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The Daily Mississippian

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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

## Rebels' Choice Awards highlight athletes



LEFT: Derrick Jones dances on stage during the Rebels' Choice Awards Monday night.



RIGHT: Chad Kelly and Tony Bridges pose for a photo on the red carpet at the sixth annual Rebels' Choice Awards on Monday, April 25.

SEE STORY ON BACK

## Double Decker festival breaks records

MORGAN WALKER  
thedmnews@gmail.com

The 21st annual Double Decker Arts and Music Festival had record attendance this year.

Visit Oxford Double Decker Coordinator Lee Ann Stubbs said this year was the largest crowd drawn yet. The crowd grew to approximately 65,000 people with roughly 150 art vendors.

"The crowd started early before the art vendors even set up," Stubbs said. "There were more people than I've ever seen in the past."

Stubbs said the great weather combined with Ole Miss Baseball assisted in producing a larger Double Decker crowd in comparison to previous years.

"We think baseball being in town had a great impact on the

SEE DOUBLE DECKER PAGE 3

## Charges dropped against four men in assault case

CLARA TURNAGE  
dmeditor@gmail.com

Four men accused of petty larceny, hazing initiation and simple assault on campus last October were found not guilty on Monday by a Lafayette County judge.

A fifth student who was charged with assault in the case won't go to trial until Aug. 15, according to the court clerk.

Kyle Hughes, Christian Guy, Austin Rice, James Declan Basile and Tucker Cole Steil were arrested on Oct. 16 in connection with the alleged assault of student Jeremy Boyle at the Sigma Pi fraternity house on campus. Boyle had several broken teeth, a ruptured eardrum and a lung contusion.

The incident occurred in the early morning hours of Oct. 6, when Boyle noticed men trying to move a donkey statue from the top of the Sigma Pi fraternity house, according to a University spokesman.

Lafayette County Judge Mickey Avent handed down four not guilty judgments on Monday for Hughes, Guy, Rice and Basile. Steil's case is scheduled for August.

Kevin Frye, an attorney in Oxford, represented Basile.

"Mr. Basile went to trial on charges of larceny, hazing and simple assault," Frye said. "At the conclusion of the trial, the judge found Mr. Basile not guilty and excluded him of all charges. It's unfortunate that there was a rush to judgment in the media when this incident occurred and I hope that people will evaluate the outcome of the case today and understand this matter is now concluded."

Rice, Guy and Hughes had been charged with petty larceny.

Dwight Ball, an Oxford attorney who represented Christian Guy, said witnesses testified for the prosecution and he thought the trial was fair.

"It was a very lengthy, in-depth

trial and the proof showed and the judge so-ruled that he was not guilty," Ball said. "Out of all the testimony, not one single bit of evidence was produced that in any way implicated Christian Guy of anything."

At the time of the incident, Basile was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, and Hughes, Guy, Rice and Steil were new pledges of the fraternity. All five were dismissed or expelled from the fraternity in October. A University spokesman said at the time that the fraternity bore no responsibility for the assault.

Brian Boyle, father of Jeremy Boyle, said he was disappointed in the results of the trial.

"I don't understand how this could happen," Boyle said. "You've got four people involved in an assault. You've got a kid that was severely injured, and the judge dismisses all cases, dismisses everything? I'm beside myself. I don't know what to say."

## Religious freedom bill draws national attention

CLARA TURNAGE  
dmeditor@gmail.com

On Friday, President Barack Obama condemned legislation limiting LGBTQ rights recently passed in Mississippi and North Carolina.

This is the most recent comment in the backlash against Mississippi's House Bill 1523, which was signed into law on April 5

and guarantees clergymen, business owners and state officials the right to discriminate against LGBTQ persons if doing so aligns with sincerely-held religious beliefs. Though Mississippi's law was heralded as "probably the worst religious freedom bill to date," by Ben Needham, director of Southern LGBT advocacy group Project One America, UM professor Jai-

SEE RELIGIOUS BILL PAGE 3



PHOTO BY: CLARA TURNAGE

Rob Hill, state director of the Human Rights Campaign in Mississippi, said House Bill 1523 further disenfranchises an already vulnerable population.



