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# THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

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

## WHAT'S INSIDE...

**America's partisan rift:** How you can help

**'13 Reasons Why'** sheds light on important teen issues

**Rebels travel** to UT Martin for midweek game

SEE **OPINION** PAGE 2

SEE **LIFESTYLES** PAGE 5

SEE **SPORTS** PAGE 7



## Warmer weather brings visitors, stricter enforcement to Sardis



PHOTO BY: CAMERON BROOKS

Concrete blockades at the end of County Road 314, installed last spring to keep cars from accessing the beach, were aimed to prevent accidents and illegal activity.

**RACHEL LAMBERT  
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Spring has arrived and brought warm weather with it, encouraging many Oxonians and Ole Miss students to spend time at Sardis Lake.

Sardis is a staple in the Oxford community, as many students travel to the lake to take part in fun activities. However, these activities can sometimes include alcohol.

Brian Johnson, a supervisory ranger for the Army Corps of Engineers, warned against alcohol consumption at Sardis.

"Of course we don't allow alcohol on our property, and Lafayette County is a dry county," Johnson said. "The people know this, but it's hard to catch everyone."

Johnson listed illegal operation of ATVs, alcohol consumption, shooting guns and littering as the main violations rangers encounter at Sardis. While these may seem like small offenses to some, when combined, they result in dangerous situations.

"We've had ATV accidents where helicopters have to come," Johnson said. "We don't carry weapons, and we get calls about people out shooting. People are just try-

ing to walk their dogs and have bullets flying by their heads."

Last spring, the corps implemented concrete blockades at the County Road 314 or "road's end" entrance, deterring cars from accessing the beach. They did this to help prevent accidents, and now there is a dirt and gravel-filled area designated for parking.

"The parking lot was added to curb some of the illegal activity," Johnson said. "When you have a group out drinking and shooting, they won't go 20 feet away from their trucks because they want to be able to hide it if they see us coming. So when we prevent them from getting to the shoreline, they won't want to carry their coolers and guns that far away from the vehicles."

The corps did not install these blockades to keep students out, as many have speculated. Pedestrian access is still allowed.

"It's not just students who break the rules. It's all ages," Johnson said. "And the parking lot is not a punishment. It's an improvement that has helped us a lot."

The corps' goal is to create a safe environment and make the lake more enjoyable for visitors. However, some students still do not see it that way.

Biloxi-born Oxonian Brazel

Crocker said the the blockades take away from the Sardis experience.

"A day at Sardis is a tradition that my parents had, that I don't believe we get to experience any longer," Crocker said. "The blockades have made Sardis inaccessible; the experience isn't even an experience any longer and only reminds me of the amazing times we can't have anymore."

Ranger Johnson believes it is still possible to have fun and be safe. He offered advice to people who want to enjoy Sardis.

"Alcohol and water don't mix. Always try to leave the lake better than you found it," Johnson said.

Rules and regulations are displayed on signs at each entrance to the lake and online.

Oxford resident Drew Chiles said he sees the importance of rules but questions some.

"Everyone should follow the rules," Chiles said. "But the rules should also reasonably reflect the culture. Lots of people who are not students go to the lake to drink beer, listen to music and shoot guns. It's Mississippi, you know?"

*This article was submitted to The Daily Mississippian from an advanced reporting class.*

## French student celebrates 90th birthday today

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"I have underwear older than all of the students in the class," Jack Chevrier laughed. He's not kidding, though.

Chevrier celebrates his 90th birthday today and will be spending the day how he does every Tuesday: by going to French class.

Before coming to Ole Miss, Chevrier spent the first 80 years of his life on the go. He can tell tales of his military days that began when he was 17 as if they were yesterday. When Chevrier tells stories of his younger days, he looks off into the distance as if looking at a timeline and points at certain years. His face brightens whenever he recalls a favorite memory.

Chevrier grew up in East Port, Maine, just past the Canadian border. He graduated from high school when he was 17 and immediately enlisted in the U.S. Army, lying about his age. It took them almost a year before the government realized he was too young for service and discharged him. By this time, he was 18 and of legal age to serve.

"I ran like hell to the nearest Navy recruiting station and joined the Navy," he said.

His first job at boot camp was washing pots and pans in a greasy sink. One day, the head cook sent him to deliver coffee

and cake to the administrative office. Chevrier would never return to the kitchen.

