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The Daily Mississippian

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# MISSISSIPPIAN

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



## OLE MISS SWEEPS NO. 16 FLORIDA GATORS IN OXFORD

The Rebels came back to Swayze Field and swept the Gators over weekend after an embarrassing midweek loss to North Alabama. The Ole Miss offense was revitalized behind Grae Kessinger and the heart of the lineup.

SEE PAGE 5



## PRESS PLAY: KHALID COMES BACK WITH "FREE SPIRIT"

Last Friday, Khalid returned with his sophomore album "Free Spirit." An account of his transition to adulthood, the album features the highs and lows of new freedom from fresh relationships to fear of the future.

SEE PAGE 6

## Hidden hunger on campus

The Ole Miss Food Pantry serves members of the UM community on campus as national report shows students across the country struggle with hunger and nutrition



PHOTO: DANIEL PAYNE

Co-director of the Ole Miss Food Bank Shane Ferrero restocks the pantry.

### DANIEL PAYNE

THEDMNEWS@GMAIL.COM

The U.S. Government Accountability Office recently released its first report on hunger on college campuses near the end of last year, revealing the expansive problem of food insecurity among college students across the country.

University of Mississippi students are no exception, Shane Ferrero, co-director of the Ole Miss Food Bank, said. The food bank is a student-run organization created to fight hunger in the Ole Miss community, and it serves around 50 people per month.

The report suggests far more students need assistance, though.

Academic studies that were reviewed for the report estimate high levels of food insecurity, which is defined as limited or inconsistent access to adequate food, among university students. The report estimates that anywhere from 9% to over

50% of college students may be food insecure. Of the 31 studies reviewed, 22 estimate a food insecurity rate of over 30%. According to the report, not enough research has been done for the numbers to be generalized.

“Nobody really knew how big a problem this was. Quite frankly, it was stunning.”

Sara Goldrick-Rab  
Sociology Professor at Temple University

“Nobody really knew how big a problem this was,” Sara Goldrick-Rab, a researcher who has worked on many food insecurity stories, said. “Quite frankly, it was stunning.”

Goldrick-Rab said that the research team learned about the magnitude of the issue by listening to students. After years of research and learning to ask the right questions, she learned that food insecurity affects both lower-

and middle-class students, disproportionately affecting veterans, first-generation students, students from foster care and students who are parents. Students who appear to be getting the most financial aid are often the ones who need

the most nutritional assistance, she said.

The report also found that most students don't fit the mold of financial dependence. According to the research, 71% of college students are either financially independent from their parents, have one or more dependents, are single caregivers, do not have a traditional high school diploma, delayed college enrollment, are only enrolled part time or are

employed full time during the school year.

Almost 2 million of these at-risk students were potentially eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program but reported receiving no benefits. Because much of the same information is used to determine SNAP eligibility and financial eligibility through the FAFSA, some universities help students complete both forms at once.

Ole Miss does not have a program like this, according to the Office of Financial Aid. The primary way the university works to solve hunger is through the Ole Miss Food Bank.

The food bank serves students, faculty and staff, as well as their immediate families, by providing free, non-perishable food for a few hours every day except Saturday. The main concern of those who run the food bank, though, is

SEE HUNGER PAGE 3

## Judicial report details election errors

### TAYLOR VANCE

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Former Interim ASB Attorney General Anya Czerwinski made an “erroneous” ruling in disqualifying ASB vice presidential candidate Sarah Doty on Thursday night, according to a report released by Alex Crouch, the Associated Student Body judicial chair. The council overturned the attorney general’s office’s ruling and ordered a new election to be held April 9.

The Judicial Council removed Czerwinski and Deputy Attorney General of Elections Bennett Wilfong from the election process because of their involvement in Doty’s appeal process.

Austin Fiala, who won the uncontested election for attorney general last Tuesday, has been reinstated to the office and will preside over the secondary runoff between Doty and Charlotte Shackelford.

“Due to procedural concerns, the Judicial Council included in their ruling (that) Anya and Bennett would not be able to manage this upcoming election,” Fiala. “I was told shortly afterward, in order to run a fair election, someone was needed with experience.”