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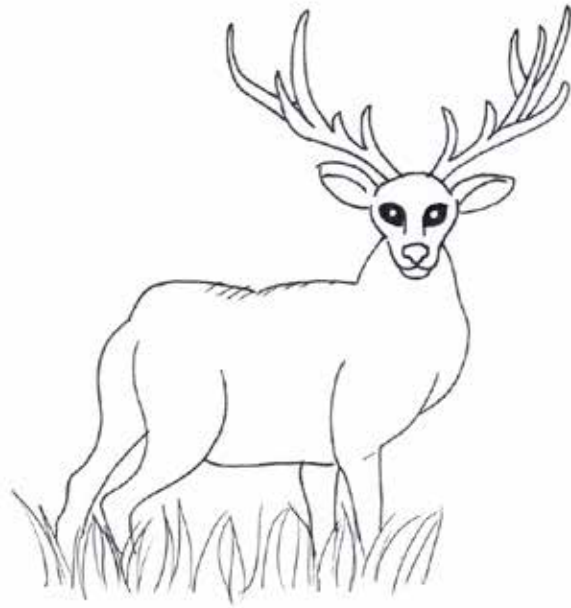
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CARTOON BY: CARA KEYSER

## COLUMN

# We don't need more hypocrisy from the Clintons



**PATRICK WATERS**  
thedmopinion@gmail.com

Former Secretary of State and likely Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton has created controversy in recent weeks about her refusal to release any of her paid speeches to a variety of different investment banks, trade groups and international corporations.

She was reportedly paid at least \$225,000 per speech. That

is over four times the amount the average American makes in one year, and that was only for one speech. She made an estimated 92 of these speeches from April 2013 to March 2015, earning millions of dollars for minimal work.

Although Clinton has re-branded herself (and moved farther to the left wing of her party) for the presidential primary, the fact that she accepted those amounts of money from groups that she now attacks for fostering "income inequality" is a lesson in hypocrisy.

Clinton should at least demonstrate respect to the American people and release the transcripts of her speeches so the American people can view just what she was saying in those invitation-only events. It is unlikely, however, that she will.

She has said that if other candidates release the transcripts of their paid speeches, she will do the same. If Clinton wants to truly distinguish herself as a leader, however, she will release them on her own, instead of waiting to follow the crowd.

On top of that, she has made a point to attack bankers and hedge fund managers at every turn, mostly to satisfy the liberal base of her party. If this is true, then why have they donated millions of dollars to her campaign? If she is so against the millionaires and billionaires of Wall Street, then why does she not release what she said to them?

All of this plays into a larger trend we have seen from Clinton and her husband for decades. They seem to operate by their own rules, and see themselves as above the average American

because of the power they hold. We have seen examples of their unethical behavior in White-water, the Monica Lewinsky scandal and now with Clinton's unethical and careless (and possibly criminal) handling of her email while she was Secretary of State.

The American people deserve better than the hypocrisy of the Clintons. Clinton should release the speeches and acknowledge that she has a great base of support from Wall Street and corporate America. Of course, it is doubtful she will. This fall, it is up to us to prove that the Clintons' legacy of hypocrisy must come to an end.

*Patrick Waters is a freshman accounting major from St. Louis, Missouri.*

## THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

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Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for clarity, space or libel. Third-party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or "name withheld" will not be published. Publication is limited to one letter per individual per calendar month.

Letters should include phone and email contact information so that editors can verify authenticity. Letters from students should include grade classification and major; letters from faculty and staff should include title and the college, school or department where the person is employed.



MISSISSIPPI  
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ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSPAPER

## RELIGIOUS BILL

*continued from page 1*

me Cantrell said it is important to view this bill as a part of a larger movement across the region targeting the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and queer community.