"I walked in and there were five guys, sitting and typing with one finger, and I said to the chief petty officer, 'Do you need somebody that can type?'"

"With both hands?," he asked.

"Yes," Chevrier answered.

"Without looking?," the chief continued.

"Yes," Chevrier said again. "The chief picked up the phone, called the cook and said, 'He ain't coming back. He's mine.'"

This was the moment Chevrier remembers as everything falling into place that would help him land each job and network connection since then.

"Everything I've got started with the fact that my mother made me take that commercial course in high school with the girls, where you learn typing and shorthand because girls could only be secretaries back in those days," he said. "But I kept running into situations where they needed a male that could type and take shorthand. I've also just been fantastically lucky."

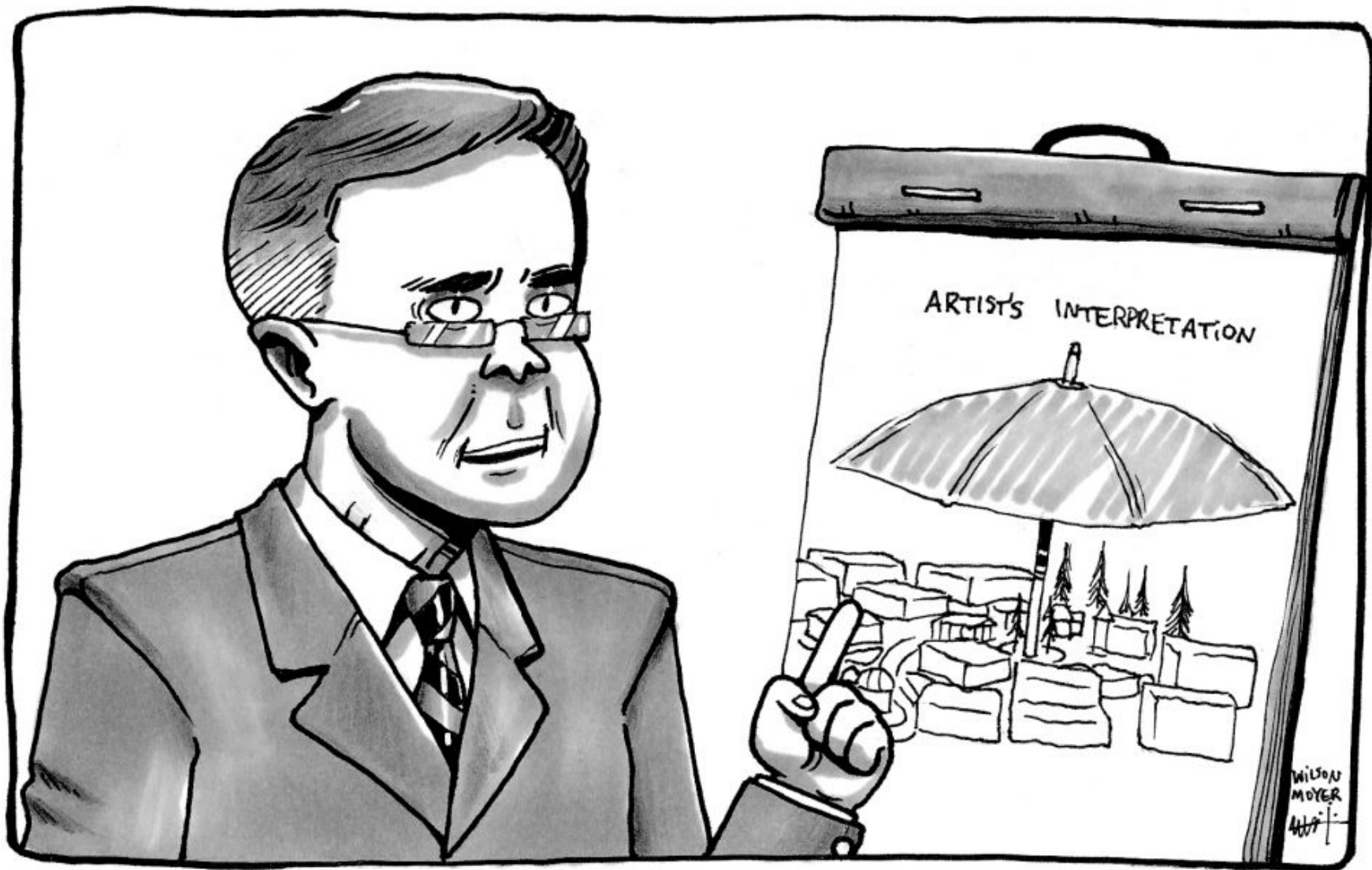
Chevrier served the U.S. military in the Army, the Navy and the Air Force during World War II, Korea and Vietnam. He saw combat in Korea, where he flew 54 combat missions.

