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Monday, April 27, 2015 THE DAILY Volume 103, No. 126 NOT STATES AND A COMPANY OF THE DAILY VOLUME 103, No. 126

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

lifestyles

Ronald Vernon leaves symphony orchestra after 42 years Page 4



sports Rebels take

Rebels take weekend series against Alabama

Page 8



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Spring Concert in the Grove



Thomas Rhett, Love and Theft, and Iron and Wine performed in the 2015 Spring Concert in the Grove on Sunday. Check page 5 and theDMonline.com for more photos.

Confederate memorial held without protest

ROYCE SWAYZE

rmswayze@go.olemiss.edu

The Sons of Confederate Veterans gathered Saturday to commemorate those who died in the Civil War, specifically those who belonged to the University Greys, the group of students who left Ole Miss to fight in the Civil War.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, a group dedicated to promoting Confederate heritage and history, has been fighting the suppression of Confederate names and symbols. Recently, the group has been working to reinstate the name "Confederate Drive" to the street currently called Chapel Lane.

According to the organization's website, the Sons of Confederate Veterans is the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers.

Charles E. McMichael, former Commander in Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, explained his concerns with university's recent changes in street names.

"It's a shame that Southern schools are repressing their Confederate symbols because it's a part of their past," Mc-Michael said. "And a university is supposed to embody the word universal, so why can't we have viewpoints from everyone?"

Many of the participants dressed in Civil War-era clothing and waved Confederate flags and those of the states that seceded.

Sophomore English major Hannah Gammill said she attended because she heard that people were going to be angry and protest the event, but did not see anything that needed to be protested against.

"(This event) is just a way of coping with history. They are polishing over history, though. I mean, if you think

SEE **CONFEDERATE** PAGE 3

Installation of outdoor sculptures open around Oxford

ANNA MCCOLLUM

aemcoll@go.olemiss.edu

The Yokna Sculpture Trail was unveiled in a ribbon-cut-

ment (at the university), the Arts Council, the university museum and the city of Oxford." The timeliness of these dis-

with members of the art depart-



ting ceremony and reception Thursday at Lamar Park.

The rotating outdoor sculpture program is the first of its kind in north Mississippi, and includes a total of 18 sculptures at three locations in Oxford. Five of the sculptures are located at Rebel Sculpture Park in front of Meek Hall, nine at Lamar Park and four at the Powerhouse Sculpture Garden.

Director of Yoknapatawpha Arts Wayne Andrews co-founded the Yokna Sculpture Trail with Earl Dismuke and Durant Thompson.

"It was a chance discussion that brought three groups together," Andrews said. "The talks of expanding public art in the community had been occurring over the last three years cussions, Andrews said, is what led to their success.

"The City of Oxford wanted a partner who could manage the program if they could provide structures, while the University of Mississippi Department of Art wanted to engage their students in a broader experience, while the Arts Council was seeking to expand community art programs," Andrews said. "Through all these talks with community members such as Earl Dismuke, Durant Thompson the sculpture instructor, the mayor and aldermen and the Arts Council, we found a partnership that worked."

Dismuke, a sculptor and Oxford local since 2002, stressed the significance of that partner-

SEE TRAIL PAGE 3 Mayor Pat Patterson addresses the crowd Thursday at the ribbon-cutting of the Yokna-Sculpture Trail.

