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MISSISSIPPIAN

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



HYDE-SMITH WINS US SENATE RUNOFF ELECTION

Cindy Hyde-Smith will become the first female US Senator to represent the state after winning on Tuesday.

SEE PAGE 6

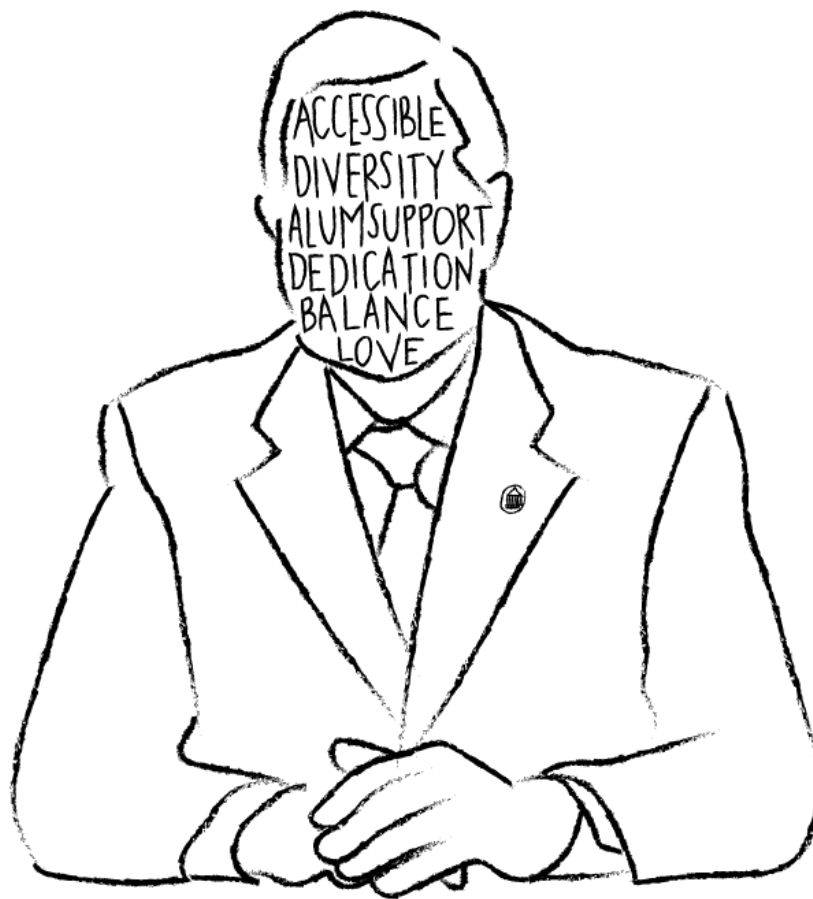


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DEVNA BOSE

What makes a Chancellor?

SLADE RAND

THEDMEDITOR@GMAIL.COM

The state college board took seven months to select a new chancellor following former chancellor Dan Jones' ousting in March 2015. It's been just two weeks since Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter resigned from the same position, but many in the Ole Miss community already have their eyes fixed on the future.

Jones' and Vitter's legacies are temporally separated by less than a year but are emotionally far removed from one another.

Days after Jones announced his departure in 2015, students crowded the Circle waving signs and shouting slogans of dissent. In the two weeks since the November morning Vitter confirmed his impending resignation, campus life has rolled along without protest, campaign buttons or national attention. Things are different these days.

"A lot has happened since 2015," said Rev. Gail Stratton, who retired this past spring after 21 years as an Ole Miss biology professor. "The election of 2016 happened, and with that, (there have been) many more protests happening on campus. The

biggest protest on campus was to protest the firing of Chancellor Dan Jones."

Since the end of the Jones era, an enrollment boom has leveled out, the football program has taken a few hits and campus construction has been a constant. The university has also earned its first Carnegie R-1 designation, congratulated its first female Rhodes Scholar and begun hosting an annual tech summit.

Nearly four years after the March 2015 protest over Jones' contract debacle, the campus environment is

SEE CHANCELLOR PAGE 8



LYRIC CONCERT TO BENEFIT SUICIDE PREVENTION

Organizers said they hope the CBDB and the Busty Petites' show will start conversations about mental health and provide money for suicide prevention.

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Brisack is first UM female Rhodes Scholar

BLAKE ALSUP

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Jaz Brisack has been an active part of the Ole Miss community during her nearly four years at the university, affecting change inside and outside of the classroom. Now, she has been named the university's 32nd Rhodes Scholar — and the first female from Ole Miss to receive the honor.

Her initial reaction to receiving the scholarship was shock, a feeling that still remains more than a week after getting the news.

"My (first) thought was really, 'How am I going to be able to use this institution that's so deeply rooted in white supremacy and all those things to try to advocate for causes that are very different from what Cecil Rhodes envisioned?'" Brisack said.

Brisack credits professors like Joe Atkins, Kiese Laymon and Vaughn Grisham, as well as advisors Tim Dolan and Debra Young in the Honors College.

"I am thrilled to have had the privilege to work with Jaz, and I'm ecstatic that her Rhodes Scholarship shines a light on what a vibrant and excellent community of scholars and human beings attend the University of Mississippi," director of the University of Mississippi Office of National Scholarship Advisement Tim Dolan said.

On Wednesday, actor Jim Carrey posted a tweet encouraging Mississippians to vote for Mike Espy in the Senate runoff election attached to a hand-drawn portrait of Brisack.

"Brilliant young women like Jaz Brisack, 2018 Rhodes Scholar from the University of Mississippi, give



PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

Jaz Brisack was recently named the university's 26th and first female Rhodes Scholar.

SEE RHODES PAGE 6



OLE MISS BASKETBALL HOSTS SAN DIEGO TOREROS TONIGHT

The 3-2 Rebels are back in action Wednesday as San Diego comes to Oxford.

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THANKSGIVING 2018 : A WEEK IN REVIEW

President Trump Pardoned a Turkey for Thanksgiving



There Was Almost a Serious Discussion About Climate Change



England's Divorce from the EU Continued Like a Bad RomCom That Never Ends



COLUMN

As a Theta, I faced my share of judgement



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It really is incredible how far women have come in just the last century. Every day, we do things like vote, drive, own property, prepare for a professional career and even go to college, that just a few decades ago would have been impossible. In 1870, when college student Bettie Locke tried to join an organization dedicated to scholarship and personal excellence, she was told that she'd be more than welcome to join as a mascot for the men. She defied the system and formed a revolutionary new type of organization to support other women, founded on the idea that women had inherent value and should be judged solely on four criteria: scholarship, personal excellence, leadership and service. That organization was Kappa Alpha Theta.

As a member for the past four years of this same organization, I've definitely encountered my fair share of judgement and opposition. Many people questioned why I, as a pre-law student, would want to devote thousands of hours to what they viewed as a social club.

My sorority was viewed as the worst one by many on this campus, but I couldn't care less because the standards

by which they measured me were completely arbitrary, in my eyes. I didn't care if people thought we were awkward or fat or ugly or out-of-place because, for me, there are far worse things one can be in this life than unattractive. I cared about the ritual that women had carefully passed on to each new generation for over one hundred years. I cared about the Bible verses we read every Monday at chapter that reminded us what truly mattered. I cared about the women in my life who might have been rejected by the Greek system but were loved by me because they demonstrated what it was like to pour yourself into something bigger than yourself, to do impossible things and to be true to yourself without caring in the least what the world thought.

When I learned that Kappa Alpha Theta was removing the charter of the house that had been so transformative to me, not because we had bad grades or had hazed or mistreated members, not because we had been irresponsible, not because we had abandoned Kappa Alpha Theta's mission but because, largely due to our reputation, we were struggling to attract enough new members through formal recruitment alone, it hurt.

It hurt worse than every time in the past four years that a boy had called Thetas fat, worse than when freshmen called my friends horribly offensive slurs during recruitment rounds purely because of their house, worse than the older woman at the store who made snide remarks when she learned my sorority affiliation, worse than every single small, petty remark or sympathetic glance people had

given me since the fall morning my freshman year when I pledged Theta.

It hurt me because before, it didn't matter what short-sighted people thought of me because I had an international organization behind me, affirming that as long as I pursued scholarship, leadership, service and personal excellence with all my might, at the end of the day, there would be people who would be proud of me and support me.

Just as Bettie Locke refused to be a mascot and chose her own path despite what the world thought, I was happy being my best self, no matter what other people thought. When Kappa Alpha Theta took away Epsilon Zeta's charter, they communicated to me that it doesn't matter how kind, intelligent, hard-working, or down-to-earth women are; at the end of the day, if they aren't as "good" as their neighbor, they don't deserve a home, even if the standards by which they are measured are completely vapid. When we decide who gets to stay on campus based on how popular they are, when we call a sorority "good" because they are full of beautiful girls rather than leading women, when we permit fraternities to sexualize sororities and declare some top-tier and others bottom-tier based on their preferences, when sorority members tear down their Panhellenic sisters in their climb to the top of the tier system, we have defeated the purpose of sororities.

Bettie Locke founded Theta because she wanted women to be leaders who led and built up women — not followers or mascots. When we conform to

the world's expectations, we turn women into little more than mascots, silly stereotypes of sorority girls; we become a joke, something with no relevance in the 21st century.