SEE **CHEVRIER** PAGE 3



PHOTO BY: LANA FERGUSON

Jack Chevrier (right) poses with fellow French major Corbin Smith.



*“In light of yesterdays rainstorm, we will soon begin construction on a giant umbrella that will cover the entire campus”*

COLUMN

# How to fix the partisan rift in modern politics

**JONATHAN LOVELADY**  
 thedmopinion@gmail.com

On campus, I have been called a “liberal” countless times, but I feel that words like that should not mold a person into a certain grouping based on someone’s actions or beliefs.

The increased polarization between two principal groups has caused disruptions in this country since the euphemisms “North” and “South” were used in the 1800s.

These classifications are social constructs that separate groups of people based on the opinions of a political party. Within these parties and their ideas, you are seen as an outsider if you do not mold yourself to believe every

value.

But there is no logical way a person can agree with everything a party values for the country. Personally, I appreciate both progressive and conservative ideas, but because of my race and social justice actions, I am labeled a “liberal.”

In due respect to conservatives, you can still believe and support social justice initiatives and be a “conservative.”

The United States congressional approval rating is at a dismal 24 percent, according to the most recent Gallup poll. This effectively shows what this polarization is doing this country.

It is not about “Make America

Great Again” or total support for Bernie Sanders’ platform, but determining what we need to do to come together, acknowledging our differences and realizing this country is for all of us.

The continuing division between individuals of this nation allows us to view the current state of the country with historical déjà vu. Abraham Lincoln once said: “A house divided against itself cannot stand,” and the implications of not relying on history are disastrous.

Frederick Douglass said, “If there is no struggle, there is no progress.” This quote always rings in my head on a variety of issues this country faces.

How are we supposed to be the “land of the free and home of the brave” if we are not brave enough to stand together and push through the struggles we face as a nation?

It will not be easy whatsoever, but if the continuing division we see in our country does not cease, it will have dramatically adverse effects.

This world would be melancholy without the variations of race, ethnicity, culture and, most importantly, ideas. If we continue to bash others for their political views, there will be no progress for anyone.

No country can be “great,” but it can continually improve itself for all who live there and

those who want to live there.

If someone does not like your perspective on an individual issue, do not walk away or bicker. Challenge his or her opinions in a logical and emotional way.

Just tolerating someone else’s ideas or opinions will not do us any good unless we acknowledge and embrace our differences and ideas for the better of this nation and its people.

*Jonathan Lovelady is a sophomore business management major from Los Angeles.*

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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.

# CHEVRIER

*continued from page 1*

In 1960, while he was working in Washington, D.C. during the day and taking law school classes at night, Chevrier served as a navigator for a crew of Air Force men heading to North Africa, where France was about to explode an atomic bomb.

"When it went off, we had an airplane that was like a flying vacuum cleaner. We had equipment that we'd go ahead and fill containers with the residue," he said. "What it amounted to was I had six hours of time actually being inside the cloud from the atomic bomb, to which I can contribute all of my health problems."

Chevrier has traveled the world to other places like Germany and Switzerland and even served in different capacities in the Pentagon back in the states. Eventually, he would end up back in Maine before moving to Biloxi to live with one of his daughters in the late '80s when she was on an Air Force base.

"Then she got transferred from there to Illinois, and I told her I loved her but not that much," he said. From Biloxi, Chevrier moved a few towns over to Ocean Springs. He had just moved into a house about two blocks from the water when Hurricane Katrina swept through. His house only suffered minor damage to a television wire, but all of his belongings in a storage unit a mile inland were ruined.

It was time to move again. He went back to Maine and began taking French classes at the University of Maine when winter came.

"I was talking to my professor about the terrible weather, and she says, 'Well you were in Mississippi, and the University of Mississippi has a great French program.' That gal in Maine was telling me to come down here," Chevrier said.

After a doing a little research on Oxford, he noticed the town wasn't far from Memphis.