PHOTO BY: JESSI HOTAKAINEN

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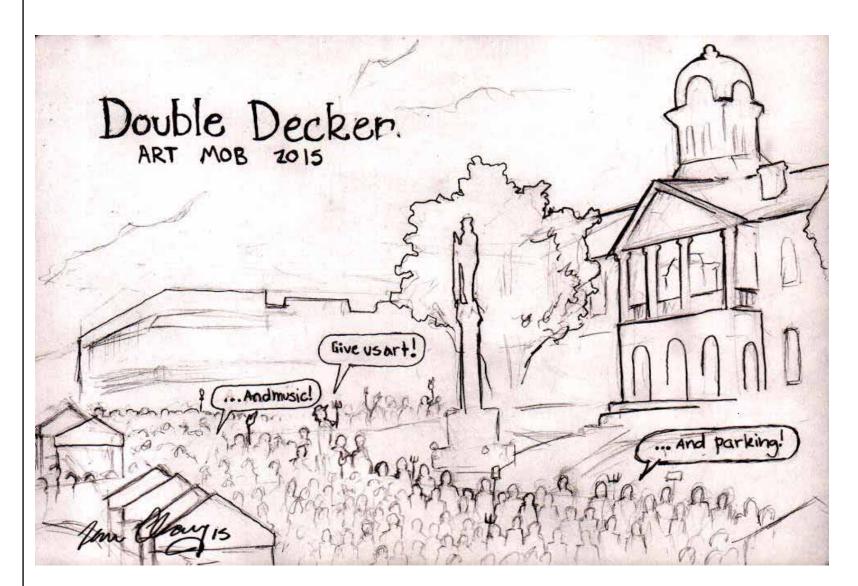
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opinion

Letter to the Editor

Editor's Note: This letter is in response to being labelled "anti-Christian" by a student.

When I began teaching religious studies at a "secular, public university" in Mississippi 11 years ago, I knew there would be days like this.

I have been labeled "anti-Christian" by a student in public social media who has never asked me about my personal belief system—she has accused me of "defaming His name," has lamented that I can't know God because I don't know her God and has pronounced that I "do not have to believe in Him [because] He is still here." For years—longer than some

of my students have even been alive—I contemplated "what" the Divine is and wondered at how many beautiful (and sometimes awful) ways different peoples and different cultures relate to their understanding of "It," which could be nature, god, goddess or just family Itself.

I have never found the need to—or benefit in—judging, belittling or pejoratively labeling others' religious identities (unless they are socially unjust and destructive to oth-

sighs.

I will remember that, as an educator, it is not my job to proclaim my own religious belief as "truth" or "divine," no matter how badly such students want me to parrot what they've been told by the "strong, intelligent teachers" from their religious private school.

It is my job to prompt students to consider other cultural systems as well as their own beliefs more deeply and to engage the diverse theoltian. I am anti-intolerant bigots, who lay exclusive claim to truth, clothing their own arrogance in religious piety and then cry martyrdom when they don't like what they hear from others.

Thus, I am "pro"– education.

> Mary Thurlkill Associate Professor of Religion

creative designers

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So, as I stand in front of all my students—50 minutes three times a week—I will not react in anger or disrespect at the accusatory eye-rolling, the crossed arms or the heavy

ogies, practices, loves, hates

and even the comedic that permeate so magnificently all religious traditions.

In summary, I should like to respond in my own "open letter" that I am not anti-Chris-

THE DAILY The Daily Mississippian **MISSISSIPPIAN** is published Monday through Friday during S. Gale Denley Student the academic year, on Media Center davs when classes are 201 Bishop Hall, scheduled. Contents do not P.O. Box 1848 represent the University, MS 38677-1848 Main Number: official opinions of The University of Mississippi or The Daily 662.915.5503 Mississippian unless Business Hours: specifically indicated. Monday-Friday, ISSN 1077-8667 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

The Daily Mississippian welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be addressed to The Daily Mississippian, 201 Bishop Hall, P.O. Box 1848, University, MS, 38677-1848, or 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.



MEMBER NEWSPAPER

news

TRAIL

continued from page 1

ship.

"This could not have been done without the city, the university and the Yoknapatawpha Arts Council all working together," Dismuke said.

Dismuke said a national call to artists resulted in 15 sculptors contributing art to the trail from a variety of locations, including, but not limited to, Oxford, Hattiesburg and even New York City. The sculptures, according to Andrews, are on loan and for sale.

Visitor services coordinator for Visit Oxford Katie Kaiser said tourists have begun asking about the trail.

662-236-3030

"The Yokna Sculpture Trail is already enticing visitors to want to see more of Oxford's attractions," Kaiser said. "The outdoor sculptures add a colorful feature to the three locations, and they stir curiosity in locals and visitors alike. Oxford is becoming more and more of an artsy community, and these sculptures feed that interest."