Cantrell, who taught the inaugural queer theory course at The University of Mississippi in 2013 and who currently serves as faculty adviser to the UM Pride Network, said this bill must be viewed within the context of surrounding states' anti-LGBTQ legislation.

"I'm especially troubled by rhetoric in the media that position this bill as worse, or new, amidst a host of other hate bills. That's always very scary, when we begin to establish a hierarchy of legalized hate," Cantrell said. "This bill isn't an outlier or an anomaly. It's important to keep in mind that it is part of a new discriminatory segregationist movement across the region, across the South"

Bills similar to Mississippi's have passed or considered in 19 states, including North Carolina, Michigan, Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, Arizona, California, Al-

abama, and Alaska. Although many of the bills pertain to different facets of living as a LGBTQ individual, Cantrell said they each suggest a backlash to the national legalization of gay marriage in June 2015.

"I think this is sort of a checkmate move at the state level responding to national LGBTQ rights that we've gained," Cantrell said. "I think it's important to consider what investments the state has in determining who is welcome and who is not in public and private spaces and what accesses are denied on the basis of sexualities."

For some, however, like Andrew Soper, an ASB senator and junior business major, House Bill 1523 is purposed to protect the rights of religious individuals, not discriminate against LGBTQ persons.

"I commend Gov. Bryant for taking this action and signing this bill into office," Soper said. "To me, what this does is make the state government neutral in this situation. It doesn't take sides; it just doesn't interfere or interact with the issue."

Soper said he felt many who opposed the bill were basing their opinions on second-hand knowledge from news media and other outlets without having actually

read the bill. He said it is important to remember this bill pertains to marriage ceremonies and not regular business.

"It says in the constitution that you can't openly discriminate against anybody," Soper said. "I don't think if a gay couple goes into a restaurant the owner could come out and say 'You can't eat here because you are gay.' You can't do that."

The bill was written in a way that could be broadly interpreted, Soper said.

"It can be misinterpreted in many ways," Soper said. "What I like about the bill is it allows Christians to refuse services that go against your religious beliefs. I don't think it's right to openly discriminate just because someone is different than you. When it comes to a pastor marrying a same-sex couple or a business owner saying they don't want to participate in a same sex ceremony, though, I think that's right."

Rob Hill, state director of Human Rights Campaign, said a pastor's right to deny marriage to same-sex couples within the church was never threatened.

"Legislators say, 'This was intended to protect churches and pastors,'" Hill said. "Pastors always had that protection. The

government cannot dictate whom you marry. If your denomination prevents you from marrying a same-sex couple, you don't have to do that. The government will never say that. That's ludicrous."

Hill, who was a Methodist minister before he surrendered his credentials to marry his partner and become involved with the Human Rights Campaign, said he believes the guise of pastoral protection was a tactic for legislators.

"They knew what they were doing with this," Hill said. "(The bill is) useless as it relates to pastors, but it's very useful as it relates to a religious person in a taxpayer-funded role."

Hill said this bill pertains to far more than just marriage ceremonies, and it could actually be dangerous. Religious-based hospitals that are governmentally funded, can employ policies that do not recognize same-sex couples.

"That's dangerous, especially in emergency situations," Hill said. "We're talking about lives here. If you receive taxpayer-funding, you have to do your job and follow the law and if you can't follow the law, you need to find something else to do."

Hill said the bill, worded to protect religion, does not follow Christian precepts.

"As a person of faith, I'm troubled by this," Hill said. "My role and my goal as a pastor, my mission, was to bring people in. When we look at the gospels, we see Jesus doing it all the time – redefining for the Jewish people who our neighbors are. Very often, to the people who were thought to be on the outside, Jesus said, 'There is no outside.'"

Hill said he believed legislators were pandering to an overestimated minority.

"Our legislators think this is something that will get them votes," Hill said. "I honestly think that's what they care more about – about getting reelected in our state, not doing something to increase our population and job growth."

