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THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SERVING OLE MISS AND OXFORD SINCE 1911 Visit theDMonline.com @thedm_news

Second UM tech summit highlights innovation, STEM



LASHERICA THORNTON
STAFF WRITER

A mix of technology experts, digital gurus and government leaders participated in the second University of Mississippi Technology Summit on Thursday.

The summit, also held last year and planned to be held annually, informs the audience about anticipated technological developments and stimulated conversations among leaders in business, education and government.

Wicker, who helped spearhead last year's inaugural summit, serves as the communications, technology, innovation and internet subcommittee chair of the Senate Commerce Committee.

An array of other speakers took to the podium to discuss about intersections between technology and government.

"It's an opportunity for us to help the university look for opportunities to grow," Mayo Flynt, the AT&T Mississippi president, said. "We can provide new and better opportunities for students and help grow a culture of innovation here at Ole Miss."

Flynt handles external and regulatory affairs, as well as public policy, for AT&T operations in the

state. He participated in the roundtable discussion with 16 other industry, education and government leaders.

"I appreciate the chancellor's leadership, trying to bring tech leaders here to campus to talk about ways that the university can look to grow its STEM program/ I think that's something Ole Miss can look towards," said Flynt.

Flynt said he thought the turnout for the event was really good.

"Last year was the first year for the tech summit, and this year, I think it's grown," Flynt said. "It's good to see it growing."

The event also included panels discussing strong defense and protecting the homeland, expanding access and opportunities to rural communities and unleashing economic innovation.

Blair Watters, an InterDigital representative, said she enjoyed the day's events.

"I think it's really interesting to get universities, businesses and government all together in the same room," Watters said. "It was fantastic. Those three entities need to work together, and there's not a lot of vendors where they all end up



PHOTOS BY: XINYI SONG

Annual tech summit draws large crowd to discuss intersections between technology and government.

SEE **TECH SUMMIT** PAGE 5

Panel explores possible responses to racial violence

KIARA MANNING
STAFF WRITER

Students and faculty came together Thursday for an open conversation about the university's plan of action to address racism in the light of events that took place in Charlottesville, Virginia, earlier this month.

The event is one of many conversations taking place over the next couple of days, addressing topics such as racial violence and exercising free speech.

This conversation in particular allowed students and faculty to talk about the uni-

versity's plan of action to address racial violence in a calm and open space.

The week's events are sponsored by the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation, the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, as well as the Center of Inclusion and Cross Cultural Engagement.

The events in Charlottesville outraged many as a white nationalist rally was held in protest of the removal of a Confederate statue. The protest turned violent when a car drove into a crowd of people, killing one and injuring more than 30

others.

The panel was led by visiting assistant professor Jaime Cantrell and Associate Dean of Students Valeria Beasley Ross.

Cantrell shared her experiences with violence on campus.

"I certainly have been in a situation in the spring of last semester when a combative student resorted to using misogynistic slurs in my classroom," Cantrell said.

She also discussed how education can help facilitate better conversations.

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PHOTO BY: XINYI SONG

Associate Dean of Students Valeria Beasley Ross leads a panel about racial violence and UM's plan of action.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

My sorority sister was the first to see it. We – myself, my sister and another NPHC member – were heading back to our cabins after our large group session was dismissed. As we approached the cabin, she abruptly stopped. Her eyes widened. Her jaw dropped. She frantically pointed at a tree, exclaiming, “Look! Look! In the tree!” It was a banana, dangling from a limb.

My heart dropped instantly. I began to scan the area around us to see if we were in any immediate harm. Once we realized we were alone, questions started flying: “Was this here this morning?” “There’s no coincidence that this happened right after we just got done talking about race, right?” “Why would someone put it in a tree? There’s a trashcan a few feet away.”

My sister took a picture of the banana and sent it to other NPHC members, most of whom responded with immediate urgency. For most black participants, the image of the banana in the tree was jarring, an overt sign that we weren’t welcome.

