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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

## TIGER ROARS BACK FOR 5TH GREEN JACKET



AP PHOTO: DAVID J. PHILLIP

Tiger Woods reacts as he wins the Masters Tournament on Sunday in Augusta, Georgia. The victory marks his first major title since 2008 and the latest chapter in a nearly ten-year comeback.

SEE PAGE 8

## Hephner LaBanc considers job in Utah

TAYLOR VANCE  
THE DMNEWS@GMAIL.COM

Brandi Hephner LaBanc may leave her job as the university's vice chancellor for student affairs.

She appeared before a search committee at the University of Utah last Thursday in a town hall interview for the position of the school's vice president for student affairs, according to the University of Utah's website.

Following her interview, Hephner LaBanc released a statement in which she praised Ole Miss's leadership and said she was honored to be considered for a leadership position at another university.

"At the same time, this is a personal matter that I would rather discuss with people individually," Hephner LaBanc said in a statement to *The Daily Mississippian*. "I remain committed to our student affairs' initiatives and efforts to serve and support UM students."

The vice chancellor for student affairs position at the University of Utah is being vacated by Barbara Snyder, who, before she retired earlier this year, served in the role since 1999. Lori McDonald, who served under Snyder as associate vice president and

SEE LABANC PAGE 3

## Ole Miss Student Hall of Fame honors student activists

MASON SCIONEUX  
THE DMNEWS@GMAIL.COM

Ten senior students were inducted into the 2019 class of the University of Mississippi Hall of Fame at the Gertrude C. Ford Center on Friday, April 5. Many of those selected for the honor have been leaders of student activism in their time on campus.

This year's inductees are Jarvis Benson, an international studies major from Grenada; Levi Bevis, a public policy

leadership major from Florence, Alabama; Jaz Brisack, a general studies major from Oxford; Jacob Ferguson, an English and history major from Randolph; Randon Hill, an English and Spanish major from Oxford; Mallie Imbler, a public policy leadership and political science major from Tupelo; Skylyn Irby, a math major from Batesville; Makala McNeil, an integrated marketing communication and sociology major from Grenada; Elam Miller, a public policy leadership major from

Murfreesboro, Tennessee; and Blair Wortsmith, a managerial finance major from Little Rock, Arkansas.

Benson, who served as the Black Student Union President and as an Associated Student Body senator, worked as a Mississippi Votes community organizer and oversaw the largest voter registration effort in the state since 1964.

Brisack was selected in the fall as the first female Rhodes Scholar in Ole Miss history, and has participated

in protests on campus against pro-Confederate groups, helped deliver firewood to the Standing Rock Indian Preservation and organized with the United Auto Workers at the Nissan plant in Canton.

"I'm honored to be in such good company and use this platform (to create change)," she said. "During my time here, I've been able to help patients access abortion care in the most restrictive state in the nation. I've also gotten to help Nissan workers in their union

organizing effort, and their passion and courage inspires me. Recognitions like the Hall of Fame and the Rhodes Scholarship reflect on these folks, my mentors and friends, as much as on me."

She said that, as she graduates and becomes a distinguished alumna, she feels a responsibility to hold the university accountable.

"As an alum, I want to celebrate the progress this

SEE HALL OF FAME PAGE 3

THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Putting the current protests in context

**WILLIAM GARNER**  
THEDMOPINION@GMAIL.COM

In the spirit of promoting a better and more complete appreciation of the current protests of the Confederate monument, it has occurred to me that the current protests against racism, bigotry and oppression should be placed in the proper context.

While a student at Ole Miss, I wrote an extensive paper on the events surrounding the '62 riot and its aftermath. I also met James Meredith and interviewed Ross Barnett. The current protests against the memorial are indeed courageous because the

"contextualization" document clearly indicates that, at the dedication ceremony some 100 plus years ago, vile sentiments, common in that day, were expressed.

The monument is, they would have you believe, therefore all about racism, bigotry, segregation and Jim Crow. Obviously, it takes brave people to fight against these things at the University of Mississippi.

James Meredith walked on to this campus, looked racism right in the eye and did not blink. If you want to know more about racism, bigotry and oppression, take a look at the famous photo of a girl being escorted by federal

marshals into school in Little Rock, Arkansas, through a mob of angry, passionate people.