Regardless of how legislators perceive the bill, Hill said his organization will continue to fight it.

"There are people who are fighting against this. Our legislators need to know that. We're going to call on more and more people to get involved," Hill said. "We realize that when laws change, hearts and minds don't automatically change. We're going to keep working to change hearts and minds."

## DOUBLE DECKER

*continued from page 1*

crowd as well, because people can go to the game and then come back," Stubbs said. "That definitely had a big impact on the crowd this year."

Mary Allen Hedges, director of Visit Oxford, said she was extremely pleased with the turnout because it was consistent throughout the day. The revamped children's area, talented art vendors and great musical entertainment equally played a part in the success of the 2016 festival, Hedges said.

"Our children's area had record crowds, with new rides and games, and our art vendors had really great days," Hedges said. "When Kingfish played in the middle of the day, I had never seen a crowd

like that; they were lined all the way to the courthouse."

The economic contribution from the weekend was tremendous for Oxford, according to Hedges.

The 2016 budget for the arts and music festival totaled \$215,500. The majority of the budget was allotted to musical acts, which totaled \$71,000.

Stubbs said the number of sponsorships for this year's festival totaled \$238,200, in addition to in-kind donations.

"In previous years, we haven't made much profit. We usually just break even," Stubbs said. "We really just do the festival for the city."

Businesses on the Square felt the heat from the Double Decker crowd as well.

Restaurants on the Square were filled with festival goers. The wait time for most restaurants during

the weekend averaged anywhere from one to two hours.

Jason Ross, manager of Bouré, said the restaurant served an estimated 1,150 people on Saturday alone.

"It's definitely one of our busiest weekends. It was probably busier than a football weekend," Ross said. "It is our most profitable weekend."

Catherine Abadie, a hostess at City Grocery, said the restaurant reached capacity on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

"All of the reservations at all of our tables were booked," Abadie said. "We served on average about 400 people each day during the weekend."

Due to the high influx of tourists, the majority of hotels in Oxford reported zero vacancies throughout Double Decker weekend.

Gaye Buker, general manager

at The Inn at Ole Miss, said all of their 133 available rooms were booked during the weekend, and roughly 350 individuals stayed at the Inn during the festival.

Mike Hoover, general manager at Graduate Hotel, said the hotel experienced a large percentage in growth during the festival when compared to an average weekend.

"We were able to capture about 20 percent more revenue from a hotel perspective," Hoover said. "We saw about 2.5 people per

room, which was about 340 in the hotel."

Hoover said the hotel's restaurant performed well throughout the weekend as well, bringing in roughly 30 percent more revenue than normal.

"We were completely sold out for the weekend," Hoover said. "Double Decker was a great, profitable weekend for us."

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## 'Game of Thrones' is now a game of emotions

**MCKENNA WIERMAN**  
thedmfeatures@gmail.com

**WARNING MAJOR SPOILERS  
DON'T EVEN TOUCH THIS  
PAGE IF YOU'RE NOT READY:**

For perhaps the first time in the history of the HBO original series "Game of Thrones," Sunday night was an emotional rollercoaster for every single fan.

After missing his deadline for the next installment in "A Song of Ice and Fire" series, author George R. R. Martin told impatient fans on Jan. 2 "The Winds of Winter" would not be ready in time for the much anticipated season six premiere. Which meant all the hard-core book-reading GOT fans had nothing to prepare them for Sunday night. The fandom has been equalized.

Season six picked up exactly where it left off, but without adequately answering the biggest question in television history: Is Jon dead?

Sure, we saw his lifeless, cold body lying in the snow. We heard the mournful howls of Ghost. We watched Davos and the other loyal members of the Night's Watch put his stiff dead body on a table and plot his revenge, and we saw Melisandre (the Red Woman) look at Jon in disbelief and whisper, "I saw him in the flames fighting at Winterfell."

So Jon looks pretty dead. But he doesn't feel dead, right?