Yesterday, The Daily Mississippian released a news article reporting on a racially charged incident that occurred

at Camp Hopewell during an IMPACT retreat this past weekend. NPHC organizations were certain the incident would become public, and, as a collective, we understood the potential pitfalls of allowing white journalists to write our story.

Mainstream news organizations have long prioritized white, conservative perspectives above the voices of black people. We were concerned that our student newspaper couldn’t contextualize the fear that that the incident inspired. We were right.

Shortly after the banana was found, IMPACT retreat leaders convened a camp-wide meeting. NPHC members used the space as an opportunity to discuss the racial realities of our university community with our white peers. Some white students seemed receptive. Others appeared apathetic. Many NPHC members denounced the disunity between white and black fraternities and sororities. Black students gave testimony, bearing witness to the subtle racism that pervades our campus.

Bananas have historically been used by white people as derogatory to dehumanize

and denigrate black people; a symbol that makes us fearful of our racist past and present. Scientific racism permitted biological stereotypes surrounding the “apelike” qualities of black people to bleed into popular understandings of blackness.

White supremacy categorized Africans and African-Americans as savages, primal and subhuman. According to Professor James Bradley, associating black folk with bananas and monkeys has always been about the “way Europeans have differentiated themselves, biologically and culturally, in an effort to maintain superiority over other people.”

Even today, bananas remain an intimidation tactic, intended to instill fear in black communities. This year, American University elected Taylor Dumpson, a member of my sorority, as the school’s first black female student body president. Opposers responded by hanging bananas from nooses around campus with racial epithets written on them.

Regardless whether last weekend’s incident was an honest mistake or a malicious threat, our response as black Greeks at the University of

Mississippi was valid and authentic, especially given the present state of race relations in our country and at our university.

Our community must recognize an uncomfortable reality: that this incident is indicative of a broader campus culture. Since the article’s publication, critics have claimed that NPHC members fabricated or exaggerated the impact caused by a banana.

Yet, what they so easily overlook is that within the past four years, students placed a noose on James Meredith’s statue, klansmen marched on our campus and a community member alluded to lynching black people in online comments.

It is no exaggeration to say that black students often feel as though they are under attack. We must confront a culture that dismisses black experiences, supporting the notion that constructive dialogue can actually foster a level of cultural understanding amongst different races.

Makala McNeil is a senior integrated marketing communications and sociology major from Grenada.

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.



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Court asks Bryant to defend state flag

JACKSON — The U.S. Supreme Court is asking attorneys for Mississippi’s governor to file arguments defending the Confederate battle emblem on the state flag.

The court on Tuesday set a Sept. 28 deadline for the filing.

Mississippi has the last state flag featuring the Confederate battle emblem. Critics say the symbol is racist, and supporters say it represents history.

Carlos Moore, an African-American attorney in Mississippi, filed suit in 2016 seeking to have the flag declared an unconstitutional relic of slavery.

A federal district judge and an appeals court ruled against Moore, but his attorneys asked the Supreme Court in June to consider the case during the term that begins in October. Moore’s attorneys said lower courts were wrong to reject his argument that the flag is a symbol of white supremacy that harms Moore and his young daughter by violating the Constitution’s guarantee of equal protection to all citizens.

Moore and one of his attorneys, Michael Scott, said Tuesday it’s a good sign that justices are requesting arguments from Republican Gov. Phil Bryant.

“While this does not mean that the Supreme Court will take the case, it shows that they are giving serious consideration to the petition,” Scott said. “We

are very pleased by this development and remain hopeful that the Supreme Court will agree that the equal protection issues we have raised are worthy of the court’s time.”

Mississippi has used the flag since 1894, displaying its red field and tilted blue cross dotted with 13 white stars in the upper left corner. In a 2001 election voters decided to keep it, and Bryant has often said that if the flag design is to be reconsidered, it should be done in another statewide election.

Several cities and towns and all eight of the state’s public universities have stopped flying the flag amid concerns that it is offensive in a state where 38 percent of the population is black. Many took action after the June 2015 massacre of nine black worshippers at a church in Charleston, South Carolina, by an avowed white supremacist who posed with the Confederate battle flag in photos posted online.

