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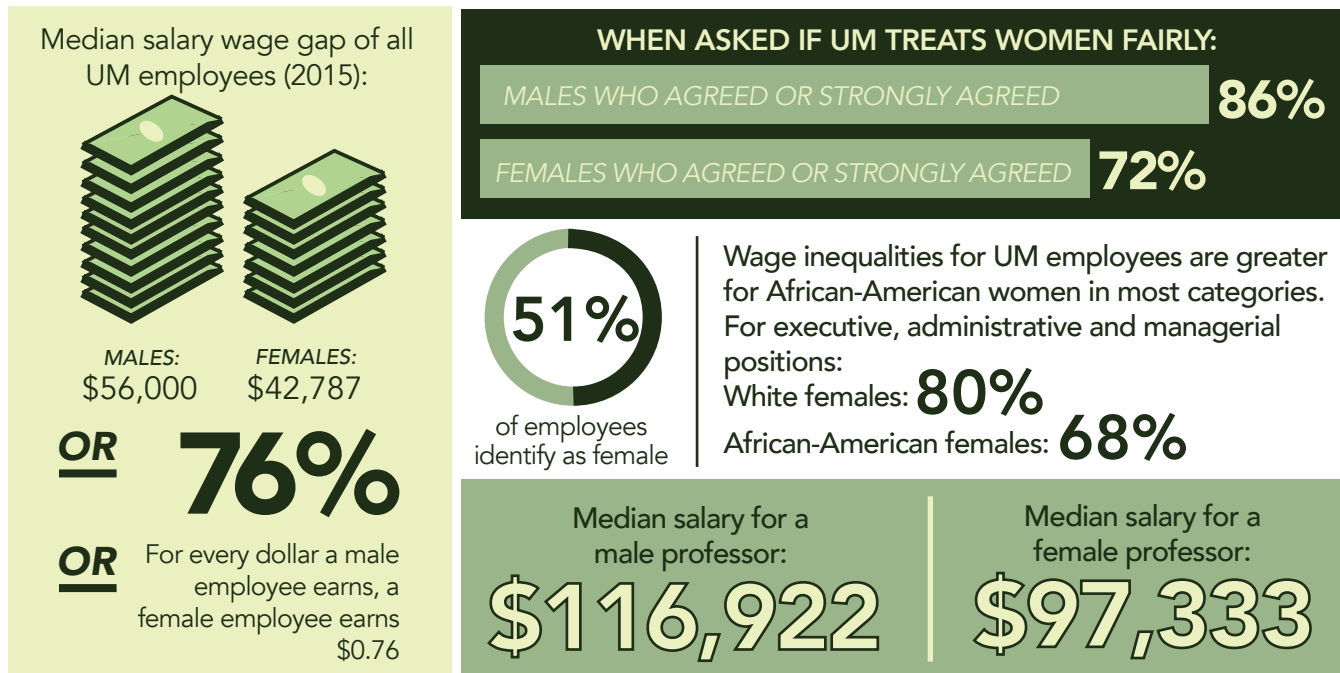
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# MISSISSIPPIAN

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

## University releases gender wage gap report

A LOOK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI'S GENDER WAGE GAP:



INFORMATION COURTESY: 2017 PAY EQUITY AND ADVANCEMENT REPORT | THE CHANCELLOR'S COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: HAYDEN BENGE

**JORDAN HOLMAN**  
STAFF WRITER

The university recently released a 2017 Pay Equity and Advancement Report through the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women at the University of Mississippi.

Including data gathered from 2007 to 2015, the report outlines the existence of a pay gap between male and female employees in each school at the university.

According to the report, the median salary for a male professor is \$116,922, while a female professor has a median salary of \$97,333.

There is a clear gap between male and female faculty members' earnings, that other factors – such as tenure status, department and role – could all also affect.

Kirsten Dellinger, chair of the Sociology Department, said acknowledging that the gap exists is the first step in the right direction.

“Organizations that conduct wage gap assessments on a regular basis are more likely to address and close these gaps than organizations that do not,” Dellinger said. “Regular reporting keeps these issues on our radar.”