Andrews said being the first north Mississippi town to feature such a program "reinforces our community as a leader in the arts." He said this sculpture trail also benefits the community of Oxford by providing easy and public access to art.

"We have wonderful art spaces and museums in the community, but they can be intimidating," Andrews said. "If you have never been across the threshold, going the first time might be uncomfortable. Placing art throughout the community offers every resident a chance to discover and experience art."

Dismuke recognized yet another benefit of the sculpture trail.

"I think it can help be an economic driver for this reason: one of three reasons businesses move to communities is because of the quality of life," Dismuke said. "I think this project adds to the quality of life here in Oxford. I think that's number one."

CONFEDERATE

continued from page 1

we're living in a post-racial society, you have to be wearing rose-colored glasses or something."

Despite rumors of protestors, none were present.

Although the crowd was predominantly white, there were African Americans in attendance. H.K. Edgerton, an African American, participated in the event wearing a Confederate uniform and waving a Confederate flag.

"I think it's a disgrace that black people are used as a weapon against Southern heritage and symbols," Edgerton said.

Edgerton argues against the suppression of Southern symbols. His website, "southernheritage411.com," is dedicated to sharing the perspective of African Americans that defend Confederate symbols.

Sons of Confederate Veterans member Boyce DeLashmit ended the meeting with a statement of the group's mission.

"We have to know where we came from and this is why we are here today," DeLashmit said. "We are celebrating our Southern heritage."

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lifestyles

Ronald Vernon leaves symphony orchestra after 42 years

CLARA TURNAGE

scturna1@go.olemiss.edu

His baton rises and falls with a fast, angry rhythm.

He stands before students, faculty and community members holding an assortment of instruments and somehow pinpoints every deficiency, every misstep. For 42 years he stood before them, and tonight it's time to go.

Ronald Vernon will conduct his last concert with the Lafayette Oxford University Orchestra tonight at 7:30 tonight in the Ford Center.

Vernon came to The University of Mississippi in 1972 as an assistant professor of music and conductor for the Lafayette/Oxford/ University Symphony Orchestra. At the time, the music department was small; the professors were stretched across various subjects and the fledgling orchestra had to be heavily supplemented by musi-

meets twice weekly with a group of over 60 students, residents and faculty to practice. Vernon taught percussion for the first 15 years of his career and said he taught string class, beginning conducting, some specialized music coverage and "a little bit of everything."

cians in Memphis. Now, Vernon

In 1986, Vernon became the chair of the music department. During his decade in the position, the music department faculty doubled in size and the positions became far more specialized. Vernon said this development in the department allowed him to watch students grow from freshmen to seniors and experience the progress each made.

"One of the things that is true in my experience is that I often teach students every semester from their first semester of their freshman year until they graduate," Vernon said. "I work with a



FILE PHOTO: CADY HERRING Lafayette Oxford University Orchestra conductor Ronald Vernon at the Ford Center in Oxford during the fall concert on Oct. 20, 2014.

smaller student population than say, a history teacher, but I work in a close, multi-dimensional way, and I'm really more concerned with long-term development of those students as well as the semester-by-semester teaching experience."

Senior

HONORS THESIS

PRESENTATION

Mary Merkel

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LEADERSHIP

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Towards Organic Wine in

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This has resulted in a never-ending flow of music coming from faculty studio 139 for the majority of his time at the university.

After his time as the music chair, Vernon moved to the College of Liberal Arts, where he

SENIOR

HONORS THESIS

Presentation

Thor Goodfellow

B.S. IN BIOLOGY

"Androgen Mediation of

Elaborate Male Traits: The

in Male Green Treefrogs,

Hyla cinerea"

Directed by: Dr. Christopher Leary

Monday, April 27

at 11:00 am

The defense is open to the public.

662-915-7266

spent 13 years as the associate dean. Throughout his time across different areas, Vernon said he always maintained one constant.

"I always at least conducted the orchestra," Vernon said. "That's really who I am. I'm first of all a musician."

During his time at Ole Miss, Vernon said he witnessed many changes on campus.