"The Gulf can't get me there," he said. That was that; he drove down, found a real estate agent, bought a house and moved all of his stuff down from Maine.

That was 2009.

A little less than a decade later and Chevrier has completely emerged himself in French classes at Ole Miss since his early 80's. He's taken numerous classes and even earned a spot in the French Honor Society.

"My grandfather was a Frenchman," Chevrier said through a French accent. He said his grandmother also preferred his grandfather to speak English, though, so French slowly disappeared from the family's tongue.

"It's also, 'What's your name?' I'd say Chevrier, and they'd say, 'Oh, so you speak French?' I had a quirk," he said.

Chevrier is taking advantage of the UM Lifelong Learners Program, where anyone older than the age of 65 can take one academic course a semester for free. This semester, he is in one of professor Anne Quinney's class.

Quinney has gotten to know Chevrier throughout his time at Ole Miss. She's seen him dress up as Charles de Gaulle for her French culture and civilization class, delivering a monologue

in rhyme recounting the life of the French president.

She said having him in the class is beneficial to the other students.

"They see a formal education can be a lifelong endeavor," Quinney said. "He brings a perspective of an elder to class, often telling stories of his long life and many careers, personal situations and living abroad and in different wars."

She said whomever Chevrier meets, he tells a different version of his life, so she is just now seeing how all of the pieces and stories fit together.

"I admire his dedication to studying French and am impressed with his desire to learn as much as he can about French literature," she said. "He knows he probably won't get this degree, taking one class a semester, but he is here for the sheer love of it."

Senior integrated marketing communications and French major Corbin Smith is in her second class with Chevrier this semester.

She said he talks once or twice every class but always has three or four books out in front

of him to scour through as the lecture goes on.

"Then he'll mention one thing from his books or something he knew about whatever we're discussing prior," she said. "What he says from the books is always insightful and interesting. He always has a bunch of random facts in his head."

She said it adds another dynamic to the class to have the perspective of someone older, especially when discussing poetry written in the time Chevrier was growing up. Chevrier's peers know him for having an interest in World War II-era French history and a love of poetry, especially anything by French poet Victor Hugo.

Chevrier said the French program at Ole Miss is one of the best in which he's ever been enrolled.

"I think the program is super, really," Chevrier said. "Now, I've gone to the University of Maine, to Hampden-Sydney, to Duke, to Harvard, to the University of Maryland, and this group of teachers here is the best group of teachers in the 70 years I've been going to school."

# Annual UM Green Week returns for 8th year

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*Editor's note: Because of a reporter error, an incorrect version of this Green Week article was published in Monday's edition. This is the correct version of the article, which has also been updated online.*

The eighth annual Oxford and UM Green Week, promoting sustainability on and off campus, kicked off Monday.

"Green Week is a community and campus-wide event that brings attention to environmental and sustainability issues while also engaging new audiences," sustainability fellow Kendall Lane McDonald said. "We aim to highlight sustainability efforts in the community and create fun discussion around different aspects of sustainability through interactive

and educational programming."

Green Week began with a Tree Trail Walk Monday and will have another one Tuesday at 1 p.m. Some other events this year include: an Arbor Day celebration and tree planting Wednesday, an Earth Day keynote speech by Sewanee biology professor David George Haskell Thursday, a Small Hall Music Series Friday and Earth Day Yoga on Saturday concluding the events. A full list of events can be found on their website.

Because the Student Union is under construction, this year's sustainability fair has been cancelled and replaced with a new event. The Green Week challenge will consist of four categories: food, transportation and energy, nature and learn and do. Participants can complete one action in each category

to win prizes such as a Yeti cooler or T-shirt made of recycled materials.

McDonald said Green Week organizers try to be diverse with their event planning, as they want to engage new audiences.

"We aim to be interdisciplinary in our events and engage in many different audiences, as we believe that everyone can participate in sustainability," McDonald said. "We plan our events around different aspects of sustainability and always try to engage new audiences and partnerships with the community."

Green Student Intern and senior biology major Kelli Coleman is this year's Green Week coordinator. Coleman said Green Week is an opportunity for her to show people what she is passionate about.

"My favorite part about Green Week is seeing people get involved with Green Week events who would otherwise never think or care about sustainability," Coleman said.

Sophomore exercise science major Madison Huffman said living sustainably

is essential to maintaining the beauty of our campus.

