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MISSISSIPPIAN

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

WHAT'S INSIDE...

State budget cuts have consequences

Check out Dark Star Orchestra's Grateful Dead tribute

Rebels sweep series against Alabama

SEE **OPINION** PAGE 2

SEE **THEDMONLINE.COM**

SEE **SPORTS** PAGE 8



Legislature's new rule cuts into students' wallets

LANA FERGUSON
dmeditor@gmail.com

Students across the state could lose hundreds of dollars in grants if a bill on Gov. Phil Bryant's desk is passed into law.

The Mississippi Legislature recently approved an appropriation bill for the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid that would stop students from "stacking" grants. The bill limits students to receiving only one state aid grant. Students will receive the grant awarding them the largest amount but will not receive additional grants that they might have in the past.

Colleges and universities will also now check students' GPA at the end of each semester to ensure they meet the required point average to keep their grant. Previously, this was only done once every academic year for some grants. These changes come only a semester after Mississippi students were newly required to take 15 academic hours instead of 12 to receive financial aid. Students who did not enroll in 15 credit hours or dropped below that number during the semester lost their state financial aid.

The grant changes are expected to impact 3,400 students, with an additional 430 being impacted by the GPA checks.

One of the students whose

916 estimated students at UM would have been affected if this rule had been implemented last year.

\$1,000 (maximum decrease of funds for individual students)

Senate Bill 2959

Approximately **3,400** students in Mississippi will be affected each year.

"People like me, and others in worse situations, need this money to keep our heads above water in a city that's so expensive to live in."

Alice McKelvey

April 20

Gov. Phil Bryant has until this date to sign the bill into law.

15,317 students received emails (3,466 new students & 11,851 continuing students)

GRAPHIC BY: MARISA MORRISSETTE

SOURCE: THE MISSISSIPPI POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BOARD, UM OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

grants are on the chopping block is Cody Letchworth, a junior accounting and public policy leadership major from Kokomo. He received both the Mississippi Tuition Grant and the Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant this semester. Next semester, he won't receive the Mississippi Tuition Grant.

"It's not fair to people that work so hard in high school and are told to work hard in school (to gain merit-based financial aid) to only have that ripped out from under them because our legislature puts education under the rest of their inadequate budget plans," Letchworth said. "Even though MTAG is only \$500 a

semester, that's \$1,000 a year that you haven't had to pay your entire college career, and then it's just sprung on you out of the blue."

Demand for state aid has increased over recent years. Just last year, the demand exceeded available funds by about \$11 million.

"Our budget has seen a great

deal of pressure for several years now," Jennifer Rogers, director of the Mississippi Office of Financial Aid, said. "Had the legislature not made these changes, we might have been forced to prorate."

A proration – a complete revision of budget – would

SEE **GRANTS** PAGE 3

2017 Hall of Fame, Who's Who recipients announced

BRIANA FLOREZ
thedmnews@gmail.com

The members of Who's Who Among University and Colleges 2017 class were honored Friday afternoon at the Gertrude C. Ford Center. Ten of the 150 recipients were inducted into the Student Hall of Fame.

Noel Wilkin, interim provost and executive vice chancellor, said the university's success relies on its students' achievements.

"Today we celebrate that success as we recognize some of our best and brightest students," Wilkin said.

Induction into the Student Hall of Fame has been estab-

lished as the highest honor a student can receive at the university. A selection committee chooses the recipients through a process outlined in the Associated Student Body Constitution, according to Brandi Hephner Labanc, vice chancellor for student affairs.

John Brahan, Austin Dean, Leah Gibson, James-Roland Markos, Alex Martin, Chase Moore, Austin Powell, Miller Richmond, Acacia Santos and Yujing Zhang are the 2017 Hall of Fame inductees.

Fame recipients have served in various organizations across campus, and were selected for their outstanding leadership, academic achievement and community service.

"Not only are those students who recognized here today have real life significant academic and personal achievements already, they've also helped make our university a better place," Wilkin said. "And I first of all say thank you for that and how you've contributed to our university over time. I am proud we are honoring you today."