Women have come so far in the past century. It brings up the question of where we shall be in another century. If we remain dedicated to Bettie Locke's vision of empowering women and valuing the things that truly matter, I have faith that, in a hundred years, we will live in a society with even more female doctors, lawyers, teachers, mothers, neighbors and people who make the world a better place. However, if we continue to judge women in the same way we judge sororities, not only will we not progress, but I truly believe that we will actually regress, undoing all the steps we've made in this century.

There will always be insecure men who oppose strong women. However, it is a true tragedy when women drag down other women. We need all the support we can get. To the freshmen judging sororities during recruitment, to the sorority members who allow the tier system to exist unchallenged, to the Kappa Alpha Theta Grand Council who took away 250 women's home and source of empowerment because they weren't most people's first choice: please self-reflect. Consider the unspoken message that your actions carry to the women of today and tomorrow.

Bradley Tune is senior management major from Chester, NJ. She was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta.

THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

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

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



MISSISSIPPI press ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSPAPER

ASB reflects on semester, conducts final meeting

HADLEY HITSON
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The Associated Student Body Senate created an ASB cabinet position for Veterans Affairs, confirmed a new ASB Treasurer and approved a resolution to divide central residential parking last night at its final meeting of the semester.

“I want this position to facilitate more involvement between ASB and veterans,” one of the Veterans Affairs bill’s authors Sen. Winston Taylor said of the new cabinet position. “I want it to help with the disconnect between administration and veterans here on campus.”

Taylor said he is the only veteran currently involved in ASB, and he believes the creation of this position will show other veterans that their voices matter to Ole Miss.

Gianna Schuetz, who was named ASB Treasurer last night, also hopes to make changes to her department of student government, specifically by making student organizations more aware of the funds available to them and raising the \$4,000 semester

limit per organization. She is replacing Jonathan Cox, former treasurer who is leaving for an internship in New York during the spring semester.

“Communication is what is most important,” Schuetz said. “A lot of organizations still don’t realize that they can get funding from ASB, so what’s most important to me is letting everyone know that they can get the funding they need.”

The most heavily contested piece of legislation passed by the senate last night was the approval of the division of central residential parking into two separate parking zones. The idea for this change comes from the chancellor’s standing committee on traffic and parking, which Sen. Sarah Doty, co-author of the resolution, is a member of.

When asked if the authors had spoken with constituents who may be affected by this change, Doty said they had not.

“I think this really feels like a band-aid on the parking issue, and I think that we shouldn’t remove any pressure from the university to fix our parking issue,” Sen. Anna Hall said after noting that she had spoken to constituents who will live on Rebel Drive next year.

The senate unanimously passed two other resolutions last night. The first was authored by Sens. Corbin Fox and Hannah Chauvin, and urges the university to expand the supplemental instruction program to include more subject areas.

“Grades of people who go to SI on an average basis, not just the day before the test, are generally much higher than those who don’t,” Fox said.

Senators unanimously passed a resolution written by the Panhellenic senators to express ASB’s support of the Epsilon Zeta chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity in the wake of the chapter’s charter being revoked by their national Grand Council.

This final senate meeting of the fall wraps up a semester of reform, resignation and resolutions within the student government.

“Throughout my years on the ASB, a refrain I have heard over and over again is that ASB is a closed-off, exclusive organization that exists to cater to the few,” President Elam Miller said. “I believe the primary accomplishments of the ASB this semester are all oriented towards changing this

“ ASB must continually listen to underrepresented groups on campus and work more closely with those groups in order to make sure that their voices are influential in the decision-making process.”

Elam Miller
ASB president

perception”

At the start of the semester, ASB faced its first resignation as Katherine Sistrunk stepped down from her position of Attorney General to direct an election reform task force focusing on student voter turnout in national elections.

“Katherine selflessly stepping down for the betterment of student government and our university culture set the tone that everyone deserves an equal playing field when it comes to running for any position on campus, whether that’s Miss Ole Miss or ASB President,” Miller said.

This was also the first year that student government named a Director of Voter Registration and Elections. In this role, Jarrius Adams worked with the senate to pass two resolutions calling for the university to cancel classes on election days and to create an on-campus polling place.

Miller said the student

government is working through the various university bureaucracies to see these initiatives through. However, over the semester, several senators have said that resolutions often lack the permanence of other methods.

Other prominent events within ASB this semester include the decision to delay adding a homecoming king to the court until next fall, the senate’s request that the university add an “A plus” to the grading system and the holding of the university’s first Ole Miss family meeting that discussed the Confederate symbols remaining on campus.

“There are still improvements to be made,” Miller said. “ASB must continually listen to underrepresented groups on campus and work more closely with those groups in order to make sure that their voices are influential in the decision-making process.”

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Stuck in limbo

An Ole Miss 'Dreamer' faces an uncertain future.



PHOTO: DEVNA BOSE

Bianca Martinez is an Ole Miss student living in the United States under DACA protection.

DEVNA BOSE

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Tiny, inked clusters of needles jut out of a miniature cactus on Bianca Martinez's ankle. Her first tattoo, she got it to remind herself where she came from.

"Reynosa in Tamaulipas, Mexico," she said, trilling her "r"s and rolling her "l"s in all the right places.

However, she identifies just as much as American as she does Mexican, though that doesn't mean that she is allowed the same rights as her peers.

Enacted under former President Barack Obama's administration, the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) administrative program protects qualified "Dreamers" from deportation and prosecution. The program, which has been in effect since 2012, does not grant citizenship. It does not convey legal status but allows undocumented immigrants who were not older than 30 years old when DACA was enacted and younger than 16 when they entered the country to work without fear of deportation. The act is not a law, and those it protects face uncertain futures.

As an Ole Miss student living under DACA protections, Martinez is relegated to being stuck in limbo — somewhere between being a citizen and not.

HER PAST

Martinez and her family moved to Texas before settling when she was five in Itta Bena, Mississippi — one of the poorest towns in the poorest state in America. Her parents are undocumented, her two siblings who were born in the U.S. are citizens and Martinez received DACA status a week before she turned 15.

She doesn't remember many complications resulting from her status or her parents' illegal immigration as a child, though there were a few notable issues.

"We are a low-income family, so we couldn't afford a lot of things, but we couldn't get food stamps or anything like that," she said. "A lot of my time was spent with my parents helping them do things that 11-year-olds aren't normally doing, like helping them get insurance."

However, as an adult, Martinez has had to

overcome many hurdles to get to where she is today.

"As I grew up, I think it affected me more because I was so hopeful about going to school and getting a career," she said. "But I realized if I didn't have a Social Security card, I wouldn't be able to go."

Those without a Social Security number can still apply to college but are unable to receive state and federal financial aid, making the process of attending higher education more difficult.

Compared to Martinez, her siblings will be able to attend a university with limited concerns, which is something she used to be jealous about.

"I was so jealous, and I used to blame my parents for that. I thought that my parents should have come here earlier or stayed in Mexico," she said. "But now, I'm happy for my siblings. I'm happy the path for them will be so much easier."

A graduate of the Mississippi School for Math and Science and a current senior biology major, Martinez takes classes at Ole Miss and works 25-hour weeks to pay for them.

"I don't get the point of having to prove myself, even though I feel like I've done that pretty well. I've worked really hard in school, and I used to work 60 hours a week just to make money to go to school," she said. "Not that citizens don't do that, but if you're low-income, you can get money from the government — I can't even do that with all these credentials, and that's not fair."

Local immigration lawyer Tommy Rosser said that he deals with a number of "Dreamers" in Oxford, and most of them have not gone on to pursue educational opportunities past high school.

"There has been a problem with certain community colleges and institutions resisting allowing DACA kids to move forward to (the) college level," Rosser said. "Particularly in Mississippi, there has been resistance to accepting them."

In Mississippi, to be able to attend an institution of higher education as a "Dreamer," college administration has to accept documentation, which is usually an employment

authorization form.

"On that basis, they then go and get a Social Security card that allows them to get a driver's license and temporarily have identification," he said. "Some schools have resisted to that sensibility."

Martinez described having constant anxiety about her future as a result of her DACA status.

"There's not a day that goes by that I don't think about it. My grades suffer because I'm constantly thinking about making money for school," she said, her voice cracking. "I'm poor. I'm brown. I'm a woman. I can't be uneducated, too."

HER PRESENT

Martinez remembers the night of the 2016 presidential election, watching the states on television stain red slowly but surely across the country.

"I remember a girl coming in the dorm lobby where I was watching the election, and she walking in and said, 'Donald Trump is for God. There will be no more immigrants, no more (this and that)' I just got up and went for a walk," she recalled. "Then, the next morning, I had a panic attack in the shower."

While living Oxford, she's experienced various forms of hatred to her face.

"It's so easy for people to point out what's wrong with immigrants. People don't realize they're being ignorant and hateful at the same time. Like, that stuff hurts because I'm an immigrant, and I am none of those things that Trump says," she said. "(Trump) gives them the green light to say these things."

The current election cycle has been hard on Martinez — people protected under DACA don't have the right to vote.

"It sucks. I want to be able to share my voice," she said. "I feel like I'm the best person to represent me, but I can't do that. Decisions about DACA kids are being made by white men, not DACA kids or even people who live with kids protected under DACA. I'm the conversation, but I'm not allowed to be a part of the conversation."

SEE DACA PAGE 5

DACA

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However, she stays involved to make sure others have a voice, even when she doesn't. All while working and taking classes, Martinez is a member of College Democrats, vice president of Students Against Social Injustice and actively participates in a number of protests on campus.