Martin is known for killing off pretty much whatever characters he wants to when he feels like he needs to, but Jon was different. Not only is Jon the underdog we all root for, there are also too many unanswered questions surrounding him that feel too essential to the plot of GOT to just abandon. Who is Jon's mother? Was Ned Stark even his real father? And what about Sansa? The poor girl has gone through enough trauma to emotionally obliterate any normal person, and now all she has left to keep going is the promise of Jon helping her out at Castle



COURTESY: HBO.COM

Black, so if Jon really is dead and Sansa goes all the way to the Wall only to find Jon's an ice zombie, I honestly think I might explode.

But we still have Melisandre, who seems to be the fan-favorite option for pulling together a Jon Snow resurrection, right? Well, maybe.

The Red Woman has been kind of off in her predictions lately (i.e. very dead Stannis) and it has really shaken her faith in the Lord of Light. But she still has some kind of magic power going for her, as we see at the end of the episode when she (finally) takes off that really uncomfortable-looking necklace and we all understood she was not joking when she said she was centuries old.

So is she up to the task of bringing Jon back to life? If you recall in season three, when Melisandre

sees Thoros, another missionary for the Lord of Light, has been brought back from the dead several times, she isn't too comfortable with idea. So we know it can be done, and we know she's not a fan of the idea, but maybe there's still hope?

Meanwhile, Sansa and Theon (AKA Reek) are trying to get away from a very pissed-off Ramsay, who is scrambling to scoop them back up and do gods know what to the pari for throwing his side chick off a very tall ledge. I applaud this scene for beginning to repair the very complicated relationship between Sansa and Theon, and for finally, after six seasons, putting Sansa in the company of someone like Brienne and sweet, sweet Podrick. It was the most hopeful scene of the entire show, and I'm sure next week

our hearts will get ripped out of our chests and stomped on because nothing good ever happens to Sansa.

Back in King's Landing, Cersie (who is really rocking the pixie cut) has her already-broken heart dashed to pieces again when Jamie returns from his mission to save Myrcella with her body wrapped in a golden shroud. Just like that witch told you would happen, Cersie, but did you listen? No.

Still, we all felt bad for her and Jamie, who in spite of all the evil they have caused, are human people with feelings. Creepy feelings towards each other, but feelings. I personally hope Cersie rises up and becomes that woman we love to hate again to protect Tommen, her only living child. Cersie loves her children, and after her legend-

ary walk of shame last season, I feel for her.

Arya is blind, but I'm guessing she's going to figure out how to be a badass all over again and probably learn a lesson along the way, and Tyrion and Varys are trying to hold down the fort for Dany who took off on a dragon and still wound up getting kidnapped and taken (prisoner?) by another Dothraki horde who have zero respect for her as a woman but change their tune as soon as they find out she used to be married to a dead guy.

Honestly, Dany's storyline is the one stressing me out the most. She went through all that trouble to conquer all these cities only to wind up being marched off against her will to some Khal-widow temple, which is probably already sad for her because Khal Drogo and Dany ended up being so perfect together after he dropped that whole misogyny thing, and to be honest, I'm still crossing my fingers that the sun will rise in the West and set in East.

Overall, this episode was a success. It also addressed nearly every story line (which is amazing because there are, like, 40, it feels like) in one tightly-wrapped package, giving us just enough information to ease back into Westeros. (Except where is Bran and Rickon? And Hodor? No one has forgotten about Hodor, Martin. Where is he?)

Questions got answered, but more were asked, which is a good way to start off a new season.

A lot of characters have been broken down, and it's going to take time to build them back up again; hell, Jon Snow has to come back from the dead!

As fans, we don't trust Martin enough to lend ourselves totally over to the hope that everything is going to work out, but we also trust these characters enough to pull through. All we can do is pray to the Seven George R. R. Martin has mercy on us and doesn't kill off any more of our favorite characters next Sunday.

**SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION**  
**James Robinson**  
B.E. IN ENGINEERING  
*"Concussion in Women's Soccer: A Prescriptive Analysis of Force Loading During Heading"*  
Directed by: Dwight Waddell  
Tuesday, April 26 at 8:00 am  
Brevard Hall Room 209  
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**  
**Mary Moses Hitt**  
B.A. IN BIOCHEMISTRY  
*"The Evolution of the Sugarcoated American Food Market: The Paradox of Artificial Sweeteners and The Obesity Epidemic"*  
Directed by: Susan Pedigo  
Tuesday, April 26 at 10:00 am  
Coulter Hall Room 201  
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**  
**Alyssa Erin Invergo**  
B.A. IN PSYCHOLOGY  
*"Boredom and Psychological Time Perspective on Cognition"*  
Directed by: Matthew Reysen  
Tuesday, April 26 at 11:00 am  
SMBHC Room 016  
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**  
**Maggie McKean Hall**  
B.A. IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES  
*"Intentions to Purchase Genetically Modified Foods in the United States and Germany: The Impact of Consumer Knowledge and Attitudes"*  
Directed by: Milorad Novicevic  
Tuesday, April 26 at 2:30 pm  
Croft Boardroom  
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**  
**Wilson Woodward Helmhout**  
B.A. IN SPANISH  
*"Females Influences Brain Evolution: Dance Complexity Related To Volume of Sensorimotor Regions in Manakins"*  
Directed by: Elaine Day  
Tuesday, April 26 at 4:00 pm  
Shoemaker Hall Room 408  
The defense is open to the public.  
If you require special assistance relating to a disability, please contact Penny Leeton at 662-915-7266.



## Old-time piano festival comes to Oxford after 41 years

JANE WALTON

jcwalton@go.olemiss.edu

When finals are over and summer is here, don't be too quick to head out of town. Picture this: an upright piano being played by a pro in '30s costume in a dark club. This isn't a scene from "The Great Gatsby," but something you can find right here in Oxford this May.

Oxford and the University of Mississippi will play host to the 2016 World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest from May 26 to May 30.

The main event of the weekend is the traditional competition, where regular and junior division players—as young as nine or 10 years old—will dress in period costume and perform old-time piano pieces, written before 1940, for a panel of judges. Throughout the festival, a variety of other activities will take place around Oxford, including a New Rag contest, where contestants write and perform their own pieces, and a Duet Contest. Hominick is particularly excited about a new event this year, the Cutting Contest.

Ian Hominick, a professor in the music department, has been appointed as the director of the event, which is entering its 42nd year.

"The Cutting Contest is kind of like a duel. It will be like the 1930s bar scene, and the audience will chose the winner," Hominick said. "The winner will be based on public appeal and get to show off their virtuosity

and improvisational skills."

Players with a variety of backgrounds come from around the world to participate in the contest, which Hominick said he believes plays a major role in attracting the following the festival has garnered.

"It's fun and competitive; they're really good players who might play for a living, or not," he said. "There's a fellow who's the White House pianist, a guy studying for his Ph.D. in music, an apple farmer from Idaho and an IT specialist."

Homesick said he hopes, in addition to the variety of events, participants and acclaimed guest performers, Oxford's arts and culture scene will reinvigorate the competition. For the last 41 years, the event has been held throughout Illinois, where it was founded by Ted Lehman. The first contest was housed on a caboose at the Illinois Railway Museum for a small crowd who brought their own chairs. Over the years, the event has grown and moved throughout the state until it was passed to Hominick and brought to Mississippi.

"I was placed in charge because I'm more tech-savvy, in hopes that we can attract a younger audience," Hominick said.

Brian Swanson, a four-time champion of the adult division and a three-time winner of the junior contest, said the move to Oxford was crucial for the continued success.

"The improvement in the quality of the main venue and two 9-foot Steinway grand pianos will hopefully add much



COURTESY: EVENTS.NBCNEWYORK.COM

credibility to the contest that it may have been lacking," Swanson said. "Also, the main square downtown is just ideal for the kind of performing I love best—out in public in fun places with food and drinks, where real people can hear real ragtime."