Consider Rosa Parks on the bus in Atlanta. She was just too dang tired to put up with it, so she stood up by sitting down. That's commitment and courage.

If the monument to fallen soldiers is the worst example of racism and bigotry that can be found today at Ole Miss, we all have cause to be proud. We should celebrate the fact that Ole Miss's doors are open to all who would seek knowledge and enlightenment. If there is racism and bigotry on campus, let's deal with that

and leave the monument alone.

The dilettantes and pretenders stomping and chanting around campus today want to cloak themselves in the bravery and honor that rightfully belongs to James Meredith, Rosa Parks and the incredible girl in Little Rock. There are words that describe what they are doing: stolen valor. They want you to believe that they are brave, but until they march through a mob or face down a riot, I just do not believe they have the same commitment.

*William Garner  
Ole Miss, Class of 1980*

## 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  
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MEMBER NEWSPAPER



PHOTO COURTESY: OLE MISS COMMUNICATIONS

Ten seniors were inducted to the Ole Miss Student Hall of Fame on Friday. Top from left to right: UM Provost Noel Wilkin, UM Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Brandi Hephner LaBanc, Jarvis Benson, Levi Bevis, Elam Miller, Jacob Ferguson, UM Interim Chancellor Larry Sparks and UM Assistant Vice Chancellor and Dean of Students Melinda Sutton Noss. Bottom left to right: Blair Worts Smith, Makala McNeil, Mallie Imbler, Jaz Brisack, Skylyn Irby and Randon Hill.

## HALL OF FAME

*continued from page 1*

university is making, while holding it accountable when it fails to do so, so that younger students will want to attend," Brisack said.

Eight of the 10 inductees are enrolled in the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, including Benson, Brisack, and Miller, the outgoing Associated Student Body president.

Melinda Sutton Noss, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs

and dean of students, said these students make the university a better place across all aspects of campus life.

"The students inducted into the Hall of Fame are excellent representatives of the University of Mississippi," Sutton Noss said. "They are scholars, leaders and community servants who are making a difference in the world around them."

Sutton Noss helps guide the selection process every year, which is outlined by the Associated Student Body and with a body of other selectors, most of whom are students, and said

that being a part of the selection process is one of the best parts of her job.

"Recognizing students for their achievements is one of the highlights of my year," she said. "I'm proud and honored to know them and to have been a part of their journeys."

The 10 students were chosen from a list of 200 seniors recognized in Who's Who Among Students at the University of Mississippi. Sutton Noss said that selection process is a difficult task.

"Narrowing the field down to 10 for the Hall of Fame is not an easy job," Sutton Noss said.

## LABANC

*continued from page 1*

dean of students, is interviewing on Tuesday for the same position as Hephner LaBanc.

Hephner LaBanc's possible departure comes after a handful of other upper University of Mississippi administrators have left the school.

Earlier this year, Melinda Sutton Noss, Ole Miss's dean of students, announced she is leaving the university to take an administrative job at her alma mater, Southern Methodist University.

Leslie Banahan, the assistant vice chancellor for student affairs is also retiring from the university at the end of the academic semester. The two jobs are not posted on the university's career website, but they are posted on Spelman Johnson's website, an executive hiring firm for higher education the university has contracted to assist in the search for a new chancellor.

If Hephner LaBanc is offered and accepts the job in Utah, this would leave three spots vacant in department of student affairs at the end of the semester.

Rod Guajardo, a UM spokesman, said it's normal for the university's top administrators "to be sought after by other national universities" or to retire from Ole Miss after many years.

Hephner LaBanc's interview



FILE PHOTO: PARKER GALLOWAY

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Brandi Hephner LaBanc interviewed last Thursday to potentially become the vice president for student affairs at the University of Utah.

at the University of Utah also comes shortly after Jeffrey Vitter, the former chancellor at the University of Mississippi, said he didn't have enough time to assemble a broad leadership team while at Ole Miss in an interview to potentially become the president of the University of South Florida.

"I was brought in to be a change agent," Vitter said. "But I made the mistake of underestimating, really, the level of entrenchment and lack of common agreement at Ole Miss."