Czerwinski declined to comment on the Judicial Council’s ruling and referred all questions

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**COLUMN**

# Inequality stems from public school funding



**JONATHAN LOVELADY**  
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With scandals involving wealthy parents and their children clouding the news, there's a much more sinister issue that looms over us all. In our communities, near and far, property taxes have continuously disenfranchised millions of students in regard to equity.

In a nation where redlining and segregation were the status quo some 50 years ago, this is a problem. These consequences continue to affect tens of millions of people today.

The risk-based distribution of Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loans extremely disenfranchised minority communities. These loans severely affected millions all over America, uplifting "White America" and devaluing everyone else.

The historical precedence regarding the redlining that happened in this country, and still does on a de facto basis, started with the federal government's disbursement of FHA loans to veterans and their families along with the rise of suburbanization and white flight.

Over 91% of all students in the K-12 system attend public schools rather than private schools, and the funds these schools receive are heavily influenced by the legacy of redlining.

For many wealthy and upper-middle-class communities, this is not a problem because common terminology like "good schools," which

exacerbate these problems and cover them up at the same time. It should be completely unethical that schools can fund IB and AP programs and assist in the upkeep of schools, while districts such as Jackson Public School District lacked water pressure and schools in the Baltimore City Public School System lacked heat.

We see the effects today with countless parents being arrested and indicted for registering a child at a school district that's not their own in order for their children to have a chance at a better and better-funded school.

Where does this show up locally? In Mississippi public school data from 2016, funding per student was around \$8,702. Next door, Louisiana had around \$11,038 in funding. This state-level funding gap is atrocious even though the two states are next to each other and have a similar cost of living. This leaves us with lack of funding for property upkeep,

more student enrichment or pay increases for teachers and their support.

Ultimately you can't say things like, "Pull yourselves up by your bootstraps," the American motto, when the children's boots may not have soles because they have to use cardboard instead. Education can, and has been proven to, improve a child's outlook, but if that child is disenfranchised by the geography of where they were raised, then that should be seen as completely undemocratic. The African saying goes, "It takes a village to raise a child," but if we continue to segregate ourselves in forms of de facto segregation, how can we forge toward a more equitable society where everyone has a chance at the American dream — unless we intentionally don't want to?

*Jonathan Lovelady is a senior sociology and geology major from Los Angeles.*

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**HUNGER**  
*continued from page 1*

PHOTO: DANIEL PAYNE

reaching students in need. “I think that there’s a real problem because of the stigmas attached to it,” Kate Reinhardt, fundraising and event chair of the Ole Miss Food Bank, said. “We want them to feel like they’re welcome here.”

When the food bank began in 2012, it occupied open space on campus in Kinard Hall. Ferrero said that the space has been good to get the bank started, but expanding it or moving it closer to the heart of campus would help make it more convenient for students who are already fighting stigma.

Reinhardt said the focus is to “make sure everyone is taken care of and everyone is

The Ole Miss Food Bank is a student-run organization that fights hunger and food insecurity in the Ole Miss community.

full so they can focus on their academics.” Getting proper nutrition allows students to perform better academically and improves graduation rates, according to Goldrick-Rab’s research.

Though food banks help alleviate the problems of hunger on college campuses, many advocates want more efforts to resolve the national problem. “We will never have a way of food-pantrying our way to the end of this problem,” Samuel Chu, national organizer for Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger, said.

Chu explained that many students do not use all of the meals included in their meal

plans, and he suggested that these unused, prepaid credits could be used to feed students without stable food supplies on campus. The idea has been formalized in the organization Swipe Out Hunger, but there is not an Ole Miss chapter.

Students in many states, such as Massachusetts, lobbied their university and government leaders to implement changes, according to Goldrick-Rab. “Even while more people started to listen, many policymakers started questioning the facts,” she said. “It’s time for the government to work with college campuses to make sure that, when students have the need, they can get this support.”

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**SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION**

**Brendan Farrell Ryan**

B.A. in Chinese

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Directed by Henrietta Yang

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**JUDICIAL**  
*continued from page 1*

to Fiala. He said that he supported the Judicial Council’s ruling and that it was based on “nothing but fact.”