"I think it's important that we start this kind of movement on our campus because we have one of the most beautiful campuses in the country," Huffman said. "If we don't live sustainably, then we could lose that."

**SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION**

**Victoria Marie Miller**

B.S. IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

*"Needs Assessment of Healthcare Services for Transitioning College Students"*

Directed by Sandra Bentley

**Tuesday, April 18 at 10:00 am**

**Faser Hall Room 205**

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**

**Rachel Byars Tran**

B.A. IN CHINESE

*"A Few Good Things"*

Directed by Derrick Harriell

**Tuesday, April 18 at 10:00 am**

**Leavell Hall Room 105**

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**

**Anne Overton Waller**

B.A. IN PSYCHOLOGY

*"College Students' Opinions on Parenting"*

Directed by Carey Dowling

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Full application packets are also available.

# Malian musician brings 'Afrissippi' to Proud Larry's

**KE'ENA BELK**  
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African musician Vieux Farka Toure will collaborate with alternative/indie band Last Good Tooth as it brings "Afrissippi" music back to Proud Larry's Tuesday night.

Afrissippi musical style has roots here in Oxford. Guelel Kumba, a singer-songwriter rooted in West Africa, came to Oxford in 2002 and collaborated with blues musician Eric Deaton. From the pair's blended music style, Afrissippi was born, according to NPR.

Afrissippi promotes the collaborations of African musicians with pop stars of the '80s or '90s. As described by NPR, Afrissippi is "rock with a West African twist."



Toure, also referred to as "The Hendrix of the Sahara," is from the African country

Mali. He is the son of the late Grammy award-winning musician Ali Farka Toure. Though Toure has toured the American South, this will be his first time performing in Mississippi.

Tom Pryor, Toure's publicist for this tour, said this performance is especially significant for Toure because of his roots.

"Ali Farka Toure, Toure's father, was often credited as a link between the American

Delta blues and West African musical traditions," Pryor said.

According to Toure's biography on his website, his parents did not support his dreams of becoming a musician. His dad wanted him to become a soldier instead. However, Toure followed his musical dreams.

Toure began his musical career as a drummer and calabash player at Mali's Institut National des Arts, where

he also found his passion for guitar. Before his father's death in 2014, they had the opportunity to record a few songs together, which made it onto Toure's first album.

Toure has released quite a few albums since his debut, which have received a great deal of global critical acclaim. His most recent album, "Samba," was released this month on April 7. The name means "second born" in Bambara, which refers to Toure as the second child of his parents.

"Samba is one who never breaks, who never runs from threats, who is not afraid. It is said that Samba is blessed with good luck," Toure said.

At first listen, an untrained ear will question which language Toure sings in. Pryor said Toure sings mostly in Mali's national language of Bambara and in a hometown dialect of the Songhai language that is typically used in Toure's hometown, Niafunke in Mali. Although Bambara is the national language of Mali, like many Malians, Toure speaks several languages. He sometimes sings in French.

Along with Toure's interesting style of singing, he and his band use unique and modern instruments while performing. He plays a series of instruments ranging from an electric six-string guitar, bass guitar, keyboards and even traditional Malian instruments. Toure's traditional favorites include a small wooden stringed instrument called a ngoni, and a calabash percussion, a sphere-shaped instrument played with sticks.

Toure's music gives a vivid depiction of life and meaning in his home country. He exhibits the traditional style of his roots through a more modern approach, which helps with how he is perceived and how his audiences enjoy his music.

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# '13 Reasons Why' delves into horrors of teen suicide

**SARAH SMITH**  
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Since its premiere on March 31, the Netflix series "13 Reasons Why" has become increasingly popular across campus and enthralled students.

The hard-hitting teen drama is a complex story about people battling issues such as suicide, rape and bullying. Protagonist Clay Jensen (Dylan Minnette) struggles with the recent suicide of his coworker and love interest, Hannah Baker (Katherine Langford). A few weeks after Hannah's death, Clay receives a box of seven tapes in which Hannah explains the 13 reasons why she killed herself.

"13 Reasons Why" is adapted from Jay Asher's novel of the same name. The series does

deviate from Asher's novel, but most of the changes are made to relate to a more modern audience and give the characters who were once villains in Asher's novel a perspective and explanation for their actions.