Hephner Labanc was the first of three candidates to interview for the University of Utah job. Lori McDonald, dean of students at the University of Utah will interview on Tuesday and a third candidate who the university has yet to name, is set to interview on Thursday. A decision date has not been released by the university.

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# Intense storms wreak havoc, cause injuries across state

Powerful storms that killed at least three people swept across the South on Sunday after spawning suspected tornadoes that left more than 20 people injured and multiple homes and businesses damaged or without power.

One person was killed in northeastern Mississippi when a tree crashed onto his trailer, Monroe County road manager Sonny Clay said at a news conference, adding that a tornado had struck. Another 19 were taken to hospitals, including two who were in critical condition.

A tornado was reported in the area 140 miles southwest of Memphis at the time.

National Weather Service meteorologist John Moore said a twister possibly touched down Saturday

in the Vicksburg area. No injuries were reported there, but officials said several businesses and vehicles were damaged. Trees were down throughout the hilly city on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River.

The roof of a hotel in New Albany was damaged, but the cause was unclear. Mississippi State University's 21,000 students huddled in basements and hallways as a tornado came near the school's campus in Starkville.

Mississippi State University spokesman Sid Salter said some debris, possibly carried by the tornado, was found on campus, but no building damage or injuries were reported. Trees were down, and at least some minor damage was reported in residential areas east of the campus.

Heavy rains and storms raked the Magnolia State into the night, before moving into Alabama. A possible tornado knocked out power and left damage in Troy, Alabama, about 50 miles south of Montgomery. A mobile home community was damaged, but no injuries were reported.

In East Texas, two children were killed when a pine tree fell onto the back of the car in which they were riding in a severe thunderstorm Saturday. The car was on a back country road in Pollok, Texas, about 150 miles southeast of Dallas.

The tree "flattened the car like a pancake," said Capt. Alton Lenderman of the Angelina County Sheriff's Office. The children, ages 8 and 3, were dead at the scene, although both parents, who were in the front seat, escaped

injury, he said.

The large storm system also knocked out power to thousands and caused flash floods. More than 140,000 customers lost power in Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas as of late Saturday.

A tornado hit the small central Texas city of Franklin, overturning mobile homes and damaging other residences, said Robertson County Sheriff Gerald Yezak. Franklin is about 125 miles south of Dallas.

The weather service said preliminary information showed that an EF3 tornado with winds of 140 mph touched down. Crews were sent to survey the damage.

Two people were hospitalized for injuries not thought to be life-threatening,

while others were treated at the scene for minor injuries, Yezak said. Some people had to be extricated from their homes.

Downed trees and damage to buildings and a transmission tower were reported, said meteorologist Monique Sellers.

Winds of up to 60 mph were reported in Cherokee County, Texas, damaging two homes in Alto, about 140 miles north of Houston, but no injuries were reported.

The forecast of severe weather forced officials at the Masters in Augusta, Georgia, to begin the tournament early Sunday, starting threesomes off the first and 10th tees on the day's final round in hopes of finishing in mid-afternoon before the winds and rains began.



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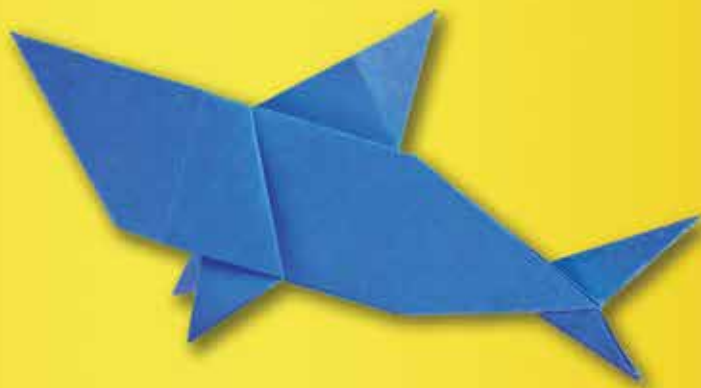


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# Mississippi MUTTS to host 'Yappy Hour' at The Graduate

**MIRANDA MYFORD**  
THEDMFEATURES@GMAIL.COM

Mississippi MUTTS will introduce its new event, Yappy Hour, tonight from 4 to 6 p.m. in Cabin 82 of The Graduate Oxford. Tonight and the third Monday of every month going forward, there is an open invitation to all dog lovers within the Oxford community.