Czerwinski initially said Doty had violated election rules by not listing new campaign funds she used in Thursday’s runoff election on her expense form filed on Tuesday. Czerwinski held an emergency meeting to discuss the alleged violation without allowing Doty the opportunity to defend herself.

“I called (Doty), and I let her know that as of right now ... having new expenses would be a disqualification. I took it upon myself to let her know that,” Czerwinski said in the judicial report.

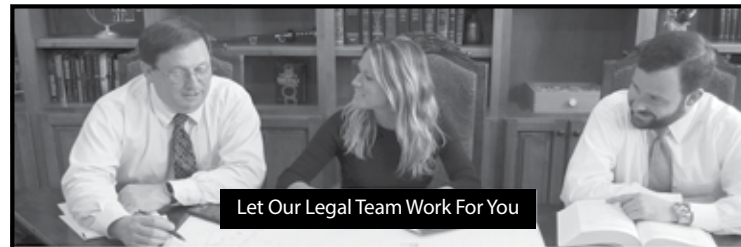
Crouch and the Judicial Council overturned this decision by determining that it was not possible for Doty to have filed her runoff expense on Tuesday, and therefore, she could not have committed the alleged violation.

The council ruled that, because Doty thought she had been disqualified, she did not have an equal opportunity to campaign on the day of the first runoff election.

“I hope no other candidate ever has to experience what I did on Thursday,” Doty said. “Being wrongly disqualified in the middle of the election day and denied an opportunity to be heard was inexcusable. ASB must function to help ensure student voices are heard.”

Crouch said many of the issues on Thursday night could have been resolved if the ASB Code and Constitution had been written more clearly and concisely.

“The (Code and Constitution) can be difficult to understand and is written so vaguely that it has allowed room for different interpretations in this case,” Crouch said. “It’s hard to fault anyone. However, aside from conduct cases, one of the Judicial Council’s core functions within ASB is to establish precedent on these complex issues.”



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## SOFTBALL

# Rebels take series at Kentucky, earning top-25 win

JOSHUA CLAYTON

THEDMSPORTS@GMAIL.COM

Ole Miss softball traveled to Lexington, Kentucky, over the weekend for an SEC series against the No. 22 Kentucky Wildcats.

The Rebels, ranked No. 10 in the Softball America poll, lost 11-4 on Friday but came back to sweep the doubleheader and clinch the series with 8-4 and 6-2 wins on Saturday.

Ole Miss came into the weekend on a hot streak, fresh off of a convincing series win over No. 6 Florida and a 11-1 victory against Belmont, launching them up the rankings. The Rebels are 27-10 after the weekend with a 7-4 conference mark.

Kentucky opened the series on fire on Friday, taking an early 10-run lead. Molly Jacobsen struggled in the circle at the start of the game, allowing 6 runs and 7 hits in 2.0 innings. Ava Tillman allowed 5 runs on 10 hits to finish the game.

Abbey Latham and Gabby Alvarez provided a spark in the fourth and fifth innings as the Rebels attempted a comeback. Latham hit a solo home run in the fourth to put



PHOTO: KATHERINE BUTLER

Ole Miss player Kaylee Horton bats at the game against Florida last weekend. The Rebels played in a series against Kentucky this weekend, which they won 2 of 3 games.

the Rebels on the board, and Alvarez had a two-run shot to bring Ole Miss to seven runs in the fifth.

Jessica Puk added to the Rebels' tally with a solo home run of her own in the sixth, but it was too little too late, as the Wildcats extended their lead in the bottom of the sixth and shut the door on the Ole Miss offense in the seventh to

wrap up the 11-4 blowout.

The Rebels came back for a doubleheader on Saturday. Ole Miss was on the right side of the early lead this time around, as they took a four-run lead in the opening inning. Kylan Becker and Jessica Puk reached base before Autumn Gillespie singled to load the bases. Brittany Finney and Amanda Roth both came up with doubles to put the

Rebels ahead.

The Wildcats got two unearned runs in the second inning, but the Rebels kept them at bay.