Laura Antonow, director of the Office of College Programs, agrees. “Reaction to the report has been generally very positive,” Antonow said. “The chancellor and the provost were very receptive when we presented the commission’s report and recommendations.”

The Office of the Provost released an official statement regarding the report in February, affirming that “we [the Office of the Provost] are committed to working with deans, directors, and department chairs to develop mechanisms to correct problems of gender pay and advancement inequity. As stated in our strategic plan, Flagship Forward, we seek to promote competitive

SEE **WAGE GAP** PAGE 3

## Part of Chucky Mullins closing

**JORDAN HOLMAN**  
STAFF WRITER

A portion of Chucky Mullins Drive running from south of Highway 6 to Old Taylor Road will be closed April 16 through sometime in January.

The Oxford Police Department tweeted the news Friday; however, the closure did not originate from the police department.

“It is primarily a university and city project,” OPD Maj. Jeff McCutchen said. “We’re just in charge of informing the community and helping enforce the closure.”

Many members of the university community were surprised by the closing, including senior psychology major Kate Prendergast.

“I would like to know more about the closing,” Prendergast said. “I frequently use Chucky Mullins to go running at the Whirlpool Trails and would like to know if I’ll still

SEE **CHUCKY MULLINS** PAGE 3

### DM STAFF REPORT

## 10 seniors inducted into the UM Hall of Fame

Ole Miss recognized 200 students as part of the annual Who’s Who Among Students during a ceremony at the Gertrude C. Ford Center Friday.

Out of the students recognized, 10 were inducted into the university’s 2017-18 Hall of Fame, which is one of the highest honors for UM students. Those

students are Allen Coon, Christopher Fezell, Terrence Johnson, Jiwon Lee, Megan McLeod, Savannah Smith, Austin Spindler, Elizabeth Taylor, Jacob Thrasher and Ingrid Valbuena.

A campus committee chooses the new members in accordance with a policy developed by the Associated Student Body.



PHOTO COURTESY: THOMAS GRANING/OLE MISS COMMUNICATIONS

The 2018 University of Mississippi Hall of Fame inductees pose with university administrators