The series aims to shed light on everyone's perspective in the story instead of just Hannah Baker's. It effectively crafts multilayered characters by showing that people are more than what they appear to be and have reasons for the things they do.

As Clay listens to these tapes, he becomes aware of Hannah's anguish, pain and suffering. Despite every cry for help and every warning sign, nobody takes heed. Clay hears firsthand the isolation Hannah felt in her last days.

The series brings on feelings of loss and fear for the audience, making it, at times, a difficult watch. While uncovering the mystery of understanding a dead girl, viewers unravel a story that, at moments, is relatable for everyone in some way.

The show's screenwriters developed their characters well on this project. These writers gave several people voices in the story that, in the book, are one-sided. Character development builds throughout the series and viewers see each character grow.

As different as the book and the series are, they both relay the same message about the importance of speaking out on the horror and mystery of suicide.

The show depicts rape and suicide, and the filmmakers do not spare the audience any gory images. There are moments that are impossibly hard to watch because of the self-harm and sexually graphic material depicted.

The acting was executed epically in this series. Unlike characters in so many other shows, these characters embody the teen angst that is often lost by adult actors. The actors' empathy in this series is spot-on.

It's an easy story to get lost in but a hard one to keep up with. Its message is something you will have to debate and reason with. This is the kind of show that tells its audience what to think about but not how to think about it, an important ambiguity when approaching

such touchy issues.

It is easy to judge each of the story's characters before the plot thickens, but the beautiful thing about the series is that there are two sides to every story: this series tells the stories of both villains and victims.

The story quickly becomes intricate in explaining the motives behind everyone's defining moments, not just Hannah's. As empathetic as the audience is to Hannah, it's important to realize she is a flawed character.

The series watches well, but viewer discretion is advised because of touchy subjects. Overall, the message is executed well, and it is a relevant one in today's society.

Rating: **B+**

# Local band debuts 'Roxford' sound with new album

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Ebenezer Goodman, one of the most notable Oxford-based bands, has just produced its first album with Dial Back Sound in Water Valley.

Local music buffs will recognize Ebenezer Goodman from its performances across Oxford at several different venues and events. The band consists of Andy Shine, lead guitar; Caleb Carroll, vocals and guitar; Avery Goodman, bass; and John Brahan on the drums.

The members of the band realized they shared a mutual passion for music when they met each other at Ole Miss.

"A lot of college bands fizzle out," Brahan said. "But we're really lucky that we've grown." The new album is self-titled and contains nine original tracks written by the band members. They describe the album as having a rock 'n roll vibe and a "Mississippi mud" tone.

"We wanted the small-town Mississippi sound," Carroll



PHOTO COURTESY: FACEBOOK.COM

Top: Avery Goodman, Andy Shine Bottom: John Brahan, Caleb Carroll

said. "In a recent talk, we were described as 'Oxford rock' or 'Roxford.'"

Ebenezer Goodman recorded demos to send into recording studios in hopes that one would be interested in producing its first album. Bronson

Tew, a sound engineer at Dial Back Sound, saw the band's potential and helped create the album's sound.

"Bronson did a lot with not only the sound, but he also added conceptual ideas, especially with the harmonies,"

Brahan said. "They (Dial Back Sound) filled a lot of holes that we couldn't see, and they added something great. They had just as much of a hand in the creative process as we did."

The album is posted online to Soundcloud with original tracks such as "Chasing Hurricanes" and "Hold True" that have more than 700 listens, and "Welcome to My World," which is a personal favorite of the band.

The band plans on releasing the album to major music platforms such as iTunes and Spotify in the near future, as well as hard copies of the album and Ebenezer Goodman merchandise.

"We're absolutely pumped about the merch and the album," Carroll said. "My mom always wanted an Ebenezer Goodman T-shirt, so now I can finally give one to her."