PANEL *continued from page 1*

“I think when we are considering these difficult conversations that are already here on our campus, we need to look systematically at the ways in which we educate not just our students but the ways in which our faculty and staff can be better educated and well-prepared to meet the needs of our students,” Cantrell said.

Ross encouraged students to develop relationships with mentors so they could have someone who could provide advice in an uncomfortable situation.

“If you have a situation where you are feeling uncomfortable and feeling unsafe, I hope you will have a faculty or a staff member to have a conversation with,” Ross said.

Ross also talked about how the university’s Live-Safe app allows campus community members to report non-emergency tips including threats, disturbances and assaults.

She covered various methods on how to deal with hate speech and negative comments on campus, saying that people have the right to know the university’s plan.

“I feel like we have a responsibility to help students, faculty and staff know what we are doing and make it as transparent as possible,” Ross said.

Throughout the discussion, students and faculty asked questions about how the university’s policies and plans were different from those in Charlottesville.

Ross gave her opinion about the events that took place, explaining how freedom of speech may turn into something even more important when there is violence and loss of life.

“I’m certainly sad for my colleagues from other institutions who’ve had to witness that experience,” she said. “Freedom of speech is certainly a way that our students can learn about situations they’ve never been exposed to.”

Some student participants said they’re glad the university is being proactive and

doing something to help prevent racial violence and hate speech on campus. On the same note, those students said they wished more of their peers would attend these types of events in order to create a broader and more diverse conversation.

“I wish that it was more well known because these conversations need to be happening on a larger platform,” senior psychology and English major Correl Hoyle said. “More students need to know about the Live-Safe app, and more students need to know that we have policies in place.”

Hoyle said he had his doubts about how the university would handle this conversation given the school’s checkered past with racism. He also said that knowing the university has a full-scale idea of how to handle negative commentary and that its main priority is the safety of the students is reassuring.

“For the few people who were here, I’m glad we got to come together and have a constructive conversation,” Hoyle said.

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TECH SUMMIT
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in the same location.”
Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter said it was exciting to explore the future of technology and its role in higher education. “We are grateful to have

been able to bring together such an extraordinary group of world-renowned experts who engaged on technology topics ranging from emerging cyber security to rural broadband,” Vitter said. “Discussions about future

needs of industry and the role of higher education as it relates to the technology field will hopefully help inform the next generation of students who will make an impact in a technology-driven world.”

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Local artist captures beauty, rhythm of natural world

JACQUELINE KNIRNSCHILD
STAFF WRITER

Just as summer winds down, Southside Gallery is exhibiting the intricate beauty of nature.

“Green,” Oxford artist Carlyle Wolfe’s seventh exhibition at Southside, is on display until Sunday. The artist’s reception is from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday.

Wolfe has always been inspired by the natural world. Over the past 15 years, she has been making line drawings of plants and using the cutout silhouettes as stencils for paintings.

In her “Green” collection, not only does Wolfe build upon this accumulation of stencils but also includes, for the first time, an on-site stainless steel installation and a series of “shadow paintings.”

Wolfe said she has always been drawn to the details of

the natural world because the more closely one examines nature, the more one sees.

“There’s infinitely more information and substance on a microscopic level,” Wolfe said. “When you’re drawing plants, you’re connected to this rhythm that’s part of a much bigger rhythm of seasons changing and years passing.”

Ever since Wolfe began drawing flowers, she said the rest of the work “grew from there.”

“My work is a description of the landscape. If you’re cultivating a garden, it takes a long time for things to grow and change and mature,” Wolfe said. “And I feel like that same sort of thing has happened in my work.”

Wolfe said that over the years her vision has become more sensitive and she understands plants better.

“You’d sort of think draw-

ing plants for 15 years gets monotonous, but it actually seems to get more and more interesting,” Wolfe said. “I think that’s a reflection of what’s in nature.”