"I want us to work together to work on each other's struggles," she said. "One voice isn't enough, and everyone's voice is valid."

And Martinez makes sure she's heard.

"I give myself a voice," she said, through being outspoken in protests and on social media.

Former president of SASI Taia McAfee described Martinez as a "great help to the movement," attributing her impact to Martinez's strong presence.

"When she joined SASI at the beginning of this year, it's like the organizer in her had been bottled up so long, and it got let out," she said. "She's able to move folks to actually do something, and it's a skill not many have. I'm so grateful she's a core member of SASI because our work wouldn't be the same without her."

Her roommate and SASI secretary Em Gill said Martinez is an invaluable asset to the SASI organization because of her passion.

"It's so amazing to feed off her passion," they said. "She's really empathetic and genuinely cares about people, cares actively."

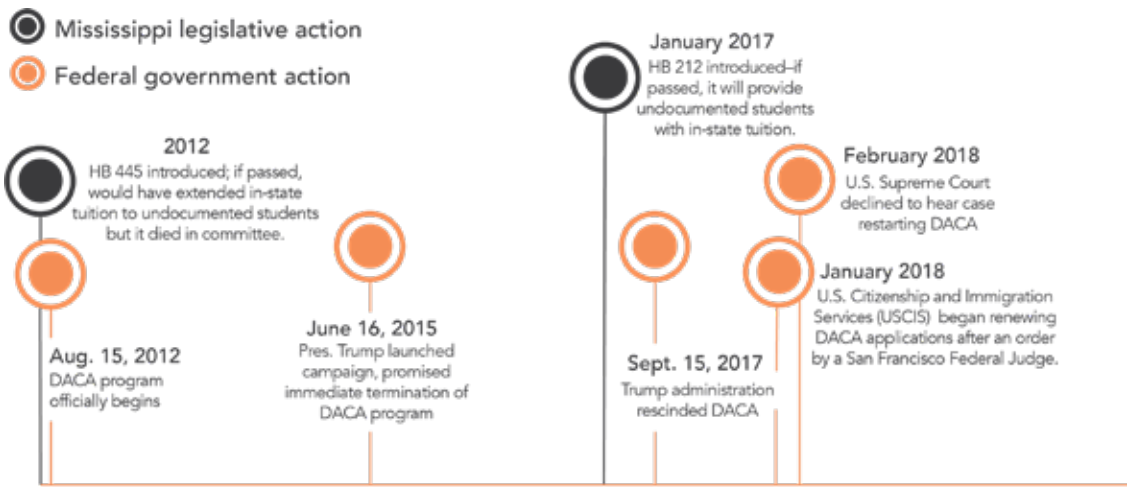
Gill, who identifies as non-binary and transgender, said they relate to Martinez because

““ Decisions about DACA kids are being made by white men, not DACA kids or even people who live with kids protected under DACA. I'm the conversation, but I'm not allowed to be a part of the conversation.”

Bianca Martinez
Ole Miss student and 'Dreamer'

of the two's shared experiences of oppression.

"We talk a lot about our experiences, just as friends and as marginalized people," they said. "We complain to each other about how we're treated in class, and I know she's had issues with coworkers and professors, too. We discuss how it's not a personal thing. It's a larger problem and not our fault. It's healthy to have those types



Hephner LaBanc, who could not be reached for comment at the time of publication, released a statement last September in response to Trump's attempt to rescind the DACA Act in which she cited the University Counseling Center, Office of Global Engagement, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Diversity & Community Engagement and Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs as places where students can seek direction or advice. Two years ago, the Associated Student Body discussed options for protecting "Dreamers" on campus, though discussions were tabled. However, Gill believes the university should do more.

"I wish that, institutionally, the school would acknowledge and recognize that there are students like Bianca who are DACA recipients. She's not the only one, and I know especially during this politically tense time, she and all of them have to feel so isolated and cut off,"

they said. "If our university does care about our students, which it should, then it should definitely have some sort of support system, somewhere they can go to specifically for help."

Martinez's close friends like Gill and McAfee know that she is a "Dreamer," but it's not something she openly shares. Sometimes, she mentions it in passing, and though she

"I recently met this man who was saying things like, 'I don't care if Mexicans come into the country; I don't believe what (Trump) says,'" she said. "That's cool and all, but I'm not the one you're supposed to be convincing. I know we're not bad people. Go tell your white friends that."

HER FUTURE

President Donald Trump attempted to the rescind the act last year, but federal courts have since ruled DACA constitutional through a temporary injunction that allows it to continue to protect those who were previously covered. However, there is no clear pathway for "Dreamers" to obtain citizenship. They don't have the same rights as American citizens, but they can't leave the country, either.

According to Rosser, "All they can hope for is that some sort of determination will be made by Congress in terms of passing the proposed DREAM Act or (a) similar remedy that will allow them to move forward to a resident status."

Ole Miss political science professor Gregory Love describes the future of these people as "uncertain."

"It's very unclear what's going to happen, and that's because, of course, DACA was not a law," he said. "DACA is basically the executive branch saying, 'We're not going to prosecute you,' but it doesn't give you a pass into the system."

Though the popularity of the "program" is relatively high, under the current political climate, Love doesn't foresee a definitive decision in the imminent future for "Dreamers."

"Getting a change to the immigration policy seems highly unlikely," Love said.

Martinez is split on her opinion of DACA and just wants some sort of decision to be made.

"I am grateful for Obama and what his administration did, but it also just feels really half-assed because I have half-rights basically," she said. "I don't want DACA to end because it is a gateway for a lot of people, but I do want DACA to move forward into trying to get people citizenship and give people more rights."

She is hoping, after graduation, to be a teacher and lead young minds, but for now, "bitter" is the word that comes to Martinez's mind, the word she repeats, over and over.

"It's not like I had a choice — I shouldn't be punished for coming here. I'm human, and I don't know why people can't see that. All humans have the right to live where they feel safe," she said, eyes flooding over. "People are out here just trying to live, you know?"



PHOTO: DEVNA BOSE

Bianca Martinez is an Ole Miss student living in the United States under DACA protection.

of discussions about how we fit into a bigger picture."

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Brandi

appreciates the sympathy that people often give, it's not what she wants. Instead, Martinez wants action.

RHODES

continued from page 1

me hope for the future,” Carrey tweeted along with the portrait he created.

Brisack, a senior general studies major at Ole Miss, is studying public policy, journalism and English. She is president of Ole Miss College Democrats and is a member of Wise Women of Oxford, a local activist group, and a student in the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College.

Brisack developed an interest in labor unions while she was working part-time at Panera Bread in East Tennessee at age 16. She said she hurt her fingers every day washing dishes, hurt her back trying to carry heavy things and saw coworkers enduring worse conditions than she was.

“That’s how I got interested in labor unions in the first place,” Brisack said.

Reading the works of Eugene V. Debs and Mary Harris Jones shed some light on the history of labor unions and led Brisack to the theory that unionizing is “the only solution that can actually lead to worker empowerment.”

Brisack has advocated for social and political causes through her work as an organizer with the Nissan unionization campaign, the Workers United union and her work as a defender at Pink House in Jackson, the state’s last abortion clinic.

“We’re literally on the front line of the fight for women’s reproductive rights, standing in between the women getting into the clinic



PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

Jaz Brisack was recently named the university’s 26th and first female Rhodes Scholar.

and the protesters screaming at them that they’re going to hell,” Brisack said. “That makes all of the work seem tangible and meaningful.”

Brisack grew up in a family of “conservative Democrats.” She developed an interest in politics and activism at a young age.

“When I was three years old, my mom lifted me up so I could push the button to vote for Al Gore for president,” Brisack said. “I was writing protest letters about the Iraq War at four or five because we had a neighbor who was a soldier. I didn’t want him getting killed, and so I think I came about it pretty honestly.”

The university has undergone major changes throughout

Brisack’s time here, including the removal of the Mississippi state flag in October 2015 during her freshman year.

She said the campus is going through a lot of convulsions, similarly to the rest of the country, and is in a transition period as a result of “incredible progress” when the flag came down that has resulted in “some of the furthest right elements gaining power” as backlash.

She said the state flag coming down and Dan Jones being chancellor were “real milestones” that were immediately undone with the presence of the Our State Flag Foundation and the appointment of Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter.

“I think that the university is

really at a crossroads where they can choose to keep catering to the most conservative elements in the state or they can actually embrace progress and represent all Mississippians,” Brisack said.

There are several opportunities for continued progress on campus right now, Brisack said, including taking the Confederate statue down, making the admissions process more representative of the minority population in the state, making sure financial aid reaches students who need it most and appointing a progressive and representative chancellor, since there has never been an African-American or female chancellor at Ole Miss.

In April, Brisack received

another prestigious scholarship when she was named the university’s 15th Harry S. Truman Scholar — one of 59 students chosen from a pool of 750 who applied across the nation.

Dolan said Brisack uses her social and intellectual gifts to connect students with peers and community leaders to benefit all parties.

“This is a special place, and each year I am astounded at the talent and the quality of people who attend the university and the faculty and staff who make it successful,” Dolan said. “Jaz was challenged along the way, and those challenges helped make her the person who impressed the Rhodes committee.”

As a Rhodes Scholar, Brisack is tentatively planning to study political theory at the University of Oxford in England. She’s excited to meet the full class of Rhodes Scholars, spend time traveling and understand how labor issues affect Europeans so she can bring those lessons back to Mississippi.