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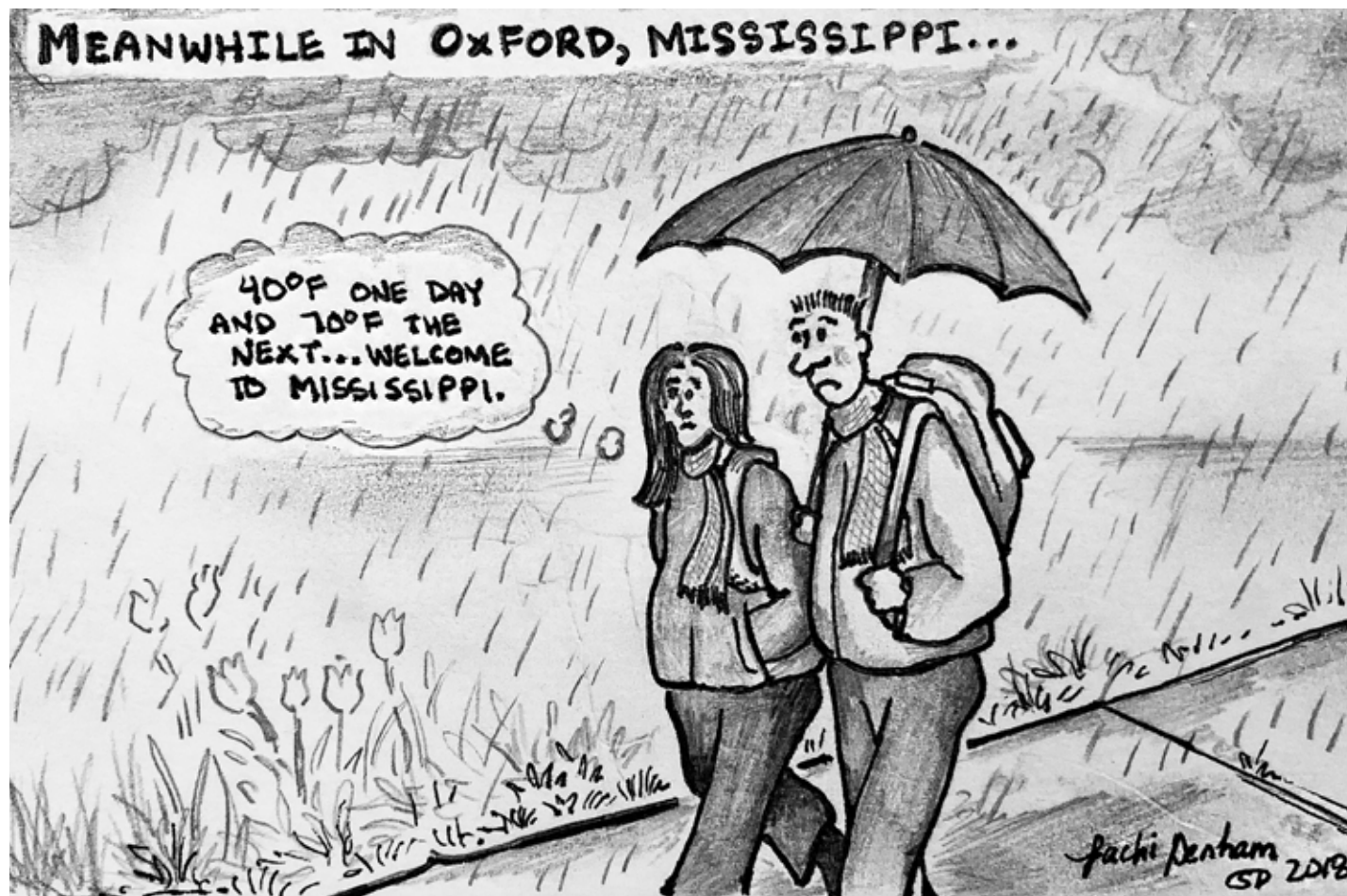
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**COLUMN**

# Second Amendment not going away



**TYLER JORDAN**  
STAFF COLUMNIST

In light of recent mass shootings, both Republicans and Democrats want to create new legislation and policies to ensure that these atrocities end.

Many Republicans believe the answer is to arm teachers and to put more police officers in schools. Democrats have a different answer: Many want to prohibit AR-15s and create stricter legislation about buying guns.

On March 27, longtime Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens wrote

in a New York Times op-ed that the answer is to repeal the Second Amendment, an action he believed would be “simple.”

Repealing the Second Amendment would be by no means simple, and many of Justice Stevens’ other assertions are wrong.

In order to propose an amendment, two-thirds of both houses must vote in favor of it, or two-thirds of the states’ legislatures must call for a national constitutional convention. Additionally, after the amendment is proposed, it must be passed by three-quarters of the states’ legislatures.

Considering these measures and how the Republicans have the majority in both houses and state legislatures, it is very unlikely that the Second Amendment will be repealed in the foreseeable future because the Republican Party doesn’t support govern-

ment infringement upon citizens’ right to bear arms.

Not only is it unlikely because of the Republicans’ current legislative power and party platform, but it would lead to the end of many Democrats’ careers, too.

Gallup, a bipartisan survey company, conducted various surveys in 2017 about the public’s sentiment on guns. When asked, “Do you think there should or should not be a law that would ban the possession of handguns, except by the police and other authorized persons?” 71 percent responded that there shouldn’t be. Despite the several school shootings where an assault rifle was present, 49 percent were against the outlaw of the sale, manufacturing and possession of assault rifles.

According to Justice Stevens, the Second Amendment was created in the 18th century because the

national army could have posed a threat to the security of the separate states, and he believes that concern was relic of the 18th century.

If the government wants to attack amendments that it believes to be outdated, then what other amendments could it go after?