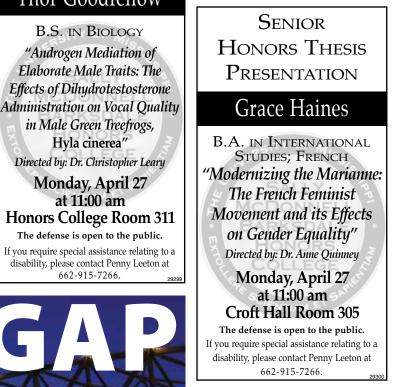
"Of course, we have to think about the long tenure of Chancellor Robert Khayat and a period of incredible prosperity," Vernon said. "That's really allowed the institution to develop in so many ways."

The end of this semester marks Vernon's last with The University of Mississippi and as conductor of the Lafayette Oxford University Symphony Orchestra.

"I would hope that the orchestra continues to grow and develop," Vernon said. "It was at a very undeveloped stage when I came here. I think this has been a very rewarding place to teach and to work."

Though Vernon said he will miss the orchestra, he is excited to take on some "long-postponed projects," which he said included some publication and more extensive study of 16th and 17th century

SEE ORCHESTRA PAGE 5



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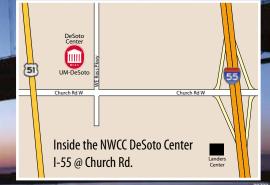
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lifestyles

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PHOTO BY: KAYLA BEATTY

ORCHESTRA continued from page 4

music.

"If you live long enough, you're going to go through some of those changes. I've had relatively few changes in my career," Vernon said.

Though he is making some changes, one thing will stay the same: Vernon will continue to live in Oxford.

"When you live in a place for this period of time, your connections become very complex. So, it's become home for me," Vernon said of Oxford.

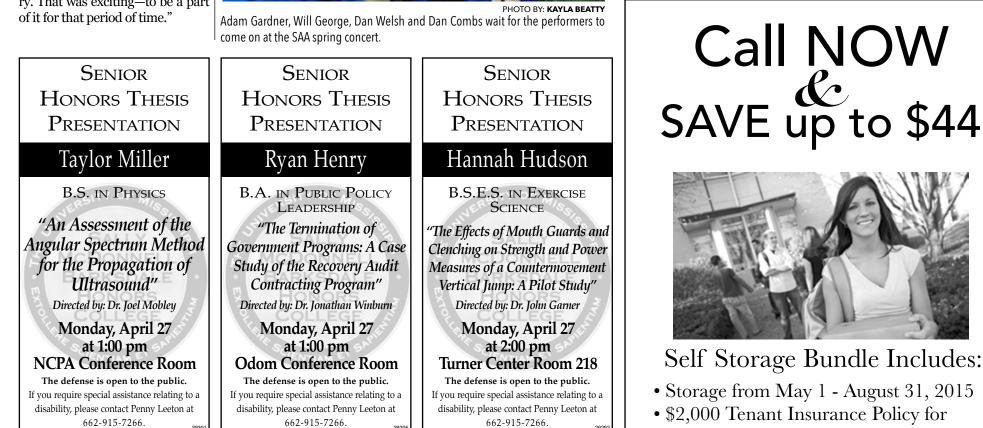
Vernon is not leaving his conductor's baton behind with his position as he looks forward to furthering his work with the Germantown Symphony Orchestra in Memphis. Vernon said he is glad to have seen the growth and experience the development of a young orchestra, and to leave behind a developing music department.

"It's really been gratifying to see the changes that have been made both in the music department and the university as a whole during those 42 years," Vernon said. "The university is what- 165 years old now? So, 42 years is a pretty good segment of that institutional history. That was exciting-to be a part



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PAGE 6 | THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN | 27 APRIL 2015 | SPORTS

Ole Miss softball falls to South Carolina Gamecocks

sports

BY CHRISTOPH LUDWIG csludwig@go.olemiss.edu

The Ole Miss softball team lost two of three games in a weekend series against the South Carolina Gamecocks at the Ole Miss Softball Complex. The Rebel's only victory came in game two.