Ole Miss had the bases loaded again when Abbey Latham was walked to bring in a run. Puk doubled to give the Rebels an 8-2 lead. Finney was now in the position to fend off a comeback attempt

as she finished off the game to tie the series with an 8-4 win.

Brittany Finney had her seventh complete game, striking out 3 and allowing 8 hits over 7.0 innings.

The teams met again for the second game in the doubleheader. The Rebels took another early lead when Becker opened the action with a triple. Latham was walked before Becker scored a run from a wild pitch. Puk, Gillespie and Roth were also walked, bringing in another run and giving Ole Miss a 2-0 lead in the first.

Kentucky cut the Rebels' lead in half in the fourth inning and tied the game in the sixth with an RBI double from Katie Reed, sending the game to extra innings.

The Rebels squared up the Wildcats' pitching in the eighth inning, scoring four runs in the opening frame of extra innings, including a solo home run from Amanda Roth. Brittany Finney earned her second win of the day as she finished off the Wildcats.

The Rebels will take on the University of Alabama at Birmingham Blazers in Oxford at 6 p.m. on Wednesday.

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BASEBALL

# Bases Loaded: Offense lifts Rebels to sweep over Gators

**JOSH GOLLIHAR**  
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Offense was the story of the weekend, as Ole Miss bounced back from a shocking midweek defeat to sweep the Florida Gators. Ole Miss won comfortably in the first two games with scores of 12-4 and 16-4. The sweep-clinching victory featured an eight-run comeback, a lightning delay and runs galore. The Rebels brought the brooms out with a 12-10 victory. Ole Miss improves its record to 23-10 (8-4) with the sweep over No. 16 Florida.

**First base: Grae Kessinger was a big reason for the offensive outburst.**

The junior shortstop has always been a defensive strength for Ole Miss. However, his bat can disappear at times. This was not one of those weekends.

Kessinger went 8-14 over the three games, including a perfect 5-5 during game two. He tallied 6 RBIs and 2 walks. Of the top-five in the lineup, Kessinger can become the forgotten man when Thomas Dillard, Ryan Olenek, Tyler Keenan and Cole Zabowski get going. But even with a productive weekend from all the usual suspects, the shortstop shone above the rest.

**Second Base: The legend of Tyler Myers continues to grow.**

Will Ethridge exited prematurely after 3.2 innings Friday night. The Rebels' ace had only surrendered 2 runs, but he was dealing with a blister on his throwing hand and could not continue. Head coach Mike Bianco turned to his in-form long reliever Tyler Myers not only to get out of the fourth inning but to eat innings and save the bullpen. The JUCO transfer did that and more.

Myers finished the final 5.1 innings of the game, improving his record to 2-0 on the season. His scoreless-inning streak ended, but he did what was asked of him. The offense offered him enough cushion to be relaxed enough to focus only on pitching. His final line



PHOTO: KATHERINE BUTLER

Ole Miss infielder Ryan Olenek swings the bat in the home series against Florida this weekend. The Rebels won all three games.

was 2 earned runs, no walks, 4 strikeouts and 2 hits over those 5.1 innings. The only hits given up by the junior were solo home runs. Once again, the Ole Miss coaching staff has unearthed another gem. Myers has quickly adapted to his role.

**Third Base: Cooper Johnson's defense lived up to the billing.**

The junior catcher's throwing ability lived up to the hype against the Gators. Johnson was a perfect 3-3 on catching runners stealing. As the top-ranked recruit at his position coming out of high school, Johnson's defensive abilities are his best attribute. The Gators learned about his strength the hard way.

His weekend was cut short, however. Johnson was ejected in the third inning for arguing a called strike. He gestured with his bat where he thought the ball crossed the plate. The argument will cost Johnson a one-game suspension, the standard punishment set by

the NCAA rulebook for any non-pitcher arguing balls and strikes with an umpire.

**At the Plate: Third starter continues to be a question mark.**

The typical Sunday role in the pitching staff was lacking once again this weekend. Gunnar Hoglund has been the third starter in the rotation all year, but Houston Roth got the ball in the final game because Hoglund

has struggled with the ability to eat innings. Roth's start only lasted 3.0 innings, ending after he allowed 4 unearned runs. He did not have much help from his defense, but Florida was squaring up his pitches well.