When the First Amendment was created, social media wasn’t around. With that said, do you really think that the members of the Constitutional Convention envisioned fellow Americans using a “free speech” platform to threaten and degrade each other? The answer would be “no,” but the Constitution wasn’t meant to govern for that time period. It was meant to govern for eternity in the United States.

*Tyler Jordan is a senior political science major from Charleston, West Virginia.*

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The Daily Mississippian welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be e-mailed to [dmletters@olemiss.edu](mailto:dmletters@olemiss.edu).

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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**WAGE GAP**  
*continued from page 1*

recruitment and retention of a diverse community of excellent faculty and staff and to develop excellence in human resources across a vibrant, diverse community.”

Other community leaders outside the university faculty are also committed to equalizing the gender pay gap.

The Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies held a town hall last month as part of Women’s History Month. The event allowed for community discussion about the Pay and Equity Advance-

ment report.

According to Antonow, many attended and sought to provide potential solutions to the issue.

“The faculty and staff have been interested in this conversation, and we’ve heard from several department chairs and individual employees asking about how to get the ball rolling to rectify possible inequi-

ties,” Antonow said.

For now, however, both Antonow and Dellinger are encouraging more training for department chairs regarding methods to address pay inequality and an instrument to conduct an examination of pay inequity annually.

In doing so, Antonow said she hopes to create more con-

versations concerning the pay gap and that “the perception that women are less committed due to family responsibilities, that women are less willing to/ or being penalized for negotiating starting salaries or raises, and that salaries in disciplines or fields considered more ‘feminine’ should be lower overall” will be eradicated.

**CHUCKY MULLINS**  
*continued from page 1*

be able to access it. It’s also a big access point on campus, and closing it will back up traffic.”

Mike Harris, director of the Department of Parking and Transportation on campus, said he expected some sort of backlash.

“Whenever roads close, people aren’t happy, but the administration made the decision based on the need of the construction project on Chucky Mullins,” Harris said.

The Department of Parking and Transportation will be working with the Depart-



PHOTO COURTESY: OXFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Oxford Police Department tweeted this map showing which section of Chucky Mullins Drive will be closed for construction until January 2019.

ment of Facilities Planning, to reroute traffic around the construction of the new South Campus Recreation Center.

“The closure is only temporary – until January 2019 – and we are working to make it as seamless as possible,” Harris said. “Students will have to use Old Taylor or Highway 6 to come onto campus, and the Green Line will be rerouted through All-American Drive to the observatory instead.”

When Chucky Mullins re-opens, a new traffic light will have been constructed at the intersection of Chucky Mullins Drive and Old Taylor Road, as well as a recreational facility and transportation hub south of the Whirlpool Trails.

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DM STAFF REPORT

# UM students win 11 Associated Press awards

Students in the Meek School's Student Media Center won 11 awards in the annual Louisiana-Mississippi Associated Press contest for college journalists. The five first-place awards were given to NewsWatch Ole Miss; Lana Ferguson; Alana Mitius; Clara Turnage and Malachi Shinault; and Matthew Hendley and Joseph Katool.

NewsWatch Ole Miss won first place in the TV newscast category for its Dec. 1 show about the NCAA sanctions against the football team. Judges said the journalism students hit a "home run" with the newscast and had comprehensive coverage of a story that impacted the Oxford campus.

Junior Abbie McIntosh serves as the station manager for NewsWatch. She said it was a huge deal for the staff to win best newscast in addition to receiving second place for sportscast.

"That NCAA show was

a monster, and our staff pulled together as a team to bring our audience the news they wanted to know," McIntosh said. "I couldn't

‘ So many student journalists create great content day in and day out, so it's nice knowing it makes a difference and know people are looking at it. I'm proud of my staff and the other media outlets.

- Lana Ferguson, The Daily Mississippian editor-in-chief

be prouder of the work we did that day, and it means the world to be recognized for our hard work."

Lana Ferguson won first place for feature writing for her story about an Oxford church's efforts to help a Texas community rebuild after Hurricane Harvey. Alana Mitius won first place in the radio feature category for a package about a debate competition. Clara Turnage and Malachi Shinault won

for their radio coverage of the NCAA sanctions ruling.