“I want to be a labor organizer in Mississippi,” Brisack said. “I want to come back and make sure that I can help workers figure out that they do have power but only when they organize collectively.”

Brisack said what she has valued most at Ole Miss has been mentoring other students to become young leaders.

“I think I’ve been able to help them realize their own ability to make a difference,” Brisack said. “And so anytime that I can help other folks empower themselves, that’s been my greatest achievement.”

Hyde-Smith defeats Espy in runoff Senate election

TAYLOR VANCE

THEDMNEWS@GMAIL.COM

Cindy Hyde-Smith won the last remaining U.S. Senate seat in a special runoff election by defeating Mike Espy on Nov. 27 with 55 percent of the vote.

Hyde-Smith, who was appointed as interim senator in March by Gov. Phil Bryant after Thad Cochran’s retirement, managed to survive weeks of national scrutiny after a video surfaced in which she said if a supporter invited her to a “public hanging,” she would “be on the front row.”

The controversy drew President Donald Trump to the state, where he held two different rallies the day before the election for Hyde-Smith in Tupelo and Biloxi and said he knew “where her heart is, and her heart is good.”

“Congratulations to Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith on your big WIN in the Great State of Mississippi. We are all very proud of you!” Trump tweeted.

In Lafayette County, voter turnout was at 44 percent, with Hyde-Smith receiving 50 percent of the vote and Espy receiving 48 percent of the vote.

Melissa Scallan, communications director for the Hyde-



PHOTO COURTESY: ROGELIO V. SOLIS | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Republican U.S. Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith celebrates her runoff win over Democrat Mike Espy in Jackson on Tuesday. Hyde-Smith will now serve the final two years of retired Republican Sen. Thad Cochran’s six year term.

Smith campaign, said that the campaign is very excited and the results show that “Mississippians turned out in force.”

“(Mississippi voters) did not believe the stuff that people were saying about her,” Scallan said. “They know she’s going to represent them in Washington.”

Scallan declined to go into detail about how Hyde-Smith’s comments played a part in the election results.

“We’re not talking about that. That’s in the past,” Scallan said. “She made her apologies for that. We’re looking forward towards the future.”

Mike Espy, a former U.S. Congressman and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture under President Bill Clinton, sought to deliver an upset in a heavily conservative state and become the state’s first black U.S. Senator since Reconstruction. His hopes were bolstered by

Hyde-Smith’s “public hanging” comments, but he ultimately lost.

He also faced scrutiny for accepting \$725,000 as part of a lobbying contract from an Ivory Coast dictator currently on trial for crimes against humanity.

The Espy campaign declined to comment on Tuesday night, but released a tweet saying they were proud of the campaign even though the loss was “not the result” they were hoping for.

“Make no mistake — tonight is the beginning, not the end,” Espy tweeted. “When this many people show up, stand up and speak up, it is not a loss. It is a moment. It is a movement. And we are not going to stop moving our state forward just because of one election. I look forward to finding new ways to do just that.”

Austin Barbour, a Republican strategist and nephew to former Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, said Mississippi voters responded to Trump’s rallies, which impacted rural areas throughout the state.

“Cindy Hyde-Smith was a Republican, and Mike Espy was a Democrat. And that still means a lot in Mississippi when it comes down to certain issues,” Barbour said.

Cristen Hemmins, chair of the Lafayette County Democratic

party, said she is disappointed and embarrassed that Mississippi chose to elect Hyde-Smith.

“She’s proven that she doesn’t speak for most Mississippians and can’t really represent all of us. And it makes the state, quite frankly, look backwards, as most people already think of us,” Hemmins said.

Despite the results, Hemmins said she has a lot of hope for the state and the county.

“No one thought this race would be close,” Hemmins said. “The fact that the president had to come down and do two campaign stops for an incumbent Republican says a lot.”

Brad Mayo, chairman of the Lafayette County Republican party, said he is glad the election is over because it feels like “D.C. politics came down to Mississippi.”

“This election was just, sort of, to verify or not verify (Hyde-Smith’s) appointment by the Governor,” Mayo said.

Hyde-Smith’s election brings relief to the Republican party by bringing the Republican majority to 53-47

Jordan Holman and Grace Marion contributed reporting to this article.

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CHANCELLOR

continued from page 1

different, and the challenges in finding the university's next chancellor appear to be a new kind of beast.

HOW ARE THEY DIFFERENT?

Dan Jones' letter announcing his departure from the Lyceum sounds more critical than the farewell letter released by Jeffrey Vitter on Nov. 13.

Vitter's expression of surrender and acceptance clashes with Jones' sentiments of defeat by and disappointment with the IHL's decision not to renew his contract.

In his Nov. 13 farewell letter, Vitter wrote that "the time is right for someone new to take the helm."

Vitter will resign in January and take a faculty position in the School of Engineering, a return to his foundation in computer science.

"There is no more important role on a university campus than as a faculty member," Vitter said in an IHL press release.

Jones felt differently about his departure, and the former chancellor made sure to let the student body know where he stood. He expressed sadness and referenced his unwillingness to conform to the state government's will.

"I very much wanted to continue to serve for another four-year term, and I am disappointed that will not happen," Jones wrote before rejecting claims that his departure was a result of health concerns. He began treatment for lymphoma in November 2014 at the university's medical center.

In 2015, the IHL faced the challenge of replacing a well-loved chancellor who



FILE PHOTO: CADY HERRING

Pearce Crosland presents an ASB resolution during a rally to support former Chancellor Dan Jones in the Circle on March 25, 2015.

did not want to go. The board and university are now approaching a more modern challenge in finding a candidate who can bring balance to a university community looking for stability.

WHAT MAKES A CHANCELLOR?

Months into the 2015 search process, the state Institutions of Higher Learning surveyed Ole Miss community members on what mattered to them in the search for their next chancellor. The IHL heard from 1,903 community members, ranging from prospective students to retired staff members, about the university's strengths, challenges it faced and the qualities sought in a new chancellor in Sept. 2015.

To those who responded, money was a major concern.

The poll showed that 70 percent of the Ole Miss community members

surveyed were concerned with declining state appropriations. Fifty percent of respondents said the university was challenged by a "lack of infrastructure to support growth," and 45 percent were concerned with faculty compensation.

If the IHL based even a small portion of its selection process on the results from that poll, the board would likely have been keen to seek out a chancellor who could bring in some much needed funding. However, Vitter seemed to struggle with increasing access to state-appropriated money during his time here.

Last spring, Vitter joined the seven other university presidents from the IHL system in lobbying the state legislature for increased higher education funding. The IHL had lost more than \$107 million in state-appropriated funding since 2016 at the start of the 2018

fiscal year.

Vitter did lead the university into new territories of research funding, and fiscal year 2018 saw a 23 percent increase in external research funding on the Oxford campus.

Of the nearly 2,000 Ole

community that feels that the university has lost sight of the values of free speech and academic freedom. The group came together months before Chancellor Vitter announced his resignation in response to what they see as an increas-

“The next chancellor, as every chancellor has had, will have this important dance of moving the university forward to be fully in this century.”

The Rev. Gail Stratton
Former UM biology professor

Miss-affiliated subjects surveyed during the 2015 chancellor search, 70 percent identified themselves as alumni. Today, some Ole Miss alumni have identified cracks in the university's foundation beyond its finances.

"I'm mostly concerned about our drop in enrollment," said Hayes Dent, who graduated from the university in 1989. "At a time when universities are kind of blowing and going, I'm a little bit concerned about those numbers that I see."

Between fall 2003 and fall 2013, enrollment on the Oxford campus climbed from 12,950 to 18,427. Since then, the student body's growth has stalled out. Enrollment on the Oxford campus has decreased between fall 2014 and fall 2018, and freshman enrollment across all University of Mississippi campuses declined 6.5 percent from fall 2017 to fall 2018.

"Mainly it's this situation around a drop in enrollment, which, of course, gets the financials of the school messed up," Dent said.

Dent is the founder of Stand Fast Ole Miss, a group representing a faction of the Ole Miss

ingly reactionary campus environment.

"I'm also concerned that people who might be conservatives are not particularly welcome on Ole Miss' campus right now," Dent said. "That's just a personal opinion. That's just how I feel about what I see."

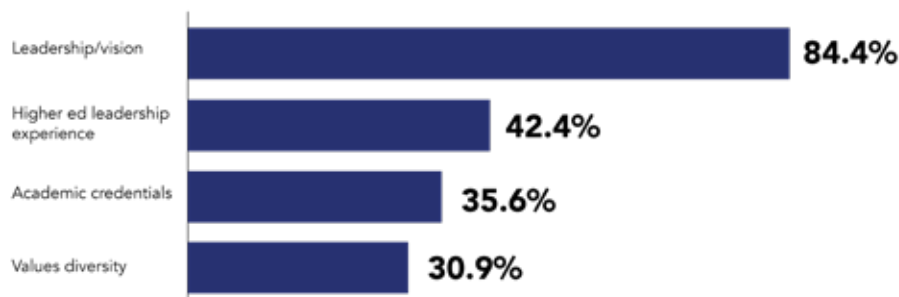
Dent said he hopes to see Ole Miss reposition itself similarly to how other schools rooted in the South, such as the University of Alabama or the University of Georgia, have done in years past. He said the university could benefit from focusing its efforts away from analyzing its past in favor of building a future like those schools have.