PHOTO COURTESY: ROBERT JORDAN|OLE MISS COMMUNICATIONS

FOR MORE WHO'S WHO SEE THEDMONLINE.COM

The 2017 Hall of Fame inductees are front row (L to R) Acacia Santos, Leah Gibson, Yujing Zhang, Alex Martin. Back Row (L to R) Austin Dean, Chase Moore, Austin Powell, Miller Richmond, John Brahan, James Roland Markos. Hall of Fame is the highest honor a student can receive.



COLUMN

Legislators risk economic unrest with budget cuts



FRANCISCO HERNANDEZ
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Even as an international student, I am neither blind nor deaf to the structural problems of the state of Mississippi.

Poverty, unemployment, obesity, other health issues and low education levels (all very unequally distributed

among races) are great challenges for progress in this state.

With funding cuts for education and healthcare, it seems that Mississippi's political leaders have no interest in repairing the deficiencies and inequalities in the Magnolia State.

In my view, there is one main reason to explain this situation: The leaders of one of the poorest states in the country are only interested in representing the rich minority.

As reported by The Associated Press, estimates show that tax cuts implemented since 2012 will drop revenues for the state by \$350 million next year. Mean-

while, this year's budget was cut by more than \$170 million to offset losses.

Although I am by no means an expert in fiscal policy, it seems to me that the combination of tax cuts and budget cuts is directed at preserving the wealth of a few individuals at the expense of the majority of the state.

Before you label me as Bernie-loving socialist, think about the deep effects that cuts in education and healthcare (UMMC also suffered a \$32.7 million cut) might have for a state with shortcomings in those two same issues.

Also think about who is going to be affected more severely by these policies.

The rich, who proportionally benefit more from tax cuts and are less affected by rising tuition and healthcare costs, will be better off.

The poor, who are disproportionately non-white, will benefit less from tax cuts and will suffer more from higher costs.

In carrying on with these measures, I think Mississippi's representatives are heading toward a very dangerous scenario. More inequality, both among income levels and among races, can lead to social unrest.

No one likes to see another group of people unjustly benefiting from an unfair system, and that can lead to unrest and discontent in a

society.

This formula will also have negative effects for the economy. Lower education levels will reduce the skills of workers, who must adapt to the challenges of mechanization and globalization by actually increasing their education levels.

There was a time when many college students were considered social agitators because of the unrest their protests allegedly brought. Unfortunately, many of Mississippi's social agitators of today might prove to be in the State Capitol.

Francisco Hernandez is a junior international studies major from Valencia, Spain.

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The Daily Mississippian welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be e-mailed to 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.

GRANTS
continued from page 1

affect all scholarships, grants and other state aid rather than the five grant programs that Mississippi now has. Not every student qualifies for more than one grant. Rogers estimated about 916 students at Ole Miss would have been affected if this rule had been implemented last year.

Laura Diven-Brown, director of Ole Miss' financial aid office, said the school will not know the impact of this new rule until fall begins and monies really start to move. Then, the office will be able to compare the amount of state grant funding distributed among different academic years.

Rogers notified Diven-Brown of the change just a day after the bill was signed by the Senate. She said she had been told changes were probably coming but didn't know the extent of them until she got the email.

The financial aid office ran reports and eliminated second grants for anybody who qualified for more than one of the five grants available to Mississippi students.

The grant programs affected include the Mississippi Tuition Grant, the Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant, the Higher Education Legislative Plan for Needy Students, the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen Scholarship and Nissan Scholarship.

MTAG and the eminent scholars grant were the first grant programs created in Mississippi. They began the 1995-1996 school year.

"They started when I started," Diven-Brown said. "I came in August '95, and there were

applications everywhere."

Although the need for these grants has increased since their inception, they've remained the same annual amount for the past 22 years.

Diven-Brown said most students losing a grant will be losing MTAG.

"I hope \$500 a year is not going to make that difference as to whether you are recruited to our school or you can stay

“For students who have that financial need, every little bit helps to get more money, and every little bit hurts to get less money.”

at our school," Diven-Brown said. "I do think \$1,000, especially for juniors and seniors that were expecting it all along, that is still a significant amount of money."

Diven-Brown said it's always sad to see financial aid being lost for students.

"All those little things that you can stack up are what makes the college financial plan look affordable," she said. "I hate seeing those things go out."