"It's always exciting to see the work produced in the Student Media Center get recognized," said Ferguson, editor-in-chief of The Daily Mississippian. "So many student journalists create great content day in and day out, so it's nice knowing it makes a difference and know people are looking at it. I'm proud of my staff and the other media outlets."

Second places were awarded to Ethel Mwedziwendira, for newspaper layout and design; Lana Ferguson and Clara Turnage, for breaking

ball game; and Italiana Anderson for radio news, for a package about the Hurricane Harvey relief effort.

Rebel Radio station manager Austin Hille said he is proud of his staff and the high-quality coverage it's produced this past year.

"Rebel Radio is honored to receive such prestigious recognitions from the Associated Press," Hille said. "These awards simply reflect the hard work our reporting staff puts in each day."

Unlike in previous years, this year there was no "best newspaper" or "newspaper general excellence" category.

The awards were presented Saturday at the Louisiana-Mississippian convention at the World War II museum in New Orleans. Representing the Meek School were Lana Ferguson, Matthew Hendley, Ethel Mwedziwendira and Collin Rivera.

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# 'Golden Hour' reflects on mistakes made in love

**LIAM NIEMAN**  
OPINION EDITOR

Three years ago, in "Dime Store Cowgirl," country songstress Kacey Musgraves humbly celebrated staying in a hotel with a pool and "felt really small under Mount Rushmore."

That song was on her sophomore release, "Pageant Material," but in her latest album, "Golden Hour," released March 30, Musgraves gets past those insecurities, contributes her own sound to the country genre and digs deep into questions of love and identity.

The album — whose title plays on Musgraves' hometown of Golden, Texas — seems like exactly where her previous three albums were heading: a blend of traditional country and more contemporary genres, with the same focus on acceptance of self and others.

Like the Nashville Sound artists she emulates, Musgraves' production is soft and lush.

"Wonder Woman" is the best example of her use of harmonious instrumentals, with an atmosphere and cosmic melody backed by a driving beat that pushes Musgraves' vocals forward.

However, the album's instrumentals and production aren't without fault. "Oh, What a World," which has an electronic-sounding, vocoder-recorded intro that sounds more like it belongs on a Daft Punk album than a country one, is probably my least favorite song on the album because of its production — not to mention that the lyrics aren't particularly interesting or well-written, either.

Mostly, though, Musgraves' lyrics are carefully crafted and insightful.

For instance, on "Butterflies," Musgraves sings, "Kiss full of color makes me wonder where you've always been / I was hiding in doubt 'til you brought me out of my chrysalis / And I came out new all because of you."

These lines, packed with internal rhymes and a small



PHOTO COURTESY: PITCHFORK

part of the song's extended metaphor comparing a new love to a butterfly's transformation, go to show Musgraves' writerly instinct.

"Butterflies" is the song that stuck with me the most after listening through the album a few times. This clever song, written a week after Musgraves met her now-husband, is both an accurate depiction of the beginning stages of a romance and a catchy song sure to stay in your head.

On "Golden Hour," Musgraves' choruses are often longer than the individual verses, the repetition of which lends the album a pop feel without sacrificing any of the wit and wordplay of Musgraves' previous songwriting.

The album's best chorus is in "High Horse," a disco-tinged yet still twangy song that sounds like something you could dance to in a club but still manages to reference John Wayne. Its chorus is a thing of Western fantasies, with lines like, "So why don't you giddy up, giddy up / And ride straight out of town," using the language of Old West tales to tell a story of modern love.

Another song that shows Musgraves' ability to mess with the language and conventions of country-Western movies and music is "Space Cowboy."

"Shoulda learned from the movies that good guys don't run away / But roads weren't made to not go down / And there ain't room for both of us in this town," sings Musgraves as she adopts Western tropes while knocking her partner down a peg by having him drive a Silverado rather than ride a horse.