If it were not for a furious comeback from the offense and Parker Caracci's scoreless effort over the last 11 outs, Ole Miss would have ended the series with a lopsided loss.

Caracci had a typical closer's mindset regarding his longer-than-usual outing.

"I was hoping it would be for 11 outs," answered the reliever when asked about being the last pitcher to enter the game. "I love having the ball in my hand."

Doug Nikhazy's 6.0 innings in the blowout midseries win show how nicely he has settled into the rotation, and Ethridge has looked good in outings when his blister did not cut his day short. However, Bianco is struggling to find starting pitching beyond those two, with Roth, Jordan Fowler, Max Cioffi and Hoglund not taking advantage of their opportunities.

**On Deck: Game three had it all.**

The Gators jumped out to an eight-run lead before Cole Zabowski hit a two-run home run. Kessinger hit an RBI-single. Lightning and rain delayed the game for an hour. Ole Miss added seven more runs to conclude an eight-run inning that put them ahead 10-8. Florida answered immediately. The Rebels scored the game's last two runs. The comeback allowed Ole Miss to pick up another highly coveted SEC victory. Bianco lauded his team's effort to avoid complacency.

"We challenged the team after the first game (of the doubleheader)," Bianco said. "It is such a mediocre attitude to be okay with winning the first two games. We only get 30 (conference games)."

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REVIEW

# Khalid defines modern young adulthood in 'Free Spirit'

**ELIZA NOE**  
 THEDMFEATURES@GMAIL.COM

Two years after youthful R&B standout Khalid dropped his first album "American Teen," he's back in the saddle to showcase the growth and polishing he's gone through since being that "Young Dumb & Broke" eighteen-year-old we fell in love with.

It's interesting to see how "Free Spirit" documents Khalid's experiences as a young adult. No longer is he dealing with living with parents and getting in trouble with his mother like he did in "8STEEN." As an anthology of bad feelings and good intentions, "Free Spirit" manages to maintain a cohesive feeling throughout despite being a lengthy 17 tracks.

Musically, "Intro," the first track, is phenomenal.

With the synthesized sting and layered chords, the arrangement is powerful without masking Khalid's throaty refrains.

The singles from "Free Spirit" also excel. In "Better," Khalid experiments with Auto-Tune in an almost psychedelic way. In the song, he approaches the roller coaster of emotions behind a secret affair.

He sings, "You say we're just friends, but I swear when nobody's around/ You keep my hand around your neck, we connect. Are you feeling it now?/ I got so high the other night, I swear to God, I felt my feet leave the ground/ Your back against the wall, this is all we've been talkin' about."

The following track, which doubles as the lead single, is "Talk," a synthesizer-heavy, syncopated song with a slow-rolling beat. In it, Khalid wants to define the



PHOTO COURTESY: KHALID VIA FACEBOOK

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- 21 Congers, e.g.
- 23 Breadwinner
- 25 Shipped off
- 26 Sense of loss
- 27 Do less than is necessary
- 30 Santa \_\_\_ winds
- 31 Dirties
- 32 Star-shaped
- 37 Gen. Robert
- 38 Oohed and \_\_\_
- 40 Golden calf
- 41 Melt
- 43 Barrier
- 44 AT&T rival
- 45 Refuse floating on water
- 47 Perceived to be
- 50 Carson's successor
- 51 Scram!
- 52 Top-of-the-line

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- 1 School founded in 1440
- 2 Container weight
- 3 Celestial bear
- 4 Wall St. event
- 5 Theater district
- 6 Pound sounds
- 7 \_\_\_ good deed
- 8 Concealed
- 9 It's human
- 10 Pooh's creator
- 11 Strong point
- 12 Not e'en once
- 14 Scoffs
- 22 Close
- 24 I've Got \_\_\_ in Kalamazoo
- 25 Tennis's Monica
- 26 Appraise, charge per unit
- 27 Pre-owned
- 28 \_\_\_ me tangere
- 29 Conks out
- 32 Female pronoun

