzer-beating three.

The lead would not sustain itself for long, as Vanderbilt would open the half on a 9-2 run to tie the game at 35. The Rebels would eventually fall behind and trailed by seven with just over four minutes left in the game. Murrell scored eight points in the final minutes to shrink the Commodore lead to two.

The Rebels had many opportunities to win the game, but just couldn't get it done. They had two possessions in the final seconds where they could have tied or won the game, but they were unable to capitalize. Ole Miss finishes the regular season with a record of 13-18 and 4-14 in SEC play.

"We've been involved with a lot of these games right here, one-possession game at the end, and if you look out

through college basketball, you'll see plays being made at the end of games, and we just weren't able to," Head Coach Kermit Davis said. "Our inability to start second halves has been our biggest thing the whole year and nobody has emphasized and tried to do things to help us get better in the first five minutes of the second half."

No. 13 seed Ole Miss fell in the first round of the SEC tournament to No. 12 seed Missouri. The Rebels needed to win five games in as many days if they wished to win the SEC championship and make the NCAA tournament. However, they fell 60-72 to the Tigers during the Wednesday night matchup in Tampa, Florida. Matthew Murrell led the team with 16 points in the final game of the season, finishing up with a record of 13-19.



PHOTO COURTESY: PETRE THOMAS /OLE MISS ATHLETICS

Ole Miss guard Daeshun Ruffin laces up his sneakers prior to a game against Vanderbilt on senior night on March 5. Vanderbilt defeated Ole Miss 61-63.



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