"It seems as if Ole Miss is constantly mired in focusing on the past and contextualizing everything, and what we ought to focus on as a university is the future," Dent said. "We ought to focus on what role the university can play in the development of Mississippi, in its health and economy."

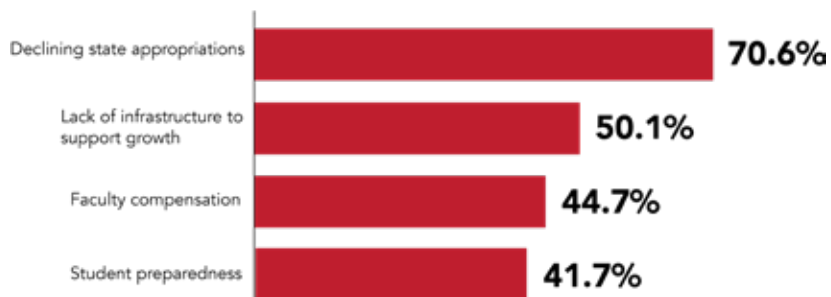
Stratton said much of the university's growth this decade can be attributed to a focus on moving forward and "shedding of some of the Confederate symbols." "There were important

The state Institutions of Higher Learning surveyed 1,903 Ole Miss community members about what mattered to them during the 2015 chancellor search. The board released the results of that survey in September 2015. Below are the top four responses to a pair of questions from that poll.

What attributes should we seek in candidates to be our next Chancellor?



What are the challenges facing the institution?





FILE PHOTO: MARLEE CRAWFORD

Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter speaks about the university budget and his request to the state for more funding the Lyceum earlier this year.

steps of moving forward, and I truly think that as that happened the university became more and more attractive to more and more students and more and more funders,” Stratton said.

Stratton’s time at the university was one of rapid growth and infrastructural improvements, down to the sidewalks and buildings on campus. She remembers the university taking strides to improve its appearance, both conceptual and physical.

“(When I arrived) it looked like it hadn’t changed for about 30 years,” she said. “Now there are so many new buildings, the Ford Center and the expansion of the stadium.”

An evolving campus like that of today’s Ole Miss will likely continue to find itself stepping into new territory while hoping to hold on to the values that made the university what it is.

“The next chancellor, as every chancellor has had, will have this important dance of moving the university forward to be fully in this century,” Stratton said.

A STATE-RUN SEARCH

Twelve IHL board trustees appointed by Gov. Phil Bryant hold near-total control over the selection of the university’s next chancellor. During the hiring process, the board has the ability to seek input from a Campus Search Advisory Committee made up of Ole Miss community members, but that committee’s direct involvement is at the discretion of the IHL board.

“I think the feeling around the last search was that there was not that much transparency, and there was a feeling that the university community did not have enough input,” Stratton said.

The search process begins when the IHL board forms

a Board Search Committee made up of trustees and selects a commissioner from amongst themselves to lead that committee. If that committee declines to use an expedited process to select a known candidate, the search process opens to applicants.

In 2015, the IHL Board Search Committee partnered with a consulting firm based out of Dallas to find a chancellor for Ole Miss. Then Board President Alan Perry worked with the firm to present candidates to the Campus Search Advisory Committee, but said IHL trustees’ opinions could differ from the campus committee’s.

“We have a lot of information through our consultant that the Campus Search Advisory Committee doesn’t necessarily have,” Perry told the Associated Press in October 2015.

Per the IHL’s bylaws, the Campus Search Advisory Committee reviews all applicants received before an advertised date, and its members are required to individually and confidentially submit recommendations and votes for five candidates. The IHL board reviews these votes and determines which candidates will be interviewed. After two rounds of interviews, the board will select a preferred candidate to visit campus and interview with various groups affiliated with Ole Miss.

The last Campus Search Advisory Committee consisted of 34 representatives of the Ole Miss community. The majority of members were alumni, among other affiliations, including then Mayor Pat Patterson.

Oxford’s current Mayor Robyn Tannehill is also an alumna of the university and will likely be included on this year’s Campus Search Advisory Committee. She was not involved in the search process in 2015.

Tannehill said she hopes the IHL will select a chancellor who understands the unique relationship between the city and the university.

“I do hope that the search committee places a high priority on seeking a leader who understands the importance of building community,” Tannehill said.

The IHL board will spend the next months navigating a field of applicants tinted by an array of often contrasting interests in who will be the next chancellor of Ole Miss. Regardless of their opinions of Chancellor Vitter, people in the university community want to see someone bold step into the Lyceum this year.

“Somebody who’s tough as nails...,” Stratton said. “A very skilled negotiator, a communicator who is committed to moving forward.”

Dent said in founding Stand Fast Ole Miss, he wants to start a conversation about building upon already positive aspects of the university.

“The ultimate goal of this group is to convince our College Board to name a Chancellor for Ole Miss who will not only pay lip service to these values (of free speech and academic freedom) but has a proven track record in his or her professional life that demonstrates a deep belief and understanding of these concepts,” Dent wrote on Nov. 9.

Regardless of who fills the role, the next chancellor of Ole Miss will have to earn the community’s trust before beginning to balance its many wants and needs.

“These are hard conversations, and those hard conversations take time,” Stratton said. “Through building relationships, learning to trust, learning to hear about different experiences and sitting with that discomfort.”

Policy dictates that the IHL Board holds control over the majority of the hiring process and can often limit the involvement of university entities. Here’s what the board’s current bylaws say the search process should look like.

IHL Board President will form a Board Search Committee and select its Commissioner

This Board Search Committee may interview and vote on “known” candidates they are familiar with in an expedited process.

If no Preferred Candidate is chosen through the expedited process, the Commissioner will recommend a search consultant to the Board members.

The Commissioner will propose a list of Campus Search Advisory Committee members

Board members have 48 hours to voice concerns with this list.

The recruitment process and candidate screenings will begin

The CSAC will review all applicants received before a specified date and members will individually submit recommendations

The Board will decide which candidates to interview

The Board may at any point add a candidate to this pool of applicants and will determine whether or not to have the CSAC review any of these additional candidates

The CSAC will nominate members to serve on the Interview Search Advisory Committee

The Board will determine the ISAC’s role in the rest of the search process

The CSAC will nominate members to serve on the Interview Search Advisory Committee

First Interviews

The Board Search Committee and Commissioner will conduct First Interviews

If the ISAC is allowed to assist, its members will “independently and confidentially” write comments about each candidate’s interview

The search consultant or Commissioner will run a background check on any candidates interviewed in this first round

Second Interviews

The Board Search Committee determines who to interview for the second round

The Board Search Committee and Commissioner will conduct Second Interviews and again determine the ISAC’s involvement

The Board may conduct additional interviews and will determine whether or not and to what extent other groups will meet with candidates

Preferred Candidate and on-campus interviews

The Board Search Committee, Commissioner and IHL Board of Trustees will select a Preferred Candidate

The Preferred Candidate will spend a day on campus interviewing with various groups who will provide feedback to the Board of Trustees

Decision

The Board of Trustees will review feedback from on-campus interviews and will vote to either name the Preferred Candidate as the university’s chancellor or to continue the search process.

The Daily Mississippian

@thedm_news

Which one of the following attributes should be most important in the state education board’s search for the University of Mississippi’s next chancellor?

30% Personal connection to UM

22% Fundraising

27% Focusing on diverse campus

21% Experience in academia

822 votes - Final Results

At the Lyric, it's about 'More Than Music'

Inspired by personal connections, local concert to benefit American Foundation for Suicide Prevention



PHOTO COURTESY: LUCILE HEALY

The Busty Petites perform a show in October at Four Quarter in Little Rock.

ABBY PEREZ

THEDMFEATURES@GMAIL.COM

When Tuscaloosa-based jam band CBDB and Oxford's own Busty Petites play at The Lyric on Friday, their concert will be about "More Than Music." The event's organizers and musicians, many of whom have been affected by the suicides of loved ones, said they are glad people will be able to raise awareness about and money for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Katie Kaczmarz, The Lyric's marketing manager, said the event is not only to raise money for the foundation but also to "throw a party that celebrates life" and let people know they are not alone. Kaczmarz lost a good friend last year to suicide, which is a big reason why she wanted to host this event.

"It was a friendship that I had my freshman year, and we had always

also said this is an important topic to talk about and has been spreading the word about this event. In 2017, Walley's boyfriend of two years died by suicide.

"He was really involved in the community ... extremely smart, straight-A student, absolutely incredible, and it came as a big shock to everyone," Walley said. "It shows that (suicide) can affect everyone, even the people that seem the most successful."

With the help of sponsors, including local businesses and Greek organizations, Kaczmarz was able to cover the venue's costs. She was also able to raise more money, which means all the ticket sales will be going straight to the foundation.

Kaczmarz said she wanted to find a way to bring music into this event and unite people so the community can start a conversation about promoting a positive mental health culture.

"On top of people that we've lost, I know so many people who struggle with mental health issues and don't talk about it or don't get professional help," Kaczmarz said. "It's really scary to me, the state of our community and (the state) our world is in when it comes to mental health and thinking about suicide."

During the summer, Kaczmarz booked CBDB and the Busty Petites for the fundraiser. She said that CBDB is an uplifting, happy, funk rock band that college students and adults in the community alike can enjoy.