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- 34 Tacks on
- 35 Forum wear
- 36 K-6
- 38 Penitentiary island
- 39 Hertz competitor
- 42 Prefix with present
- 43 Not disposed to cheat
- 45 Disk type
- 46 Writer Deighton
- 47 Spanish Mister
- 48 Jack Sprat could \_\_\_ fat
- 49 Actor Hawke
- 51 Silents star Theda
- 52 River which flows through Stratford in England
- 53 I could \_\_\_ horse!
- 54 Foreshadowing
- 55 Japanese wrestling
- 58 Hearst kidnap grp.
- 60 Dearie

Crossword puzzle provided by BestCrosswords.com (www.bestcrosswords.com). Used with permission.

relationship, possibly the friends-with-benefits situation from the previous song.

"Can't we just talk?/ Talk about where we're goin'/ Before we get lost/ Let me out first/ Can't get what we want without knowing," he sings.

Though it still contains the youthful aspect of growing up, Khalid said "Free Spirit" is a reflection on being young and in the spotlight since his rise to fame in 2017. In

an interview with Billboard, Khalid said the transition has been hard.

"There's just a level of maturity with 'Free Spirit,' Khalid said. "I was so naive and young when I wrote 'American Teen.' I thought I knew everything, but I knew nothing at all. I'm at the point of understanding that I still know nothing at all on 'Free Spirit.' The music I'm writing right now is very self-reflective. I'm slowly but

surely centering on myself and what I'm going through."

Overall, "Free Spirit" is successful. Khalid pulls off a sophomore album that doesn't disappoint, and it gives him enough wiggle room to further improve with a hopefully inevitable third album. With the amount of growth he's had in such a short amount of time, it'll be exciting to see where he'll go from here.

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**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**

**EASY**



# Students take Spanish outside the classroom at El Café

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R.J. Case, a 2013 graduate of Ole Miss, started “Mesa de Español,” a Spanish-speaking group at University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, as a tribute to his experience as a biochemistry and Spanish student at Ole Miss. He said what made his experience here so unique was El Café de Los Lunes, a group led by professor Irene Kaufmann.

“The skills I learned there have helped me serve my patients well in medical school and have even made the difference between life and death,” Case said.

Case cherishes every Monday afternoon he spent at the Honors College — still a time when the kitchen becomes loud with conversations that most students don’t comprehend. These conversations have occurred on campus every week during the school year for almost 13 years.

According to the College of Liberal Arts website, the conversations began in 2006 when Irene Kaufmann, lecturer of Spanish at Ole Miss, and a few of her students were looking for opportunities to practice their Spanish outside of class. After seeing an increase in interest from new students, the meeting started to occur weekly.

Kaufmann said El Café de Los Lunes serves as a place for people of all ages and fluency levels to practice speaking Spanish.

“You learn how to drive a car, (but) you will only learn that if you sit in a car and drive,”



William Bradford (left) and Anne Florence Brown (right) speak in Spanish at El Café de Los Lunes in the Honors College.

PHOTO COURTESY: EL CAFÉ DE LOS LUNES

Kaufmann said. “A language is for communication, so this is where they learn to communicate.”

Eight to 15 students usually meet on Mondays, and there are 206 members in the closed Facebook group where Kaufmann gives announcements for El Café.

Kaufmann has taught at the university since 2001. Last year, she was awarded the College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Instructor of the Year.

William Bradford, a sophomore international studies major, was born in Peru but moved to the United States when he was 10 years old. Bradford said that the club has helped him prepare for his study abroad trip to Montevideo, Uruguay.

“Once I started going (to El Café), I learned it was the best way to improve my Spanish before I go abroad,” he said.

In addition to studying abroad, Kaufmann mentioned other possible opportunities that students learning Spanish can take.

“Maybe we should think of things to do outside — move out to the Hispanic community or something,” Kaufmann said. “I think the public library and St. Peter’s (Episcopal Church) have lots of people that come from the Hispanic community.”