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**Keri Anniece Crum**  
B.A. IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES  
"Two Traditions Diverged from Israel's Land, One Winding and Abstract, One Expounded but Intact, Both Meriting the Comparison at Hand"  
Directed by James Bos  
Tuesday, April 18 at 2:30 pm  
Bryant Hall Room 06  
The defense is open to the public.  
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**SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION**  
**Joshua Charles Law**  
B.A. IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES  
"I Once Knew a Man: A Case Study Analysis of the Complex Relationship Between Masculine Social Constructions and Historical Jesus Studies"  
Directed by James Bos  
Tuesday, April 18 at 3:30 pm  
Bryant Hall Room 06  
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**SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION**  
**Yaguang Chen**  
B.S.E.E. IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING  
"Performance of Message Queue Telemetry Transport Protocol and Constrained Application Protocol in Wireless Sensor Networks"  
Directed by Matthew Morrison  
Tuesday, April 18 at 4:00 pm  
Carrier Hall Room 209  
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# Softball team on the rise, traveling to UT Martin

ETHAN WRIGHT

thedmsports@gmail.com

Head coach Mike Smith and the Rebels are riding high after sweeping No. 11 LSU in dramatic fashion over the weekend. Firmly in the postseason driver's seat, the team now turns its attention to Tuesday's midweek matchup with UT Martin.

UT Martin's Skyhawks sit at a respectable 31-13 on the season, but the strength of their schedule pales in comparison to that of the Rebels. In fact, the only ranked opponent UT Martin has faced this year is Ole Miss, whom it faced back in March.

Though that match ended with the Rebels on top, the margin of victory was slimmer than many predicted, with Ole Miss narrowly avoiding defeat following a 10-7 shootout. If Smith's Rebels hope to replicate their prior success and once again outmaneuver the surging Skyhawks, they will need to focus on a number of key factors:

## Containing the Skyhawks' hitters

Ole Miss has proven time and again that it can hit and score with the best, but the Rebels still struggle to limit the opposition's offense. Giving up early runs could doom the Rebels to an unescapable hole.

With that said, Ole Miss was successful over the weekend

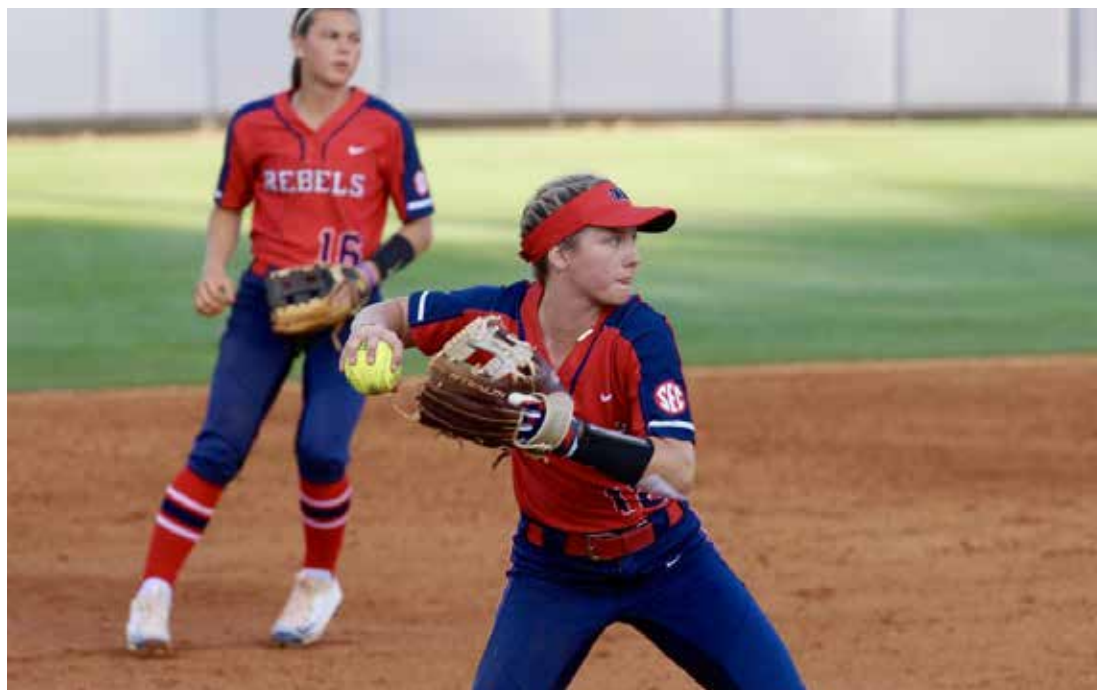


PHOTO BY: TAYLAR TEEL

Third baseman Ashton Lampton prepares to throw a runner out at first base in a game against Memphis earlier this season. Ole Miss softball hopes to remain hot against UT Martin on Tuesday.

at keeping LSU off the scoreboard by posting shutouts in two of the three games. If the Rebels' pitching staff can pin the Skyhawks down from the first pitch, then Tuesday could prove highly successful for Ole Miss.