Diven-Brown recommends any student who is worried about financial issues or paying for college should meet with advisers in the financial aid office. They can help with figuring out how to fill the "gap," including taking out loans. She also said to look for scholarships.

"For students who have that financial need, every little bit helps to get more money, and every little bit hurts to get less money," Diven-Brown said.

The financial aid office sent around 48,400 emails out to more than 15,300 continuing and new students and their

parents in an effort to let students know as soon as possible.

Alice McKelvey, a junior journalism major from Meridian, was doing homework when she got her email.

"As soon as I read the subject line of the email, I knew something not-so-great would be at the end of it," she said.

McKelvey will be graduating a semester early in Decem-

paid roughly 75 percent of her tuition. Since this rule, McKelvey will lose another grant. McKelvey works every weekend for eight or more hours a day to help pay for everything but said she will still probably have to take out a loan for her final semester of college.

"People like me, and others in worse situations, need this money to keep our heads above water in a city that's so

where the priorities of the state lie."

Michelle Nguyen, a junior integrated marketing communications major from Ridgeland, said the thought of losing financial aid she'd worked all throughout high school to earn is scary.

Nguyen uses the money she gets back from grants toward textbooks and other living necessities like groceries and rent.

"Being here at Ole Miss is an incredible opportunity, and I honestly could not be here without a lot of my financial aid," she said. "Students just like me have worked hard their entire life in school and want to further their education who are here on scholarships and grants are now going to have to find different alternatives to make it work, even though we thought we wouldn't have to."

Multiple authors of the bill did not respond to requests for interviews last week. Gov. Phil Bryant has until next Thursday to sign the bill into law.

Taylor Lewis and Rebecca DeLuna contributed reporting to this article.

- Laura Diven-Brown

expensive to live in," McKelvey said.

Austin Norton, an accounting major from Saucier, said financial aid was what solidified his decision to come to Ole Miss.

"As a kid from south Mississippi whose parents didn't go to college, my decisions on which school to go to was based off financial aid," Norton said. "The state of Mississippi has continually tightened the requirements for financial aid, which leads me to wonder

ber. Until this point, she never needed to take out a student loan. She said she had been able to come to Ole Miss strictly because scholarships and state and federal grants have been able to help with the cost. She'd received the Pell Grant, a federal need-based grant awarded to low-income undergraduates.

"The Pell Grant helped tremendously, but my mom recently remarried, which messed up my parents' income bracket because my stepfather makes more money than my mom does, even though he does not pay for my education," McKelvey said.

She lost the Pell Grant that

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MONDAY

8 a.m. - Mississippi 200 Years of Statehood Exhibit - Faulkner Room
8:30 a.m. - Yoga in the Gallery - UM Museum
5 p.m. - Jami Attenberg with "All Grown Up" - Off Square Books
6:30 p.m. - Dark Star Orchestra: Grateful Dead Experience - The Lyric Oxford
8 p.m. - Marco Pavé - Proud Larry's

TUESDAY

5 p.m. - Mary Ann Connell with "An Unforeseen Life" - Off Square Books
6 p.m. - Attorney General Jim Hood - Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics
9 p.m. - Neutral Snap: Make Live Music Great Again - The Lyric

WEDNESDAY

5 p.m. - Charity Bowl - Vaught-Hemingway Stadium

THURSDAY

Noon - Gardner Spring Lecture Series - UM Museum
6 p.m. - Holly Tucker with "City of Light, City of Poison" - Off Square Books

FRIDAY

1 p.m. - Ole Miss Tennis versus Vanderbilt - Palmer/Salloum Tennis Center
5 p.m. - Michael Thompson with "The Actress" - Off Square Books
8 p.m. - The Cooters - Proud Larry's

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Receivers dominate Grove Bowl scrimmage

SAM HARRIS
 thedmsports@gmail.com

On a beautiful Saturday afternoon in Oxford, the Ole Miss Rebels hosted the annual Grove Bowl in front of a few thousand dedicated fans in Vaught-Hemingway Stadium.

The offensive and defensive units, led by newly hired coordinators Phil Longo and Wesley McGriff, respectively, squared off in a full-length, intra-squad scrimmage that gave the coaches and fans a performance to pour over until fall practices start. To even things out, the defense was given a 27-0 but allowed only to score directly off turnovers.