St. Peter’s is one of few churches in Oxford with a Spanish service, which takes place there at 6 p.m. on Sundays.

El Café has grown into the community. According to Kaufmann, the group goes out to eat together at least twice a semester now and has added conversations at Uptown Coffee on Wednesdays. This began earlier this academic year to encourage more Spanish speakers in the

community, not just students, to join.

“When you speak a different language, you’re a better person because you can put yourself in other people’s shoes and you learn to respect and enjoy

and appreciate what you have,” Kaufmann said.

The program has changed significantly in its 13 years.

“Some days, at the beginning, only one student would come. Sometimes no one would show up,” Kaufmann said. “Now we have doctors who even come by when they’re in Oxford.”

El Café has been very important and special to many students, and it grows their appreciation for language. Adrianna Siebenaler, a junior integrated marketing communications major, said that her time in the club has helped her develop an appreciation for other cultures and a desire to connect with them.

“Especially having family from Poland, they had to get thrown into our culture,” Siebenaler said. “I think it’s very important to try to communicate with other people and acknowledge that people in America come from all over.”

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FOOTBALL

# Defense prevails as freshmen show out in Grove Bowl

**JARRED REDDING**  
THEHDMSPORTS@GMAIL.COM

While the Rebel defense struggled, at times, to defend its own offensive coordinator's new scheme, the group stood tall when it mattered most to ensure that it wouldn't be passed on the scoreboard.

The 2019 Nissan Grove Bowl went the way of the defense with a score of 29-25 at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium on Saturday. The game capped off 14 days of spring practice and saw a handful of young players burst onto the scene on both sides of the ball.

"It was a competitive game. We saw some flashes from some of our young guys, which was good. Our defense, overall, controlled the line of scrimmage," head coach Matt Luke said. "Overall, we got what we wanted — trying to keep it vanilla. I wanted us to see a competitive game and get after it. I thought we accomplished that."

The defensive unit was spotted a 27-0 lead at the beginning of the game, and the offense's goal was to get out of that hole. The defense could get points by creating turnovers and converting them into points.

New offensive coordinator Rich Rodriguez pointed out that quarterback Matt Corral's ability



PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

Ole Miss football proved during the Grove Bowl this weekend that it will have a strong defense in the upcoming season. The Grove Bowl closed out the spring football season.

to run his new-look offense was not on full display during this game.

"Today wasn't pretty, but overall, in the spring, we put a lot in — a lot more than I thought we could. They handled it pretty well. Certainly, we have a long way to go at every position — there is no question," Rodriguez said. "They're working hard. This will be the most important

summer for most of these guys that they've ever had."

Matt Corral did most of the damage at quarterback through the air. He completed 22 of his 37 passes for 240 yards and a touchdown pass to Braylon Sanders midway through the second quarter.

Tylan Knight, a newly converted slot receiver, led the receivers with 91 yards on 5

catches. Knight also caught a touchdown from freshman early enrollee Grant Tisdale.

"The reason (Knight) showed up to play in the spring is because he's such a competitor," Rodriguez said. "He's a very versatile guy who can do a lot at a lot of different positions."

Freshman early enrollee Snoop Conner led all rushers with 52 yards on 10 carries.

Kinkead Dent, another freshman early enrollee, got 50 yards on the ground at the quarterback position.

Defensively, the Rebels had to adjust to their new defensive coordinator's 3-4 scheme throughout the spring. A big part of that was having defensive ends shift to outside linebackers in certain situations. New defensive coordinator Mike McIntyre believes that this game showed that it can be done, but the execution needs polishing.

"I think they have improved. At first they were like fish out of water, and now they can swim out of water but not for very long," McIntyre said. "I've seen steady improvement every day."

Mohamed Sanogo led with 8 tackles, and junior college transfer linebacker Sam Williams had 6. The defense forced 3 interceptions by C.J. Miller, Kam'ron White and Ryder Anderson.

White kept the offensive team from tying the game with an end-zone interception that led to a 100-yard return on a two-point conversion following Hunter Holt's touchdown. That score gave the defense their only earned points.

The Rebels will open the 2019 season at Memphis on Saturday, Aug. 31.

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