Daniel Souvigny is only 15 years old but is already competing with the adults. He's won the junior championship

the maximum three times, and echoes the benefit of the competition's move to Oxford.

"The contest has always been a big part of my life, and I always look forward to attending another fantastic year," Souvigny said. "I have hope that this new location will bring some more life and new attendees to this festival and its great music."

Tickets are available to the public for purchase, and Hominick welcomes those interested in volunteering or participating to contact him. More information and a full schedule of the festival's events can be found on the contest's Facebook page and at oldtimepianocontest.org.

**SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION**  
**Ashley Elizabeth Noblin**  
 B.A. IN BIOLOGY  
*"Exploration of Compound Viability as an Organ-Selective Anti-Metastatic Therapeutic Treatment for Triple Negative Breast Cancer"*  
 Directed by: Dale Nagle  
**Tuesday, April 26 at 4:00 pm**  
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**Claudia Salcedo**  
 B.M. IN MUSIC  
*"Reflections on my Journey of Using Visual Media in a Voice Recital"*  
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## Diamond Rebels play State in Governor's Cup

**BRIAN SCOTT RIPPEE**  
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Ole Miss came away with its second consecutive home sweep last weekend against Auburn. The three wins moved the Rebels up to a tie for second place in the SEC West at 10-8. This team is beginning to hit the most crucial stretch of the regular season with four SEC series left. Ole Miss faces Mississippi State on Tuesday at Trustmark Park in Pearl for the annual Governor's Cup game to begin the week.

Mississippi State took two of three from Ole Miss in its SEC series at the end of March. The Rebels managed to salvage the Sunday game, bringing a five-game losing streak to a halt at the time.

Mike Bianco said after Sunday's walk-off win, that junior right-hander Chad Smith will

start against the Bulldogs. Smith is 3-3 with a 4.89 ERA in eight starts and three relief appearances this season. He was the Saturday starter for the first seven series of the year for Ole Miss, but was pulled from the rotation after taking the loss on Saturday at Mississippi State, a game in which he lasted just an inning and a third, yielding four runs on five hits.

Smith has made a couple of relief appearances since, and drew the start in the second midweek game against Murray State last Wednesday and he pitched well. Smith struck out a career-high nine batters and picked up the win by going five innings and allowing just two hits and no runs.

James McArthur had been the primary midweek starter for Ole Miss, and after winning five of his last six starts, he got a chance at some SEC action when Sean Johnson struggled early on Sun-



PHOTO BY: EVAN TURNER

Junior Errol Robinson throws to first to make an out during the Rebels' game against Auburn Friday April 22.

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  - 5 Roll-call votes
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  - 7 Yellow wildflower
  - 8 Fog up
  - 9 Mystiques
  - 10 Folding money
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  - 13 Nile god of resurrection
  - 14 Remnant
  - 20 Strive to win
  - 22 People eater
  - 24 Dragon puppet
  - 26 Leather punches
  - 27 Nah! (hyph.)
  - 28 A really corny place?
  - 29 Little blue toon
  - 30 Acts servile
  - 31 — — committee
  - 33 Thwarts
  - 34 Non-soap opera
  - 35 Little chirper
  - 36 Jarrett and Sparks
  - 38 Flashing on and off
  - 41 What the walls have?
  - 42 Darwin's ship
  - 44 ATM code
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- 27 Nah! (hyph.)
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day against Auburn. The freshman right-hander surrendered just two hits and did not allow a run in 4.2 innings, keeping Ole Miss in the game through the middle innings.

"That'll get lost in all of this, and really might be the biggest factor in why we won," Bianco said of McArthur after the win. "We're not in a position, if we don't pitch like that for the remaining seven plus innings."

He also said it was time for McArthur to get a taste of SEC action, and with no other options jumping off of the page, it appears that McArthur might join the weekend rotation.