"Space Cowboy" is an especially satisfying song because of how Musgraves works the title into her lyrics. While the title by itself suggests the blend of futurism and traditionalism the entire song seems to be hinting at, the beginning of the chorus ("You can have your space, cowboy / I ain't gonna fence you in") deftly reveals the title's second meaning.

One thing that Musgraves has always been good at is teaching her listeners morals of acceptance of both themselves and others. On previous albums, songs like "Follow Your Arrow" and "Biscuits" encouraged listeners to be and explore themselves ("Kiss lots of boys / Or kiss lots of girls if that's something you're into") and to let others do the same ("Mind your own biscuits / And life will be gravy").

Though Musgraves spends a lot of time on "Golden Hour" reflecting on her own life, she does use the song "Lonely Weekend" to admit that she is often lonely and

about the speaker's partner being gone most nights and weekends, still has a story embedded within it, making for a more compelling tune.

There is a tension on "Golden Hour" between the desire for the kind of love that's "in the movies," the one Musgraves' sees in Elvis and Priscilla on "Velvet Elvis" or that appears in the romanticized Western movies of "Space Cowboy," and Musgraves' awareness that she's not Wonder Woman.

It is this tension that makes "Golden Hour" so real and so honest. Rather than painting a picture of unrealistic, ever-infatuated lovers, Musgraves' album hopes for that but doesn't shy away from the loneliness, losses and mistakes that are bound to happen in romance.

thus validate the feelings of listeners with similar concerns. The song, which is

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# Concert to feature variety of symphonic stylings

**KENNEDY MCJUNKIN**  
CONTRIBUTOR

The Lafayette/Oxford/University Symphony Orchestra's upcoming spring concert, "Masterworks in Jeans," is directed by Selim Giray and will showcase a variety of symphonic stylings at 7:30 tonight at the Ford Center.

"We ask that our audience members feel comfortable, come as they are and join us to hear these exquisite works," Giray said.

The first piece is Bach's "Brandenburg Concerto No. 5." Composer Johann Sebastian Bach wrote a series of six concertos and dedicated those to Christian Ludwig, Margrave of Brandenburg, Germany.

This fifth concerto is broken up into three movements and features three solo instruments: the flute,



PHOTO COURTESY: LOU SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

the violin and the harpsichord.

The first and last sections have a fast tempo, while the middle section slows down.

"This is a particularly in-

teresting composition, for it features the harpsichord in an extended cadenza written specifically to showcase the instrument in the first movement," Giray said.

University of Mississippi faculty member Stacy Rodgers will be the soloist on the harpsichord.

"The three movements are very upbeat, with the first and last bright, but the middle part is a bit more somber," Rodgers said. "Overall, the piece has a nice, effective contrast."

board studies and collaborative piano in the Department of Music. His wife, Diane Wang, will perform a solo on the flute, and Robert Riggs will perform a solo on the violin.

Ronald Vernon, who led the LOU Symphony for more than 40 years, will be the guest conductor.

The second work, played with trumpets and string instruments, is titled "The Hollow Men for Trumpet and String Orchestra, Op. 25" by Vincent Persichetti. It has been said to emulate

the mood of the T.S. Eliot poem "The Hollow Men" with its quiet yet underlying tension.

"The music springs from the disillusioned subtleties of a poem that intensifies the sense of emptiness and hopelessness of mankind," American composer Vincent Persichetti said in an interview.

The third and final piece is "Symphony No. 8" by Franz Schubert. The unfinished symphony was composed six years prior to the composer's untimely death in 1828. It was hidden and not performed for more than 40 years until its premiere in Vienna, Austria, in 1865.

"Though it is among several incomplete works of Schubert, it remains among the most celebrated works of his," Giray said.

There are two movements in this piece, with the first movement fast and the second movement slow "but with motion."

"The work is unique, that is, deceptively unassuming yet sublimely dramatic," Giray said.

Giray said he hopes to see first-time audience members who have never attended a symphonic concert before.