Kaczmarz said the Busty Petites are very passionate about suicide prevention. When she was putting the event together, she thought about them because they have played benefit concerts like this in the past.

"I'm really happy to have (the Busty Petites) because they are really all for the cause and that is another huge reason why they wanted to play,"

“I think it's going to be a really beautiful, cathartic experience for a lot of those families (affected by suicide) who are still to this day going through that grief.”

Hailey Walley
Lyric intern and Ole Miss senior

stayed in touch," Kaczmarz said. "He had always been a friend, and it's weird to see (him gone). ... I wanted to use my position (at The Lyric) to help do something for everybody who is experiencing these losses because our community is struggling with all of this happening in the past year and I wanted to do something."

She said a big reason why she helped organize the event is because all proceeds will be going toward suicide prevention.

Kaczmarz isn't the only employee at The Lyric with personal connections to the charity.

Hailey Walley, an intern at The Lyric and senior anthropology major,



PHOTO CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

Hailey Walley is an intern at The Lyric.

Kaczmarz said.

The Busty Petites' drummer Hall Hastings said mental health and suicide prevention are close to the band members because four of their fraternity brothers were victims of suicide in recent years.

"I don't think there are many people talking about suicide awareness," Hastings said.

However, Hastings said that if people were able to talk about suicide on a bigger scale three years ago, then maybe some of the things that have occurred wouldn't have happened.

"We want as many people in the community to be involved because that is the only way to (prevent suicides) and the only way to not lose more lives from our community to suicide," Hastings said.

Like Kaczmarz, Hastings said the band wants to raise as much awareness as it can and bring the Oxford community together.

"If we can do something that everyone enjoys doing and also put that kind of influence on (mental health awareness), we just love to be able to do that," Hastings said.

Walley echoed Hastings and said she loves that people are going to come out to this event and bring more awareness to suicide prevention and mental health.

"I think it's going to be a really beautiful, cathartic experience for a lot of those families (affected by suicide) who are still to this day going through that grief," she said.

Mumford & Sons branches out with new album 'Delta'

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After a three-year absence from the charts, Mumford & Sons has re-established themselves as the kings of indie-pop with their fourth album "Delta" which earned them their third No. 1 album. With the album's lack of foot-stomping folk songs and unplugged ballads, it seems that the bearded, banjo-soaked acoustics we fell in love with are dead, but they have introduced a suitable heir that keeps loyal fans coming back.

With "Delta," Mumford & Sons has successfully shifted its sound with the use of keyboards, steel guitars and echo effects. Despite the change, we still get the voice of lead singer Marcus Mumford, whose vocals could transfer into just about any genre the quartet chooses to tackle.

The song "42" is a strong beginning to the album. It's vocal-driven, and the layered chords are something that the band has always done well. The long, throat-ripping refrains from Mumford give this track the potential to be a highlight of any live performance. "42" is a quintessential Mumford at its finest.

The standout track on "Delta" is "If I Say," a post-breakup ballad



PHOTO COURTESY: ITUNES

that narrates how no one truly wins when a relationship falls apart. With its opening organ chords, a full string arrangement and a galloping rhythm, Mumford & Sons creates a sound that becomes picturesque and practically creates a cinematic scene.

Where "If I Say" succeeds, "Wild Heart" struggles. It's more of a bare-bones track, and its vintage style doesn't fit with the more modern sound the band is trying to convey in the rest of the album. It doesn't help that "Wild Heart" falls right after "If I Say," so it feels like the floor drops out from underneath our feet while we're still buzzing from the breakup ballad.

The album's other tracks are hit-or-miss. Some feel like they are just filler tracks — half of

"Dark Visible" is spoken word — but others could be considered some of Mumford & Sons' strongest works. Overall, the band has matured since "Little Lion Man," and its first album "Babel" ushered in a new wave of indie music, but deep down, we're still left looking for more of the Mumford-esque folk-rock we fell in love with.

Despite the more serious tone that "Delta" brings to Mumford & Sons' repertoire, the album showcases the multifaceted talent that the group brings to indie music. The lush orchestral arrangements, layered vocals and broad range of sound prove that the quartet is fully capable of creating quality content and smashing any expectations.

PLAYLIST OF THE WEEK:

MUMFORD AND SONS

1	If I Say Mumford & Sons	4:29
2	42 Mumford & Sons	4:00
3	I Will Wait Mumford & Sons	4:36
4	Someone Saved My Life To... Elton John	6:45
5	Ditmas Mumford & Sons	3:38
6	The Cave Jake Weber	2:43

If you still haven't gotten enough Mumford and Sons, check out the DM's Spotify playlist about Mumford and Sons and visit thedmonline.com to read more about some of the songs. Put together by Adam Dunnells, the playlist includes original songs by Mumford and Sons, songs they've covered and other artists' covers of their music.

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Rebel football season ends in fiery press conference

FLINT CHRISTIAN
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Matt Luke addressed the Ole Miss fan base in a press conference on Monday afternoon, opening with a passionate statement on the future of the program. "We will win here," Luke said. "Is it going to be easy? No. Is it going to take a lot of hard work? Absolutely. But for the first time since 2014, I can walk into a living room and not talk about bowl bans or sanctions. I can sell everything that's great about Ole Miss. And everybody that's in this room and everybody I'm talking to knows what makes Ole Miss special, and that's family."

Luke faces many important decisions in the upcoming months. With the announcement of the firing of former defensive coordinator Wesley McGriff on Friday, Luke will move forward



FILE PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

Wide receiver Braylon Sanders narrowly misses a catch during the season home opener versus Southern Illinois in September. Ole Miss beat the Salukis 76-41.

with someone of his choice in the position next year.

"This is the Southeastern

Conference, and you have to have somebody that can stand in front of a room and command the defense," Luke said. "He can capture their hearts and their minds, but also is schematically very, very competent."

Recruiting has been a main focus for Luke and his staff since the Rebels' season ended Thursday evening. With the coming season serving as the first during Luke's tenure that Ole Miss will not face any NCAA sanctions, the staff hopes to take advantage of the opportunity this recruiting season provides.

"(Our recruiting plan is) just to sell our message and the family atmosphere. ... I'm really excited (about) the direction this is going," Luke said. "We don't have long until the early signing period, and that's going to be huge for us."

The early signing period for high school football players runs from Dec. 19 to Dec. 21, and Luke wants to sign as many players as possible to take advantage of every scholarship available to the football program.

Luke also discussed the many underclassmen who have professional prospects and the

possibility of them declaring for the NFL Draft in the coming weeks.

"These are young men that

are going to be Ole Miss Rebels for life, and we want them to do what's best for them and their families," Luke said. "I met with every single underclassman and their families on Friday after the game. We sat down, we went through all the pros and cons and just made sure they had all the information."

Luke addressed rumors about offensive coordinator Phil Longo's future. Longo has reportedly been a potential candidate for other head coaching positions.

"When you have back-to-back top-10 offenses, the coordinators are going to get looks, and he is getting looks," Luke said.

In the event Longo stays at Ole Miss, Luke expressed confidence in his future in Oxford.

"I think we're really good on offense. We had two top-10 offenses. Are there things we have to fix in the red zone? Absolutely," Luke said. "But again, we can get that fixed."

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SOLUTION TO 11.26.2018 PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Consecrated
- 5 Uses a sieve
- 10 Blue dye source
- 14 Buffalo's lake
- 15 Assert
- 16 Country singer McEntire
- 17 Staying power
- 18 Japanese dog
- 19 Like some dorms
- 20 That's gotta hurt!
- 21 Coins of small denomination
- 23 Woman's shoe style
- 25 Barely managed, with "out"
- 26 Sharpening
- 29 Labyrinthine
- 33 Loose outer garment
- 35 Really bother
- 37 "Hold On Tight" group
- 38 Rain cats and dogs
- 39 Take ___ at (try)
- 40 Roasting rod
- 41 Pompous sort
- 42 Belgian painter James
- 43 Role for Clark
- 44 Oozed
- 46 District
- 48 Hgt.
- 50 Blush

DOWN

- 1 Spartan serf
- 2 Cream-filled cookies
- 3 Tower for the guidance of mariners
- 4 Affirmative answer
- 5 Shrimp dish
- 6 Columnist Chase
- 7 Go belly up
- 8 Championship
- 9 Squarely
- 10 Area with coin-operated games
- 11 Inert gas
- 12 ___ to differ
- 13 Stow, as cargo
- 21 Went under
- 22 Warmth
- 24 Jungle warning
- 27 Capone's nemesis
- 28 University of Florida player
- 30 Reliable
- 31 Touched down
- 32 Trent of the Senate
- 33 Tax experts: Abbr.
- 34 Fail to win
- 36 Shipping deduction
- 39 Hans Christian
- 40 Slipper swimmers
- 43 Cambodian currency
- 45 Writing instrument
- 47 Like an infamous knoll?
- 49 Worth
- 51 Author Zola
- 52 Short letters
- 53 Ski lift
- 54 Red flower
- 55 Hammett hound
- 56 Concern
- 57 Apple player
- 61 Invoice abbr.

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

HOW TO PLAY

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

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

NOVICE

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

Meet Bernard Kuria:

Former Ole Miss Cross Country star turned Oxford business owner

JUSTIN DIAL

THEDMSPORTS@GMAIL.COM



PHOTO: DEVNA BOSE

Bernard Kuria displays a photo from his days as an All-SEC cross country runner at Ole Miss.