GAME 1: South Carolina 10, Ole Miss 2 (5)

The South Carolina offense scored at least once in every inning, propelling the Gamecocks to a 10-2 victory Saturday night. The game began Friday, but was postponed in the second inning due to rain and was resumed Saturday after the completion of game two.

"Great teams win on a consistent basis. That's the difference between a good team and a great team," said Ole Miss head coach Mike Smith.

"When we start winning on a consistent basis and show up ready to play a complete game,

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D



Senior Allison Brown bats during the softball game against Georgia April 10.

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we'll be a great team. We're only a good team right now."

Senior third baseman Allison Brown hit a two-run homer to centerfield in the bottom of the

fourth to plate the only two runs

in the first inning, twice in the

second, four times in the third,

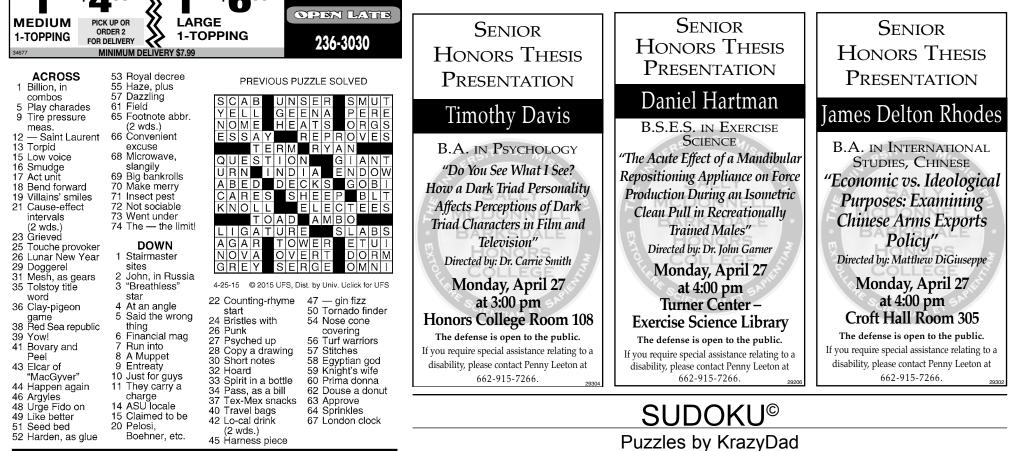
South Carolina scored once

of the game for the Rebels.

er's head, allowing both McKinney and Invergo to score.

With two outs in the in-

SEE SOFTBALL PAGE 7



once in the fourth and twice in the fifth to get the runrule-shortened victory.

GAME 2: Ole Miss 5, South Carolina 2

A five-run fifth inning carried the Rebels to victory in game two of the series Saturday afternoon.

"We've talked about it," said Smith. "If we put everything together, we're a good ball club, and that's exactly what we did today. We stayed the course."

Senior rightfielder Bri Payne hit a single to lead off the inning, and sophomore second baseman Alyssa Invergo doubled to put runners at second and third. Sophomore catcher Courtney Syrett laid down a squeeze bunt, and South Carolina senior pitcher Julie Sarratt tried to get freshman pinch runner Paige McKinney at home but her

throw went over the catch-

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HOW TO PLAY

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INSANE

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sports

BASEBALL continued from page 8

weather-prompted doubleheader on Saturday with a 4-0 win, securing the series over the Crimson Tide.

It was a pitcher's duel in the second game, as neither team was able to score a run until Ole Miss broke through in the fifth inning. The Rebels scored on three consecutive singles by sophomore designated-hitter Tate Blackman, junior right-fielder Cameron Dishon and junior left-fielder Connor Cloyd. Cloyd's RBI single plated Blackman, giving Ole Miss a 1-0 lead.

right-hander Sophomore Brady Bramlett was on the mound for Ole Miss in game two and put together a dominant outing. Bramlett went 7.1 innings without allowing a run and gave up four hits with nine strikeouts. Bramlett outlasted freshman right-hander Jake Walters for Alabama, who also put together a solid outing, going seven innings, allowing just the one run on six hits and four walks.