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E	D	E	L	A	R	E	N	A	E	R	G	S	
D	E	V	O	H	A	T	E	S	N	A	I	L	
I	L	E	D	A	T	T	R	A	C	T	I	V	E
E	A	S	E	L	T	A	O	D	E	L	E	D	
E	B	B	T	I	D	E	F	R	O	S	T	E	
R	E	L	A	T	E	M	A	I	M	U	M	A	
A	L	A	R	A	C	I	D	S	O	D	O	R	
S	E	Z	C	L	A	D	O	F	N	O	T	E	
E	M	E	R	A	L	D	S	N	E	E	R	E	
R	A	N	D	R	C	R	T	A	I	R	E	D	
I	N	A	D	E	Q	U	A	T	E	D	O	U	R
I	T	H	E	U	P	S	E	T	E	T	R	E	
S	E	A	N	O	S	H	E	A	O	H	O	W	

- in the arm
- 28 Juniors, perhaps
- 29 Choir members
- 33 Designer Gemreich
- 34 Tel \_\_\_
- 35 After the bell
- 38 Convict
- 39 Canonized Fr. women
- 40 Having the form of a sac
- 43 Structure for storing grain
- 46 Beehive State athlete
- 48 Open shelter
- 49 Portion of time
- 50 Environmental sci.
- 51 Rum cakes
- 52 Separated
- 53 South American ruminant
- 56 Melody
- 57 To be, in Paree
- 58 Elevator man
- 59 Gets the picture
- 62 Move about recklessly
- 63 It's a moray

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15						16		
17				18							19		
20				21			22			23			
24							25						
26	27	28					29						
30							31			32	33	34	35
36				37	38	39			40		41		
42			43		44				45	46			
47	48						49	50					
51	52	53					54						
55							56				57	58	59
60					61		62				63		
64					65						66		
67					68						69		

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

### 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**

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

# Rebel defense tops offense in annual Grove Bowl

**ANNIE MAPP**  
STAFF WRITER

The Ole Miss defense dominated this year's Grove Bowl on Saturday, emerging the 27-21 victor over the Rebels' offensive unit.

It was a cold and wet day with low fan turnout as the Ole Miss offense took the field in red and the defense donned the traditional blue.

The Rebel defense was given a 27-point advantage to start the game, and the offense would need almost 15 minutes before its first score. Quarterback Jordan Ta'amu completed a 53-yard pass to wide receiver D.K. Metcalf for the touchdown. He later made another 3-yard touchdown pass to Metcalf before finishing the game with a 10-yard rush as the offense closed in on its 21-point ceiling.

Throughout the day, the offense struggled to break down a sturdy defensive front. Defensive coordinator Wesley McGriff credited his group's efforts in practice after the game.

"You have to realize that players learn different. Some guys can go from the meeting room directly to the field and can execute a play," McGriff said. "But some guys need a walk-through. So I thought we



PHOTO BY: TAYLAR TEEL

Jordan Ta'amu prepares to throw downfield for a touchdown during the Grove Bowl on Saturday.

did a better job as a staff of walking through, slowing

down and repeating it and teaching it to them instead of going down and trying to run more."

Last year, the Rebel defense finished 115th out of 129 FBS teams against the run. Ole Miss also allowed its opponents to convert 41.5 percent of third downs, 89th in the country. But the unit appeared to have turned over a new leaf Saturday.

On the other side of the ball, Ta'amu and his offensive cohorts were not without a few impressive moments of their own.

"I felt like our offense as a whole progressed throughout the whole spring. Getting the first downs that we need, and working fast down the field, I felt like we did that," Ta'amu said.

The "Throwin' Samoan" is poised for a breakout season after spending much of 2017 on the bench behind former Rebel Shea Patterson.

"Being a leader out there is a big role for me. Making sure the team has my back and being an example has really worked out for me," Patterson said.

Tight end Dawson Knox, running backs D'Vaughn Pennamon and D.K. Buford, offensive linemen Sean Rawlings, Alex Givens and Eli Johnson and defensive

linemen Austrian Robinson, Qadir Sheppard and Benito Jones were all sidelined with injuries Saturday. Additionally, A.J. Brown, DaMarkus Lodge and Demarcus Gregory have worn non-contact jerseys during spring practices and thus did not participate in the Grove Bowl.