Rising sophomore Shea Patterson got the start at quarterback, as expected, and wasted no time linking up with receivers DK Metcalf and AJ Brown.

Early in the first quarter, Patterson shot a 28-yard bullet down the left side of the field to Metcalf, who sidestepped deftly around an opposing cornerback for the first touchdown of the game. Just minutes later, Patterson sent Brown up the middle for a 76-yard touchdown reception. Both extra point attempts were good, and the score rose to 27-14.

"The sky's the limit for those two (Metcalf and Brown)," Patterson said. "They will be as good as they want to be."

Both Metcalf and Brown demonstrated an ability to beat corners and safeties with the ball in their hands. While impressive, their performances did not reflect well on the Ole Miss secondary, which as a whole struggled to stop Patterson's pass-heavy offense.

"You don't know what



PHOTO BY: TAYLAR TEEL

Rising sophomore Shea Patterson throws the ball during the Grove Bowl on Saturday. Patterson split game time with junior college transfer Jordan Ta'amu.

as a day one starter, it remains to be seen if Ta'amu can challenge him for minutes.

"I think he's got something to him," Freeze said. "I've watched him for 15 practices now. I love his demeanor. He had been itching to go live, and I think he's faster than anyone gives him credit. He's got a knack for running the ball, and he throws the deep ball pretty well."

Midway through the second quarter, Patterson re-entered the game, but a bad snap forced him to concede a two-point safety just before halftime.

The third quarter was largely uneventful; the Rebels' electric first-half offense seemed to sputter out, and the defensive unit found limited success at stopping deep throws. Gary Wunderlich connected on a 30-yard field goal just over five minutes into the quarter, cutting the deficit to five.

Down 29-24, Jordan Ta'amu stepped up in the fourth quarter, driving the offense down the field and into the red zone. A 1-yard touchdown run from the junior was all it took to seal a 31-29 win for Freeze's offense.

"It was a good competition. I think probably the right team won today," Freeze said. "I thought the offense controlled most of the scrimmage."

With Saturday's game out of the way, the Rebels' coaching staff can assess the efficacy of the team's spring practices so far and continue its progression through the summer and into fall.

"I'm pleased with the improvements we've made in certain spots," Freeze said. "We have a chance to be a talented ball club."

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27 Video-game pioneer
 28 Wyoming range
 29 Snowy
 30 Atmosphere
 31 Ms. Reese
 32 Waited in line
 34 Art colony town
 36 Courtroom fig.
 38 Police procedures
 41 Guitar features
 43 Harness-racing horse
 44 Genre

DOWN

46 Fair-hiring abbr.
 47 Woolen item
 49 Fountain in Rome
 50 Senior cit. group
 51 Four-handed piano piece
 52 Cliques
 54 Rockies, briefly
 55 Smell strongly
 56 Time to beware
 57 D.C. vitamin monitors
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to feel," head coach Hugh Freeze said. "You want to high five your receivers and say, 'Man, great job,' but you can't give up explosive plays."

Jordan Ta'amu, a junior college transfer from the New Mexico Military Institute, took over for Patterson in the second quarter. The native Hawaiian looked comfortable at the helm of the Rebels' offense as he tossed a 74-yard touchdown pass to sophomore wide receiver Van Jefferson, making the score 27-21.

Once the final whistle blew, Ta'amu had thrown 188 yards total in limited time on the field. With Patterson already penciled in

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Auburn takes weekend series win over Rebels

ETHAN WRIGHT

thedmsports@gmail.com

The weekend was not kind to Ole Miss softball and head coach Mike Smith as the Rebels dropped two of three games to No. 5 Auburn. The Rebels failed to overcome a surging Auburn team during their first and third games, losing each 3-1.

The second game, however, saw vast offensive improvements for Ole Miss, driving in run after run to defeat the Tigers 10-4. The series moved Ole Miss' record to 26-13 on the season and a less than impressive 3-9 in conference play.

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Despite being held to just a single score in its two losses, a light at the end of the tunnel persists. There is clearly more to this Ole Miss offense than many have come to expect, and Smith certainly hopes to unleash more of that potential over the coming weeks.