"He was really good with his fastball command," senior catcher Austin Knight said of Bramlett. "He was spotting-up literally every fastball, and they were having trouble doing anything with it. He was terrific tonight."

"When he can really locate the fast ball on both sides of the plate, he is just so tough," Bianco said.

Senior right-hander Scott Weathersby came in relief of Bramlett in the seventh as the Rebels clung to a 1-0 lead. Weathersby was solid as well and kept the Crimson Tide off of the scoreboard over the final 2.2 innings.

Ole Miss added three insurance runs in the eighth inning on two home runs from senior first-baseman Sikes Orvis and Austin Knight.

Orvis launched his team-leading ninth home run to right field, this one a two-run shot to right field giving Ole Miss a 3-0 lead.

"Sikes (Orvis) put the nail in the coffin," Bramlett said. "When I came out and Scott came in behind me, I knew we were going to win. I have all the confidence in the world in Scott, but it helps when your Big Puma (Orvis) puts some runs on the board."

Knight followed up two batters later with a solo home run to left field making it a 4-0 game going into the ninth inning. It was Knight's first career home run.

Weathersby pitched a scoreless ninth, which secured the win and the series for Ole Miss.

Game 3: Alabama 13, Ole Miss 4

Ole Miss fell behind early and could not get enough offense together to attempt a come-back and complete the sweep as Alabama cruised to a 13-4 win in game three.

Freshman right-hander Will Stokes took the ball in game three for Ole Miss and struggled. Stokes lasted just a third of an inning and was pulled after a two-run home run made it 4-0, giving Alabama the early advantage. Junior right-hander Jacob Waguespack came on in relief of Stokes and got the Rebels out of the inning.

"He just never got out of the gate. He hit the first guy and ran two 3-0 counts and just wasn't ready to go," Bianco said of Stokes.

Waguespack pitched three innings of relief allowing just one run on four hits and kept the Rebels within striking distance over the course of his outing.

"I'm just trying to stay consistent," Waguespack said. "I'm trying to do a little bit better and keep building on each start.'

Ole Miss responded in the second after Knight hit a two-run homer to left field that made it a 4-2 game. It was Knight's second career home run as well has his second in as many days.

"It's more about sticking to an approach more so than anything," Knight said of his performance from this past weekend. "When you see the pitch you're looking for, just hitting it and not missing it.'

Alabama got one back in the fourth before Ole Miss answered with a solo home run by sophomore center-fielder J.B. Woodman in the fifth, making it a 5-3 game. It was Woodman's sixth home run of the year.

Alabama scored one run in the sixth before taking control of the game with a six-run seventh inning that saw them take a 12-3 lead over the Rebels. The Crimson Tide received three two-out hits in the inning and had seven two-out hits in the game, including five two-out RBIs.

Ole Miss added one run in the eighth, and Alabama responded with a solo home run in the ninth and salvaged the final game of the series with a 13-4 win.

With this loss, Ole Miss falls to 23-22, 10-11 in SEC play. The Rebels return to action on Tuesday against Mississippi State at Trustmark Park in Pearl.

First pitch is set for 6:30 p.m.

SOFTBALL

continued from page 6

ning, junior Natalie Martinez drew a walk. The next batter, sophomore centerfielder Miranda Strother, hit a three-run homer to centerfield to give the Rebels the 5-2 lead.

Junior pitcher Madi Osias was excellent in the circle for the Rebels. She allowed only two runs on four hits and struck out three.

GAME 3: South Carolina 10, Ole Miss 7

The Rebels rallied multiple times, but ultimately came up short on senior day as the Gamecocks powered their way to a 10-7 victory Sunday.

South Carolina senior first baseman Olivia Lawrence hit two long home runs on the day. Her first, a two-run homer, gave the Gamecocks a 6-4 lead in the fifth inning. Her second, a three-run homer one inning later, extended the South Carolina lead to 10-4. Gamecock sophomore third baseman Taylor Williams added a solo shot in the fifth.