Each painting focuses on a specific moment in time when Wolfe experienced a color group and lighting environment that was particularly influential to her. In addition to paper, in the past year, Wolfe has also begun working with stainless steel to create stencils.

“Stainless steel is a lot like the cut paper because it gives me that plainer shape, and the cut-out is so much more durable, so it gives me a lot more different options,” Wolfe said.

“Green” also features “shadow paintings” in which Wolfe paints traced shadows cast from natural light. Her “shadow painting” concept originated when she was in graduate school at Louisiana State University.

“It was early spring, and I arrived in Baton Rouge, and



PHOTO BY: BILLY SCHUERMAN

“Green” by Carlyle Wolfe is featured at Southside Gallery.

it was in full lush bloom – it just felt so right,” Wolfe said. “I was sitting in a coffee shop, and there were just the most beautiful shadows on my sketchbook, and so I started tracing them, and this body of work grew out of that.”

Wolfe said she loves to put her panel on an easel and search for intricate, hidden shadows that may not be as obvious.

“With these paintings, I think of tapestries,” Wolfe

said. “These lines are distinct colors that add up to something different.”

Wil Cook has been the director of Southside for the past 13 years and thinks this is Wolfe’s most impressive exhibit yet.

“Over time, the scale of the work has gotten a lot larger,” Cook said. “Conceptually, her work is a lot stronger, and there’s a lot more depth to it.”

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THIS WEEK IN OLE MISS SPORTS

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Volleyball travels to Jonesboro for crucial tournament

BILLY SCHUERMAN
STAFF WRITER

The start of the 2017 season was a strong one for the Rebels. Winning three of its four games, the Ole Miss volleyball team's only opening weekend loss was surrendered in a five-set match against North Dakota, a team that made it to the NCAA tournament last season.

Its next tournament starts

Friday against a tough Virginia Tech team that averages 6-foot-1-inch in the middle and 6-foot on the outside. Heading into this lengthy road trip to Arkansas State this weekend, the Hokies have not dropped a match, starting 3-0 on the young year.

SMU, who lost its first match of the season in five sets to Mississippi State, followed that with another loss to Rice University in four sets. Starting 0-2, it swept

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi to leave opening weekend with a one in the win column. With more than half of their players being either freshmen or sophomores, the Mustangs are a very young team, and it shows. Despite having the size inside, this is a team that is getting out blocked on the year 16-26 and clearly lacks defensively. The Rebels need to capitalize on the inexperience and come out swinging.

Arkansas State also is big up front, making it difficult to hit past. However, this is another young team that lacks real experience. Failing to control errors, both season losses were quick 3-0 matches, against Kentucky and Utah. This Red Wolves team may prove to be its own worst enemy if it can't keep its error tally at fewer than 15.

For the Rebels, outside hitter Kate Gibson ranks 32nd in the nation, with 55 total kills. Fellow senior Lexi Thompson is not far behind, at 50. Both players are averaging more than three kills a set, which helps immensely when it comes to alleviating exhaustion involved with long points.

Rebel middle hitter Nayo Warnell continues to be a nuisance for opponents at the net



PHOTO BY: BILLY SCHUERMAN

Emily Stroup and Bayleigh Scott block the ball during a game against Florida A&M earlier this season.

this season, already having recorded 15 blocks through the first four matches of the year. Warnell is on pace to meet or exceed her personal best 82 blocks last season, and this weekend will be a big opportunity to keep causing havoc.

This tournament is a quick road trip to Jonesboro, Arkansas, so the Rebels won't be too far from home, but it's always a different environment when you are playing away from Gillom. Gibson, Thompson, Warnell and company will need to come out and play technically against Virginia Tech in order to set the tone for the rest

of the three-day bout.

When the red and blue roll into Jonesboro this weekend, they need to play fast and sharp. It has been a decent start to the season, and if they can do that, this coming tournament should be no different than the last. Tournaments early in the season are instrumental when it comes to setting successful conference play. At this point, the Rebels are still working through the kinks. With what could be three solid, definitive wins this weekend, Ole Miss volleyball will be that much closer to figuring out its identity for 2017.

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