Mississippi MUTTS facilitates the homing of animals in Mississippi with the goal of alleviating animal overpopulation in shelters. A portion of proceeds collected at Yappy Hour will benefit the charity, and those donations will be put toward foster animals' medical emergencies and supplies that foster homes need to care for the animals.

Emma Heasley, the charity's developmental director, said she's excited to see the fellowship of the Oxford community at the event.



PHOTO COURTESY: MEGHAN MCNABB

Mississippi MUTTS will host their new monthly event, "Yappy Hour," tonight at The Graduate, where dog lovers can come together for appetizers and cocktails.

"Mississippi MUTTS is so looking forward to interacting with Oxford community members because (the) majority of our support comes from them and their donations," Heasley said. "We can't wait to spend time with these individuals and their animals at Yappy Hour."

Heasley said Yappy Hour is intended to bring the local community together to fundraise and form relationships over a common goal.

Meghan Titus, the event coordinator for Mississippi MUTTS, said she is looking forward to the inaugural event.

"Because it's our first ever Yappy Hour, we don't know how many guests and furry friends to expect, but we are hoping that all attendees with dogs bring them," Titus said. "If guests don't own a dog, we will have foster puppies there as well."

Each Yappy Hour will feature complimentary appetizers and dog-themed

cocktails for guests, as well as treats for four-legged friends.

"We can't disclose the names of our dog-themed cocktails, but they will be fun and creative, so make sure to come find out," Titus said. She added that applications to be foster animals will also be available to attendees.

Megan McNabb, a junior integrated marketing communication major who plans to attend the event, said that it's not uncommon for people who foster animals to fall in love with their temporary pets enough to make them permanent ones. She came across a Mississippi MUTTS Facebook post expressing a need for additional fosters and ended up fostering two dogs at once.

"I had the best experience fostering through this organization," McNabb said. "I ended up adopting one of the puppies I was fostering, and my twin sister adopted the other puppy. Mississippi MUTTS helped me find my forever furry friend."

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BASES LOADED

# Weak hitting leads to series loss for Diamond Rebels

**JOSH GOLLIHAR**  
THE DMSPORTS@GMAIL.COM

A season-long issue was too much for Ole Miss to overcome in two losses on Sunday, and the team fell 4-1 and 4-2 to a Kentucky team struggling in the conference to end a six-game win streak in conference play. The team entered the week tied for the best conference record in the division, but they fell to 9-6 in conference play. This weekend is a missed opportunity against a struggling team from the SEC East.

**First Base: Ineffective hitting against left-handed pitchers dooms Sunday**

Kentucky is the first team in a while that had the perfect rotation to battle the Ole Miss lineup. The Rebels have done most of their damage this season against right-handers, and the first game of the series proved that. The team scored

8 runs and collected 14 hits during the win on Friday. Six of the runs and nine of the hits came against right-handed starter Jimmy Ramsey. Sunday was another story. The left-handed Mason Hazelwood and Zack Thompson both stifled the Ole Miss offense.

Hazelwood pitched 5.2 innings of a shortened seven-inning game. He surrendered 5 hits but kept the Rebels from scoring. Thompson is the ace of the Kentucky staff, and he is regarded as one of the finest left-handed starters in the country. The lefty's curveball kept Rebel hitters off balance at the plate, especially when he got ahead in the count. He received some luck from the wind as two well-hit balls to left field that usually leave the park were held up at the warning track.

The likely top-15 pick faced the possibility of Ole Miss taking the lead three times.

Thompson prevailed all three times. He stranded two runners in the second with a strikeout of Tim Elko. He stranded 2 runs in the fifth after surrendering 2 runs with a strikeout of Thomas Dillard. And in the sixth inning, he escaped a no-out, two-runners-on jam with two flyouts and a strikeout of Jacob Adams.