Just off the Oxford Square on 11th Street are two businesses owned by a former All-SEC cross country runner at Ole Miss.

He spends his day going back and forth between his businesses, Copy Time and Safari Wines and Spirits, putting up a sign that reads, “Ask for Bernard next door” on the door of whichever business he is absent from. He may be found sitting behind the counter at Copy Time waiting for customers or rearranging liquor bottles at Safari. Aside from a few student “helpers,” he runs the stores almost solely on his own.

This is the life of Bernard Kuria, former Ole Miss cross country star turned Oxford business owner. Kuria graduated from Ole Miss in 1998 with a marketing degree followed by a Masters in Business Administration in 2000. However, before he left Ole Miss, he made sure to leave his mark on both the university and the cross country program.

Kuria was born in Kiambu County, Kenya. On an average day during his childhood, Kuria would wake up around 6 a.m. This way he would have enough time to milk the cows, take the milk to the cooperative farmers about a mile away to sell, then go back home to eat breakfast before school at 7:30 a.m.

“School was) about two to three miles from home. We all ran to school. We couldn’t be late, so if you find yourself running late you just have to run,” Kuria said. “Basically, you run and make sure you’re on time because at that time there was corporal punishment where a teach-

er can whoop you for being late, so you’re trying by all means not to be late.”

Kuria didn’t see running as a nuisance — he simply viewed it as a way of life. He recalls seeing his brothers running for school teams and his sisters doing long and high jumps.

“We were all athletes,” Kuria said. “Me being the youngest, I’m looking up to them, and it’s one of those things that if your big brothers and sisters are doing it, you naturally want to do it.”

Kuria would eventually find himself at a provincial school in Kenya where he competed as a long distance runner. This is where he met a coach by the name of John Webb who would help Kuria earn a scholarship to the University of Florida.

“Somebody approached me and told me, ‘Hey, there’s this coach that helps students who are good runners to go to America,’” Kuria said. “I just wrote a letter introducing myself, and he happened to have been in the same school that I was.”

Webb told Kuria that if he received a university admission, he would help him get to America.

“That was my cue,” Kuria said. “I guess it was his calling to help students transition from Kenya to America.”

Kuria arrived in Gainesville, Florida, for his freshman year in 1995 on an athletics scholarship.

However, shortly after arriving on campus, Kuria realized something wasn’t right.

He wasn’t happy at his new home.

“It was real tough at first,” Kuria said. “A new person, new kid, super homesick, too much expectation. I (didn’t) know anybody at all, zero, no other Kenyan there. It was hard for me to transition from the Kenyan education system to this system. First of all, there’s a lot of computer work, which I never saw a computer until I got there.”

On the other hand, Kuria’s running was at an all-time high during his freshman year at Florida.

“It was good because (I was) coming from a high altitude elevation, like 8,000-10,000 feet, to almost like 300 feet above sea level. My lung capacity was great,” Kuria said. “I was really enjoying running, and (I was) winning a lot. That was great, but every time I went by to my room it was just sad.”

That year, Kuria was the No. 1 overall Kenyan long-distance runner and the No. 16 runner in the United States. Subsequently, he was selected to represent Kenya in the 1995 Universiade, or World Univer-

sity Games, in Fukuoka, Japan.

Unfortunately for Kuria, he would never make the trip to Japan for the games. According to Kuria, his coach at Florida denied him the opportunity to compete at the Universiade in 1995.

“He told me, ‘I’m not going to pay for your flight and food and everything to go there only (for you) to wear a Kenyan jersey and not a Florida jersey,’” Kuria said. “To me, he denied me a lot.”

He skipped the team’s trip to Starkville for the SEC Championships, effectively ending his Gator career in the process. After visiting Ole Miss that December, Kuria decided Oxford would be his next destination.

Fortunately, a former coach of Kuria’s was leaving Florida. Coach Joe Walker took a job to be Ole Miss’ cross country coach, which played a big role in Kuria’s decision.

“He was a great runner and a fun guy to coach,” Walker said. “I’ve been able to maintain a relationship with him since that time. He and I are no longer coach and athlete, we’re friends, and I’ve been very proud of him.”

Kuria excelled at Ole Miss. He broke the school record for the best 10k time in his first season as a Rebel with a time of 29:07:38, which still stands today. Kuria was also named an All-SEC performer in 1996.

After redshirting for a year during the fall of ’96 and spring of ’97, he came back and earned yet another All-SEC selection in the fall of 1997. He finished No. 4 in the South Regional Championships that year.

Kuria admits that, for one reason or another, his running took a hit in the ’98 season. He wasn’t named All-SEC, but something special happened at the SEC Championship on Florida’s campus that year.

“So (my mother) is here in April right before the championship, and (Ole Miss) extended her tickets to accompany me,” he said. “It was special for her as she actually got to sit in the stands and see me compete for the first time (ever).”

Following a spectacular running career, Kuria enrolled in the MBA program at Ole Miss. He landed an internship with a research-based start-up called FNC. Upon his graduation, FNC hired him to be a researcher, and he would stay until 2003.

“So I’m going to Copy Time. It’s like a cyber cafe with my resume. I’m going there basically to fax and to scan and to apply (for jobs),” Kuria said. “This guy who owned it at the time is like, ‘You know, I can sell this business to you.’”

This piqued Kuria’s interest.

He would eventually take a gamble on the business by essentially risking his life savings to acquire it.

“It was either going to work, or I’m done,” Kuria said. “There was no plan B — I had to do it all.”

The acquisition eventually paid off. After a few years of ups and downs at Copy Time, Kuria noticed one Saturday that people were parking at his store before making their way to the Grove on Saturdays. This gave him a new business idea: to open a liquor store.

“When people come in and park there, they feel that there’s a liquor store. We don’t have to bring all this liquor,” Kuria said. “So basically I figured out a way to separate the space between Copy Time and open a little liquor store.”

It turned out to be another successful business move for Kuria — Safari Wine and Spirits recently celebrated its 10-year anniversary.

In the process, Kuria’s landlord Phil Bailey and Kuria have built both a good working and personal relationship.

“I usually go by (Copy Time or Safari) every afternoon to say hello,” Bailey said. “(He’s a) great guy. He’s become a good friend. He does what he says he’s going to do, very trustworthy and a good businessman.”

In Kuria’s more than 20 years in Oxford, he’s certainly made a name for himself in the Oxford and Ole Miss communities. He will be remembered not only as one of the most prolific runners in Rebel history but also as a successful businessman who has left his footprint on the Oxford business scene.

Davis' long road to Ole Miss helped prepare for Rebel job

GRIFFIN NEAL
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Cinderella story Middle Tennessee State University had just defeated final-four favorite Michigan State in the 2015 NCAA Tournament and was preparing for the most important game in program history against Syracuse when senior guard Perrin Buford walked into team film study one minute late.

Head coach Kermit Davis looked at his team leader and said, "You're not starting." Then he pointed at one of Buford's back-ups and told him that he was.

Some might consider the decision to sit a starter in a crucial NCAA Tournament game for a seemingly inconsequential blunder to be short-sighted — but not Davis, the new frontman of Ole Miss Basketball.

"We're gonna treat everybody the same," Davis said. "There are standards for our walk-ons, for our staff, for our players. Everyone's gotta be a part of this process and do their job. It's just who we are."

Accountability is a hallmark for Davis. Once one of the brightest young stars in his profession, Davis fell from grace in 1990 after recruiting violations vanquished his tenure at Texas A&M. In the three decades since, Davis has spent his life rectifying his image and building on the success he had as a burgeoning coach.



PHOTO: JUSTIN JOYNER

Men's basketball Head Coach Kermit Davis speaks at a press conference earlier this week.

"Every stop that I have made has made me who I am today," Davis said. "We're gonna learn from our struggles — they often determine our success. It made who I am, and it's made me a better coach."

Before Davis was enshrined as Ole Miss basketball's 19th head coach, before he won 25 games five times in seven seasons at Middle Tennessee State, before he was the youngest head coach in college basketball, he was an assistant at the University of Idaho. Tim Floyd gave him his first job in 1986.

Floyd, a Mississippi native

himself, wanted an assistant that he could trust.

"We needed to bring somebody in that we're comfortable with that can really coach," said Floyd. "I didn't want guys who were salesmen — I wanted guys who could really do it."

So Floyd made the call to Davis.

Davis grew up with a basketball surgically fastened to his hands. His father, Kermit Davis Sr., was a decorated basketball coach at Mississippi State University, where Kermit Davis Jr. would suit up to play and eventually serve as a

“Every stop that I have made has made me who I am today. We're gonna learn from our struggles — they often determine our success. It made who I am, and it's made me a better coach.”

Kermit Davis
Men's basketball head coach

graduate assistant.

"Kermit was destined to be great," Floyd said. "He had a better offensive mind than any of the coaches that had worked with me through the years."

Floyd noted that, even when Davis was a young assistant, his knowledge of both sides of the ball was exceptional. "The fact that he understood offense was a real rarity," Floyd said. He added that, even in his time coaching in the NBA, he found himself utilizing Davis' offensive principles, his zone offensive schemes and inbounds plays.

In 1988, Floyd left Idaho for New Orleans University, leaving a vacancy that Davis would fill. At the time of his hiring, he was the youngest Division 1 head coach at 28 years old. Davis turned a 19-11

He found temporary residence at Chipola State Junior College, Utah State, Idaho once again, and LSU, but landed safely in 2002 at Middle Tennessee State University where he'd coach for 15 years. In Murfreesboro, Davis resurrected himself; he once again became one of the most successful and respected head coaches in the nation.