## Holding off a late-game surge

Starting strong against UT Martin will certainly help the Rebels' cause, but the Skyhawks are no strangers to late comeback efforts. To avoid these situations, Smith's youthful team must stay composed at every stage of the game.

In their first matchup, the Rebels dominated the game

early, quickly jumping out to a 6-0 lead. Despite that early-inning success, the Rebels allowed the Skyhawks to surge and tie the game after six innings.

A three-run inning saved Ole Miss last month, but it'll need to exercise caution this time around in order to prevent a comeback from the zealous underdogs. Keeping the foot on the gas throughout the entire game should help Ole Miss dissuade any late-game heroics from the Skyhawks and ensure a second straight victory.

## Away game pressures

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# Ole Miss track and field breaking records in 2017

**TYLER BUTLER**  
 thedmsports@gmail.com

The Rebels' 2017 outdoor track season is off to a roaring start. In its first four meets, the team has set personal and school records while claiming some of the best marks in the NCAA this year.

Ole Miss opened the season by hosting the Joe Walker Invitational where both teams – men and women – had impressive first showings. For the Rebel men, Brian Williams set a school record and NCAA best mark with his winning discus throw of 60.35 meters. Dempsey McGuigan took the title for men's hammer toss and claimed the fourth best mark in the NCAA with his 66.94 meter throw, while Peyton Moss won the men's decathlon.

For the Lady Rebels, Raven Saunders opened the season with a discus win, claiming the seventh best mark this year, and shot put win, where her throw of 18.51 meters set a facility record. The women also claimed titles in the 100-meter and 200-meter sprints, the 4x100m relay, high jump and pole vault.

As March drew to a close, the team looked poised for another impressive showing at the Pepsi Florida Relays,



COURTESY: OLE MISS SPORTS

Junior Brian Williams set a school record during the Joe Walker Invitational with his winning discus throw of 60.35 meters.

and the 13th-ranked men and 23rd-ranked women did not disappoint. The team set two school records, 19 personal bests and added even more NCAA best marks to a growing resume.

Williams broke his previous discus record with a

colossal, meet-best spin of 60.95 meters. McGuigan also broke his personal best with a hammer throw of 69.45 meters, enough to secure a fourth-place finish. Craig Engels, Derek Gutierrez and Kevin Conway each had impressive showings in

the 800-meter, 1,600-meter and discus, respectively.

Janeah Stewart also had an exceptional meet, setting personal bests in all three throwing events. She broke her previous school record in hammer throw while moving up to second in school history with two tremendous throws in discus and shot put. Lightning-fast times from Maddie McHugh in the 800-meter, Jolie Carbo in the 400-meter, and both the 4x400 and the 4x100 meter relay teams threatened long-standing school records.

The tough competition in Florida readied competitors for another long weekend at the Tennessee Relays. The now 15th-ranked men and 18th-ranked women set one school record, two NCAA second-best times and celebrated nine personal bests

in what coach Connie Price-Smith called "a good meet."

For the third straight weekend, Williams broke his own record in discus by 7 inches with a throw of 61.13 meters. Stewart continued her success in Tennessee by setting a personal best in the shot put with a national second-best toss while also placing third in women's discus. The women's 4x100 meter relay team of Nicole Henderson, Shannon Ray, Deanna Tate and Breanna Tate received second place, and Callie Watson's personal record in pole vault secured her fifth place.

The team left Tennessee satisfied and eager for major competition at the Mt. SAC Relays in California the following week. The now 14th-ranked men and 15th-ranked women traveled to West Coast to face some of the nation's best track and field competitors. School records seemed to topple after strong performances by McGuigan (hammer throw), Mary Alex England (5,000-meter run) and Shelby Brown (3,000-meter steeplechase).

Stewart and Williams continued to find throwing success with top collegiate marks and an overall second-place finish in women's shot put and fourth-place finish in discus, respectively. Watson, continuing her pole vault success, placed fifth. Jolie Carbo placed eighth in the 400-meter race, and the women's 4x400 relay team flew to a sixth-place finish.

As the outdoor season presses on, Rebel track teams continue to shine. Both the men and women remain nationally ranked, thanks to a slew of broken personal, school and collegiate records. The team now turns its attention to the Auburn War Eagle Invitational this coming weekend.

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