These were all things expected of an elite pitcher. Coach Bianco tipped his hat to Kentucky's ace.

"We did not hit well," Bianco claimed. "But you can see why Thompson is going to be a first-round pick."

**Second Base: The two Rebel freshmen looked like inexperienced SEC starters**

Gunnar Hoglund had his usual Sunday start skipped last weekend against Florida after a series of short outings. The freshman found his way back into the rotation against Kentucky, slated to go toe-to-toe with the dominant Thompson. For three innings, he bettered him.

Hoglund faced the minimum nine hitters through

three innings. His pitch location was good, and the curveball was a legitimate strikeout pitch. However, in the fourth inning, T.J. Collett hit a 3-run home run to break the deadlock on an 0-2 count. Hoglund was clearly upset with himself after the ball left the bat, kneeling with a disgusted look on his face. He would leave the game in the next inning after an RBI double stretched the Kentucky lead to four.

There were a lot of positives for the freshman to take away from today, including 8 strikeouts, but missing over the plate became costly. His coach approved of the outing, all things considered.

"I thought (Hoglund) was terrific," Bianco said. "His first three innings were lights out. I do not know what happened in the fourth inning because that inning was so different than the first nine outs."

Doug Nikhazy had one of his worst outings as a weekend starter, leaving the game after 3.2 innings. The Wildcat hitters barreled the ball well against the left-hander, collecting 6 hits and 4

runs. Four of the hits against him were extra-base hits, two doubles and two home runs.

Nikhazy's emergence as the second starter behind Will Ethridge has, in a sense, saved the season for the Ole Miss baseball team. After him, it has been a revolving door of bodies that cannot lock down spots as starters. In a weekend where he looked vulnerable, Ole Miss lost a series.

**Third Base: Grae Kessinger's hot streak continues**

The offense did not produce many bright spots on a cloudy Sunday. However, Grae Kessinger's bat is becoming just as valuable, if not more valuable, than his glove. The junior leaves the weekend with a 25-game on-base streak.

He went 7-10 at the plate over the weekend while walking once and getting hit by a pitch. His solo home run on Friday was one of his 4 RBIs for the series. His batting average has risen to .342, closing the gap on Thomas Dillard for second-best average.

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  - 50 Dicembre follower
  - 52 Understand?
  - 53 Concerning
  - 54 Color anew
  - 55 \_\_\_\_ browns
  - 56 \_\_\_\_ want for Christmas...
  - 57 \_\_\_\_'acte (intermission)
  - 61 Driving need

**SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION**

Jacob Deason Ferguson

B.A. in English, History  
"What We Could Do: Stories"  
Directed by Elizabeth Spencer  
Monday, April 15, 2019 at 3:00 pm  
SMBHC 107  
The defense is open to the public.  
If you require special assistance relating to a disability, please contact Penny Leeton at 662-915-7266

**SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION**

Katelyn Legendre Hoffman

B.A. in Classics, Art History  
"Ethics in 21st Century Art Conservation: Confederate Monuments"  
Directed by Betty Crouther  
Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 4:00 pm  
Meek 120  
The defense is open to the public.  
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**SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION**

Margaret Hampton Hay

B.A. in Public Policy Leadership  
"Comparative Analysis of Pregnancy Accommodation Laws Among States"  
Directed by Melissa Bass  
Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 12:30 pm  
Odom 101  
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Puzzles by KrazyDad

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

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

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

SOFTBALL

# Finney, Alvarez lead Rebels to series win over Missouri

**MADLINE CLICK**  
THE DMSPORTS@GMAIL.COM

Ole Miss softball did not complete its first sweep of the season but was still able to take the series from Missouri for the team's fourth series win this season.

The Rebels took both games in the Friday night doubleheader. They won the first game in eight innings with a 2-run walk off home run from Brittany Finney. Finney started the game on the mound and pitched 5.1 innings, giving up 5 runs and 6 hits while striking out five. Molly Jacobson took over and pitched 2.2 innings, striking out two to earn the win.