Greg Gensing, an assistant under Davis for seven years at MTSU, believes that Davis is one of a kind.

"There are 351 Division 1 schools, and they'd all like to be successful," Gensing said. "But not many of them have a coach who is going to demand that level of accountability on a daily

SEE DAVIS PAGE 15

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DAVIS continued from page 14

basis, that's going to raise the bar like he does."

And it isn't just rhetoric. The decision to sit Buford in arguably the most monumental game in program history is evidence of this.

"The bottom line was, he had to coach those other guys next year. That act resonated throughout the locker room," Gensing said. "He felt like that's what he had to do, and he wanted to send a message."

From 2011 until he left in 2018, Davis attained a .638 winning percentage at MTSU, good for No. 13 in the country. He won 25 or more games in five seasons and reached the NCAA Tournament twice. In 2015, as a 15-seed, MTSU upset No. 2 Michigan State — a team predicted to be a Final Four favorite.

The victory lives on in college basketball lore, but it wasn't a fluke. After the game, MSU head coach Tom Izzo said, "We got beat by a better

team today. They were well coached, they ran good stuff. They just beat us."

Davis is considered one of the best tacticians in the sport. The 1-3-1 defense, a trademark of Davis' coaching philosophy, is a microcosm of how he runs his program. For each offensive move, Davis has a designated defensive counter. Everything about his schemes is methodical; his players know their roles and don't break from them.

"(Kermit's system) taught you how to play the game the right way," Shawn Jones said. "Everybody knows what was expected from them at their positions and spots on the floor. Playing that way really enhanced my basketball IQ."

Jones played under Davis at MTSU from 2010-2014, where he was named Conference USA Player of the Year in 2014. He's playing professionally in Israel but still stays in communication with Davis when he's stateside. Jones elected to play at MTSU because of who Davis is as a person.

"Coach Davis is big family guy," Jones said. "That was

a big thing for me because I was leaving my own family to go play somewhere, and the feeling of a family with the team really made me comfortable."

Davis has only been in Oxford since March, but in the few months that he's worn the red and blue he's made his presence felt.

He's visited with various organizations on campus, eaten lunch at sorority and fraternity houses, and overseen the return of the Square Jam dunk contest this October. It's all part of an effort to shepherd Ole Miss basketball back into relevance at a time when apathy surrounding the athletic department is rampant.

While positive public relations are necessary in building a brand, the only way to create excitement is by winning basketball games. In his first five games as head coach, Ole Miss is 3-2, including a promising victory over Baylor on national television.

Davis enters Oxford at a time when the SEC is perhaps the strongest it's ever been.



FILE PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

Predicted at SEC Media Days to finish last in the conference, this program will take time to resurrect. But Davis understands this.

"If anybody knows the

degree of difficulty of what he's undertaking, it's him," said former assistant Greg Gensing. "He doesn't have rose-colored glasses on. He knows it's going to take a whole lot of work."

Ole Miss gears up for midweek matchup with San Diego

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After a solid showing in the Emerald Coast Classic over Thanksgiving weekend, the Ole Miss men's basketball team will look to continue building momentum in a matchup with San Diego at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in The Pavilion.

The Rebels came out strong in their first big test of the season, knocking off Baylor 78-70 behind a monster game from junior guard Brein Tyree who dropped 28 points on the Bears in just 33 minutes.

"I really think it's going to be a good win come March. I think that team will keep getting better and better," said head coach Kermit Davis, who notched his first marquee win as the Rebels' head coach.

With the Baylor win, the Rebels moved to the championship game where they faced a Cincinnati team that is expected to contend for the AAC title this season. The Rebels were playing neck and neck with the Bearcats until they were caught on the wrong side of a 15-2 run in the last 10 minutes of the game, eventually falling 71-57.

"I think that we got a great experience from that game," said DeVontae Shuler, who scored his season-high 24 points in the loss to the Bearcats. "I feel like Cincinnati was an NCAA (tournament) team last year, so I feel like going against them we learned a lot from them being more aggressive on both ends of



FILE PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

Brian Halums dunks the ball over two Western Michigan defenders on November 10. Ole Miss won the game 90-64.

the court." The Rebels will have to put their performance this past weekend in the rearview mirror as they suit up against a veteran San Diego squad who will be flying into Oxford boasting a 5-1 record.

With the luxury of having 12 upperclassmen, San Diego will be rolling out a three-headed monster of seniors responsible for nearly 64 percent of their offense. Isaiah Pineiro, the 6-foot-7-inch redshirt senior forward, leads

the team in both points and rebounds, averaging 22 points and 8.7 rebounds per game in 2018. Senior guard Olin Carter III is second on the team in scoring, averaging just under 17 points per contest, while senior guard Isaiah Wright averages just more than 10 points per game, also leading the team in assists with 4.6 per game.

"Oh man, why'd we schedule that game?" Kermit Davis asked through seemingly nervous

laughter. "They've got four starters back from a team that won 20 games. They've already beaten Colorado. To me, I think they're the second best team in the WAC behind Gonzaga."

In order to get back on the winning track, the Rebels will need more out of senior guard Terence Davis, a preseason second-team All-SEC selection.

Davis, who is averaging 13.6 points per game, was shut out in 31 minutes by Cincinnati and had only seven points in the win against Baylor.

Kermit Davis is confident those two performances will not affect Terence Davis going forward.

"He's going to bounce back; he will get back going again," Kermit Davis said.

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WE POWER LIFE™

Emily Stroup remains a staple for Rebel volleyball

JAKE DAVIS

THEDMSPTS@GMAIL.COM



PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

Junior outside hitter Emily Stroup has received a spot on the 2018 All-SEC squad following the end of the 2018 volleyball season.

As she sits down for an interview, she looks oddly nervous and confident at the same time.

She is one of the best at what she does: scoring points. If she played football she'd be second in the country in touchdowns. If she played basketball she'd be second in scoring. If either of those happened on this campus, the person responsible would be swarmed by a crowd of rowdy autograph-seekers, but Emily Stroup is not.

That's the way she likes it. I ask her when she started playing volleyball, which catches her off guard. "Oh, this is about me?" Where others might seek the

spotlight and complain about their team's lack of success, Stroup instead focuses on what she can do to make the team better. Her mind is always set on how she can improve the team's chances at winning and, ultimately, to get to Ole Miss' first NCAA Tournament.

She has shattered school records and surged to the top of the leaderboards in nearly every attacking statistic. She finished second in the country in kills (583), second in points (639), third in attacks (1517) and top 10 in points and

kills per set. She has fifteen double-doubles, and was selected to the All-SEC team following the season.

Stroup, a native of Fargo, North Dakota, began playing volleyball at a young age, hitting the ball around in her backyard and outside of gyms while her older sisters played matches inside.

"I started playing volleyball competitively when I was 11 or 12, but my sisters had grown up playing volleyball," she said. "I've always grown up playing. I've been playing my entire life."

Stroup was a two-sport athlete at Fargo South High School, receiving offers to play both basketball and volleyball at the collegiate level. She was First Team All-State in volleyball from 2013-2014 and was named to the North Dakota State All-Tournament team in 2013 and 2014.

Ole Miss volleyball head coach Steven McRoberts knew that he had a strong player coming out of high school but says not even he realized the kind

of potential that Stroup possessed.

"I would be lying if I said I saw this much in her. We thought she

would be a very good player for our program, and I'm just really proud of her that she's developed the way that she has. Most of that is on her because she's put the work in," McRoberts said.

Teammates are quick to praise Stroup and speak highly of her skills both as a player and a leader in the locker room.

"Emily is a great leader. She leads mostly by example in what she does on and off the floor," junior defensive specialist Nicole Purcell said. "If we're

struggling with things, she's always communicating with us and trying to find ways to solve the problem and get better."

For a program with no history of success, having a player put together a season like Stroup's is worthy of celebration. Coaches are quick to praise Stroup for her hard work and dedication to the game.

"She's always one (who is) willing to come in and do extra work," McRoberts said. "She'll be one of the first ones in after our day off on Monday, saying 'Hey, can I get some extra reps in?'"

Associate head coach Ronaldo Pacheco, a former professional volleyball player from Brazil, said Stroup knows how to work through pressure.

"(Her work ethic) is amazing," Pacheco said. "It's not how much she works, it's the quality of her work and how she prepares mentally. That, I think, is most important."

Stroup received her first-ever weekly conference award earlier this season when she was named SEC Offensive Player of the Week. She was also named one of 13 standout players on teams outside the top 25 by NCAA.com.

Stroup's accomplishments do not end on the court. She is an accomplished student who has made both the Dean's Honor Roll and the Chancellor's Honor Roll multiple times as a communication sciences and disorders major.

"She really wants to do well in everything," sophomore setter Lauren Bars said. "I had a summer class with her this year, and I remember she got like two points off on a test and was so frustrated."

While she is not sure what sort of career she wants to pursue in the future, Stroup is enjoying the present and ensuring that she makes the best of every opportunity she is given.

"I know for sure that I want to go to graduate school," Stroup said. "I've been thinking a little bit about playing professionally, but I still need to figure all that out. I'm just looking forward, mostly, to my senior year and finishing strong there."

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