Ole Miss tied the game at four in the fourth inning, courtesy of a two run single from Invergo, who had three hits and four RBIs on the day for the Rebels. Brown and Payne both singled up the middle to start the inning, and advanced to second and third on a passed ball. Invergo drove them in with a single to left.

The Rebels rallied again in the sixth inning. Facing a 10-4 deficit, Syrett drove in senior pinch runner Jamie Morgan to cut the lead to 10-5, then freshman left-fielder Elantra Cox singled home two more to cut the lead to 10-7, but Gamecock sophomore pitcher Nickie Blue induced a fielder's choice and a double play to get out of the inning.

The Rebels are back in action Wednesday, when they hit the road to take on Mississippi Vallev State.



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Rebels take weekend series against Alabama 2-1

BY BRIAN SCOTT RIPPEE

bsrippee@go.olemiss.edu

Game 1: Ole Miss 10, Alabama 2

After weather postponed Friday night's game, Ole Miss took game one of the three-game series against Alabama by a score of 10-2 Saturday afternoon.

The Rebels pounded out 10 runs on 17 hits. They were led by junior outfielder Connor Cloyd, who set a career-high in hits with

114 Courthouse Square

plus

four on the night. Sophomore third baseman Colby Bortles also had a career high with five RBIs. The duo have batted well in recent weeks and have provided a spark for the Ole Miss offense.

"I swung it well today," Bortles said. "As a hitter with the wind blowing out, I wanted to get a ball in the air and see if it could fly, and I did that. I saw some pitches up, and I drove them."

Five Ole Miss hitters recorded multi-hit games as they got the offense going early by scoring in

662.236.7970

five of the first six frames.

> The Rebels got two in the first after each of the first four batters reached base safely. Freshman second baseman Will Golsan opened up the scoring with a hit-and-run play that scored Cloyd from second base. Bortles followed with an RBI single, giving Ole Miss a 2-0 lead after one inning.

The Rebels and Crimson Tide traded runs in the Austin Knight runs to first base after batting at the game Thursday.

second and third innings, making it

a 3-1 game before Ole Miss broke the game open by scoring seven runs over the next three innings. The Rebels tallied three in the fourth on a towering three-run home run by Bortles, giving Ole Miss a 6-1 lead followed by two runs in both the fifth and sixth innings.

"All this week, we have swung it better and collectively through the lineup," Ole Miss head coach Mike Bianco said. "There were some good days for a lot of people, especially Cam (Dishon),

who started 4-for-4, and the last ball he hit, he lined out to (Georgie Salem), who made a diving play in center field. And Bortles continues to swing a hot bat and has been huge for us."

Coming off of back-to-back losses for the first time in his career, junior left-hander Christian Trent rebounded in a big way for Ole Miss. Trent went eight innings, giving up two runs on six hits to earn the win.

"Early on, we made some spectacular defensive plays that either kept us even or allowed

us to take a lead," Bianco said. "Watson had an assist in the second inning, and, then later that inning, they hit a home run, which would have made it 2-2. Errol (Robinson) made two great plays in the first inning. There were a lot of good defensive plays to make it a little easier on (Christian) Trent."

Game 2: Ole Miss 4, Alabama o

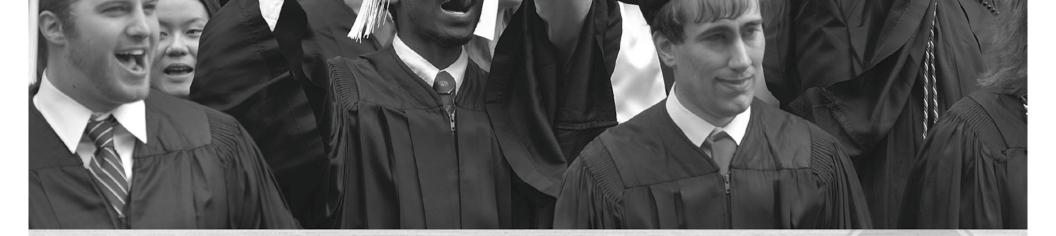
Ole Miss kept their momentum going in game two of a

SEE BASEBALL PAGE 7

PHOTO BY: KAYLA BEATTY

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