Amanda Roth kick-started the offense with a double to open the third inning. Kylan Becker was next on base drawing a walk. Roth scored later in the inning from an RBI single from Abbey Latham. Latham was thrown out trying to advance to second but



PHOTO: KATHERINE BUTLER

Autumn Gillespie throws the ball to a teammate during the series against Florida earlier this season. The Rebels won the first two games against Missouri this weekend but lost the final game.

scored Becker in the attempt. In the fourth inning, Gabby Alvarez drew a bases-loaded walk to bring home Katelin Cooper. With the bases still loaded, Becker stepped up to bat and hit a 2-RBI single to bring the Rebel lead to 5-0.

The Tigers didn't go away quietly, tying the game in the sixth inning. With neither team able to get on the board again after seven, the game went into extra innings, the sixth time Rebels have gone into extra innings in their last ten games. Finney was able to win the game for the Rebels with a walk-off 2-run shot to take game one.

The bats weren't as hot in game two, but strong defense and pitching helped the Rebels win.

Ole Miss won 1-0 to take the series. Jacobson threw a complete game, only giving up 3

Hits and earning her 12th win on the season. Finney batted in the only run for the Rebels in this game. She doubled down the line to score Autumn Gillespie in the second inning. Finney finished her weekend at the plate with a double, a home run and 3 RBIs. The Rebels dropped game

three 2-5 to lose the sweep. Ole Miss took the lead first by loading the bases from singles by Alvarez and Roth and a walk from Becker, but a 5-run fourth inning for the Tigers was too much for the Rebels to come back from.

Pinch runner Kacey Hvitved was able to run home on a wild pitch, but Ole Miss left its other runners stranded. Latham drew 3 walks and walked in a run in the sixth inning to drop the Tigers' lead to three, but Ole Miss failed to capitalize on the situation again and stranded the runners. Ole Miss left 12 runners on base, tied for the most in a game this season. The Rebels were also able to draw 11 walks, the most in a game since 2017.

With this series win, Ole Miss now has four series wins this year, a program record. The Rebels still have three series left in the regular season and will travel to Starkville next weekend to take on Mississippi State. Before Ole Miss faces the Bulldogs, the team will have a midweek matchup against UT Martin at 6 p.m. Tuesday in Oxford.

**SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION**

**Hunter Allen Berry**

B.A. in Biochemistry

*"Temperature- and pH-dependent Proteolysis of Engineered Proteins by Collagenase"*

Directed by Susan Pedigo

Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 9:00am Coulter 201

The defense is open to the public.

If you require special assistance relating to a disability, please contact Penny Leeton at 662-915-7266

**SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION**

**Thomas Theodore McFann**

B.S.C.S. in Computer Science

*"Understanding Juuling Trends Among Differing Age and Gender Demographics Through Social Sensing"*

Directed by Naemul Hassan

Monday, April 15, 2019 at 5:30 pm Weir 225

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**SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION**

**Elaine Wallin Smith**

B.A. in Biochemistry

*"Exploration of Michael-thiol Addition Bioconjugation to Extend Polymers of a Protein-based Hydrogel"*

Directed by Susan Pedigo

Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 3:00 pm Coulter 201

The defense is open to the public.

If you require special assistance relating to a disability, please contact Penny Leeton at 662-915-7266

**SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION**

**Malerie Veronica Lovejoy**

B.A. in English, Linguistics

*"The Last of Anything"*

Directed by Tom Franklin

Monday, April 15, 2019 at 11:30 am SMBHC 331

The defense is open to the public.

If you require special assistance relating to a disability, please contact Penny Leeton at 662-915-7266

**SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION**

**Levi Cade Bevis**

B.A. in Public Policy Leadership

*"Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals: A Comparative Analysis of Access to Education and Healthcare for Immigrants before DACA, under DACA, and under the Dream Act"*

Directed by Melissa Bass

Monday, April 15, 2019 at 11:00 am Odom Hall Conference Room

The defense is open to the public.

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**CLASSIFIEDS INFORMATION**

The DEADLINE to place, correct or cancel an ad is 12 p.m. one business day in advance. The Daily Mississippian is published Monday through Friday.

Classified ads must be prepaid. All major credit cards accepted. No refunds on classified ads once published.