Prior to Saturday's scrimmage, C.J. Moore was awarded the Chucky Mullins Courage Award. Mullins played football in 1988 before suffering a spinal injury against Vanderbilt in 1989 and later dying in 1991.

Each year, the recipient of the award also receives the honor of wearing Mullins' No. 38 on his jersey. The coaching staff picked Moore in recognition of his exceptional on- and off-field character.

"You can't have enough kids on your roster that are made up like C.J. Moore. That kid is very unselfish. He embodies the type of person that you want in your program," McGriff said after the game. "It was a very easy selection when you're talking about who you want to represent the Chucky Mullins Award. He's the type of young man that you will give your wallet to and he will take care of it."

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- Ability to multitask and being comfortable dealing with a diverse pool of people
- No prior knowledge of law required



# ‘Coach Yo’ era of women’s basketball begins

**JOSH GOLLIHAR**  
STAFF WRITER

A new era of Ole Miss women’s basketball has begun.

After announcing the hire last Wednesday, Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter and Athletics Director Ross Bjork introduced the ninth head coach and first female black coach in program history, Yolett McPhee-McCuin, on Friday. She spoke to media and fans in her new arena, The Pavilion, and said she’s going to bring the work effort necessary to win a championship in Oxford.

McPhee-McCuin comes to Ole Miss by way of Jacksonville University, where she posted a .599 win percentage with a 94-63 record. She went 50-24 in conference games and led her team to postseason play in her final three seasons, including an NCAA Tournament berth in 2016. She began her career as an assistant at Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Portland, Pittsburgh and Clemson before receiving the head coaching position at Jacksonville in 2013.

McPhee-McCuin quickly endeared herself to the fans, fellow coaches and players, beginning her introduction by leading the “Hotty Toddy” chant and giving some insight into not only the kind of coach she is but the kind of person she is.

In particular, McPhee-McCuin emphasized the principles she believes in most: All people matter and greatness is difficult. She also noted that her program will follow the “three T’s.”

“To build anything worth admiring, you need three things,” McPhee-McCuin said. “Time, talent and treasure. We will stay as long as it takes. We will impose skill, which shows under pressure. We will be thankful for the resources that we have – and the resources are here.”

Coach Yo, the moniker



PHOTOS BY: LOGAN CONNER

Yolett McPhee-McCuin answers questions during a press conference about being introduced as the head coach of the Ole Miss women’s basketball team.



Athletics Director Ross Bjork introduces McPhee-McCuin as the new head coach of the Ole Miss women’s basketball team during a press conference at The Pavilion on Friday.

by which she is known, applauded The Pavilion, calling it “prime real estate,” in which to play and coach. She also emphasized how being a role model for younger girls,

including her own daughters, is a key part of the position.

“To the little girls that are told they are not good enough, not smart enough,”

she said with a big smile. “Today you can celebrate with Coach Yo.”

Discussing the daunting task of conducting coaching searches for both basketball

programs at virtually the same time, Bjork said it created a template of characteristics that would define the next coach for the women’s program. McPhee-McCuin checked all the boxes.

“We had a list of characteristics that were very consistent,” Bjork said. “We found that those characteristics live in coach Yo. Proven winner, program identity, recruiting machine, player developer, disciplined, passionate and, above all, a leader.”

McPhee-McCuin faces an uphill battle, tasked with resurrecting a team that finished at the bottom of the SEC – but her track record speaks for itself. Having climbed the coaching ladder, she knows that success will not be given as a handout but will come through hard work, proper preparation and the building of an identity for her team.

The bottom line is that, with the coach Yo era upon us, the Rebel fanbase should have high hopes for a program in need of a new direction.

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Pick winner of Friday, April 13 game \*

Ole Miss  
 Vanderbilt

Pick winner of Saturday, April 14 game \*

Ole Miss  
 Vanderbilt

3

Winner will be contacted Mon., April 16

Hurry!  
Contest closes Friday, April 13 at 4pm