With respect to Auburn's national ranking, putting up 10 runs against the typically stingy Tigers' pitching staff certainly holds plenty of weight. In fact, the Rebels' 10-run outing was Auburn's worst defensive performance of the year. Doing this while holding Auburn to just four runs represents tangible hope that Ole Miss softball fans can cling to as postseason play approaches.

The sudden display of hitting prowess surprised many, seeing as the Rebels have faced a midseason struggle to drive in runs. Despite early season success against a number of ranked



PHOTO BY: CAMERON BROOKS

Sophomore Ashton Lampton throws the ball to first base after fielding a ground ball during a game earlier this season.

teams, Ole Miss has struggled against quality opponents lately. The sudden hitting improvement could be a sign that fortunes are changing for Smith and his players.

Ole Miss won't face many teams better than Auburn

down the stretch, but a rematch in the SEC Tournament next month is not out of the question. For that rematch to occur, the Rebels will need to channel their best softball and win every game possible. From this point on, every additional loss pushes

postseason success a little further away.

With sophomores Kylan Becker and Ashton Lampton both hitting well and team captain Elantra Cox finally living up to her offseason hype, the Rebels can dispatch any team they face. When those leaders go noticeably silent, as was the case in the first and third game of the series, the results are often disastrous.

With only four SEC opponents left before the tournament starts on May 10, the Rebels need to improve their 3-9 conference record as soon as humanly possible. While the Auburn series did not aid in that effort, it did showcase the Rebels' ability to, when the stars align, handle top-ranked teams.

The Auburn series wasn't quite the turnaround the Rebels were hoping for, but it did show that a pivotal moment could be just around the corner.

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Ole Miss baseball sweeps Alabama in weekend series

BRETT ORSAY

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The Ole Miss Rebels completed a three-game sweep over the Alabama Crimson Tide this Sunday after a stellar afternoon on the mound from winning pitcher Ryan Rolison.

After a shaky first inning that saw 27 pitches and a mound visit from head coach Mike Bianco, Rolison was able to settle in and go 5.2 innings while striking out seven and giving up just one hit. Rolison credits Bianco for his resurgence throughout the game.

"(Coach Bianco) was coming out there to slow me

down because I threw a lot of pitches early on," Rolison said.

The Rebels jumped out to an early 2-0 lead, thanks to RBIs from Ryan Olenek and Tim Rowe. Although Olenek and Rowe helped the Rebels get ahead early, Tate Blackman and Will Golsan were the true standouts at the plate today, accounting for five runs and five RBIs.

After the two-run first inning, the game hit a lull until the end of the fifth inning, when Bianco came out to share some words with the umpire on a controversial at-bat from Olenek. The umpire behind home plate was inconsistent for both teams

throughout the game, holding off on seemingly obvious strikes but not being afraid to call pitches well up in the zone.

Cheers for Bianco and jeers for the umpire came early and often as the intensity heated up. When Alabama power hitter Chandler Taylor stepped up to the plate in the sixth inning, the crowd starting yelling, "Out of the box!" during his at-bat, trying to get the umpire to give some calls for the home team.

After the crowd stretched out in the middle of the seventh, Golsan followed up Blackman's leadoff single with a home run to left center field that barely snuck



PHOTO BY: FIRST LAST

Freshman shortstop Grae Kessinger and teammates stand in the dugout during the "Love is Gone" song this weekend. Ole Miss picked up three wins against Alabama, moving its SEC record to 6-6.

out of the yard.

"It was up, and before that he had jammed me, so I just felt like I needed to get to it, and I got my barrel to it," Golsan said.

Olenek didn't let his previous controversial at-bat bother him too much, knocking in Colby Bortles on a pitch from Alabama freshman Deacon Medders that was intended to be the third ball in an intentional walk. Medders intentionally walked left fielder Thomas Dillard in the fifth inning, but like the errant throw to Olenek, it was a struggle for him to successfully get all the pitches outside of the zone

and to his catcher accurately.

Dallas Woolfolk came in for the six-out save in the eighth inning, but the closer needed some help from the defense to make it out alive. With the bases loaded, Connor Short lined out to Golsan, who then fired it to cutoff man Bortles to keep Chandler Taylor glued to third base.

After the line-out, Woolfolk earned his seventh save and promptly set down the next four batters, including a three-pitch strikeout that ended the game with Taylor watching the ball fly into Nick Fortes' mitt.

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