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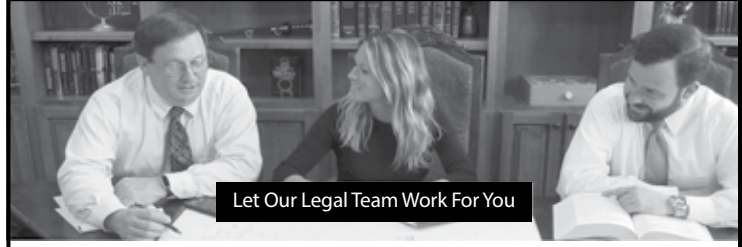
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COLUMN

# Comeback complete: Tiger triumphs in storybook finish

**JOSHUA CLAYTON**  
 THEDMSPORTS@GMAIL.COM

For five hours on a rainy Sunday, the eyes of America were fixed on one thing. It wasn't the first round of the NBA Playoffs or the final season of Game of Thrones. It was Eldrick Tont Woods, also known as Tiger, strutting down the fairways in Augusta, Georgia, with his trademark red and black Sunday fit, on his way to a fifth green jacket.

On Sunday, April 14, Tiger Woods overcame a third-round deficit to claim his first major championship in 11 years and first Masters victory since 2005. Tiger's 15th major title moves him closer to Jack Nicklaus's record 18 career wins.

Woods, 43, became the second-oldest player to win the Masters behind Nicklaus, who won his last Masters in 1986 when he was 46. It's seems unusual to call this improbable comeback from Tiger a Cinderella story, but it is. This is fairytale stuff. You can smell the 30 for 30 being written right now.

The weekend was especially magical because of the way he won. This year's Masters was the first time Tiger had to come back and take the lead in the final round. He was calm and collected, masterfully hiding his emotions, and as the competition made mistakes down the stretch, he stayed consistent. Tiger shot a 2-under-par 70 on Sunday with 3 birdies in the final six holes to take the lead from Francesco Molinari and fend off Xander Schauffele and Brooks Koepka.

When Tiger walked off the 18th hole to hug his son, you couldn't help but look back and think about his embrace with his late father after his first Masters win in the exact same spot. It's not silly to admit that I shed a tear because no one thought we'd get this feeling again.

The average sports fan,



Patrick Reed helps Tiger Woods with his green jacket after Woods won the Masters Tournament on Sunday.

AP PHOTO: DAVID J. PHILLIP

especially college-aged fans, grew up watching Tiger every weekend. Since 1997, he's been consistently in the news — whether for his dominance on the course or for his meltdown off of it.

Simply put, Tiger was golf and golf was Tiger. No one in any sport captivates an audience like Tiger can, and it's not even close. There is truly nothing like watching Tiger in the hunt in the back nine on a lazy Sunday. What Jim Nantz and the other commentators said is right: The roar from a Masters crowd when Tiger drops a ball right next to the pin like a machine or sinks a birdie putt is just different.

Tiger brought one of the most exclusive and segregated sports to the mainstream, inspiring a generation of kids who would have otherwise never thought of picking up a golf club. He saved a tired, boring sport and made it cool. He made both new golf fans and people who already followed it super fans.

This is what was missing from the sports world when

he was out because of the list, too long to recount, of physical injuries and issues unrelated to golf. The PGA lost the casual fan when it lost the face of the sport. When he returned, Tiger was back, but he wasn't back. The buzz was generating, but it wasn't the same. Watching him limp around the course, struggling to even make the cut, was heartbreaking, and for a while, it seemed like we had lost Tiger for good.

The momentum had been building for the past couple

of months as Tiger continued to inch closer and closer to the top of the leaderboards, and this weekend was the culmination of that.

For sports fans like me, watching Tiger throw on that green jacket in Augusta brought back childhood memories of watching him swagger around the course with a three-stroke lead, knowing he was head and shoulders above the competition. That memory and nostalgia is enough to bring

the casual fan back.

This may not bring golf back to where it was, as the sport's prime and Tiger's prime are directly related, but that doesn't matter right now. This may not repair his legacy in the eyes of those who condemn him for his actions off the course, but that doesn't matter right now. Today, we have this, a man taking his second chance and giving us the greatest comeback story in sports history and the ability to truly say this: Tiger is back.

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