This midweek start for Smith will have a bit of added impor-

tance, because with Ole Miss starting its series with LSU on Thursday, the quick turnaround will make deciding who to pitch in the bullpen and for how long a bit tricky for Mike Bianco. A quality start for Smith would help save more of the bullpen for a big late-April top 25 series against the Tigers this weekend.

Mississippi State is coming off of maybe its biggest series win of the year, taking two of three games at LSU over the weekend. It will start Ryan Cyr. The freshman has nine appearances this year, mostly coming in midweek action, and he has not allowed an earned run.

It will be Cyr's first start. Mississippi State has often used the

approach of letting four or five different guys from its bullpen pitch an inning or two to get them through midweek games, and the move to start Cyr suggests that it will be doing that again.

Mississippi State is one of the best teams in the SEC. Where it stands right now, it is in line to be a national seed in the NCAA tournament, and possesses a lineup that is No. 3 in overall team batting in the SEC and has given teams fits, including Ole Miss.

First pitch on Tuesday was originally scheduled for 6 p.m., but has been pushed back to 6:30 p.m.

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## A look at Ole Miss softball NCAA tournament

**COLLIN BRISTER**  
thedmsports@gmail.com

### LOOKING AHEAD

The Rebels have put themselves in a prime position to make the program's first NCAA tournament.

Ole Miss is currently 34-15 on the season with an RPI of 30. The NCAA tournament usually rewards teams in the top 35 of RPI with a tournament berth.

The Rebels have a ton of opportunities to add quality wins to their schedule over the next two weeks as they take on UAB with an RPI of 51.

Georgia currently boasts an RPI of 19, and the Rebels' last series of the year is against Tennessee who has an RPI of 13.

Ole Miss also has a top 100 RPI opportunity against Louisiana Tech next week as the Bulldogs are currently 91 in the RPI. Ole Miss would likely get another top 100 RPI opportunity in the SEC tournament in two weeks.

The SEC has a knack for getting a multitude of teams into the NCAA Tournament. The 2014 and 2015 NCAA tournament featured 10 SEC teams.

### ANALYSIS

Barring a complete meltdown, Ole Miss is very likely headed to its first NCAA tournament, which is a testament to Mike Smith and the team as Ole Miss hadn't competed for a regional in a very long time.

### LAST WEEKEND

After three victories over the Razorbacks, the Ole Miss softball team has gotten themselves to .500 in the toughest conference in America at 9-9.

The Rebels struggled somewhat with the Razorbacks, but at the end of the day, they did what good teams do and simply won three contests over inferior competition.

Ole Miss received a great performance on the mound Saturday night from senior Madi Osias as she went seven innings and only gave up two runs as Ole Miss went on to win 7-2. Ole Miss erased a four-run deficit in the seventh and final inning on Sunday and walked off to a 6-5 win.

### UP NEXT

The Rebels have themselves in prime position to garner a good seed in the SEC tournament in two weeks, as they would be the No. 7 seed if the season ended today.

After a midweek contest on Wednesday against UAB, Ole Miss will next head to Athens to take on Georgia.

Georgia and the Rebels are currently both tied in the SEC at 9-9, and this weekend's series will go a long way in determining seeding in the SEC tournament in two weeks. The Bulldogs are currently 18-6 on the season at home.



PHOTO BY: CAMERON BROOKS

Hailey Lunderman fields and throws the ball during a game against Northern Iowa earlier this season.

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## Rebels' Choice Awards honors student athletes

**BRIAN SCOTT RIPPEE**  
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Down the red carpet they went, as Ole Miss student athletes, dressed in their Sunday best, made their way into The Pavilion for the sixth annual Rebels' Choice Awards ceremony. It's an event that started in 2011 as a way for the Ole Miss Athletic Department to celebrate National Student-Athlete day.

"We're here because of the student-athletes. They're the beginning and the end," Athletic Director Ross Bjork said. "I think it's a testament to showcasing what our student athletes do on and off of the fields and the courts and the tracks. So, we owe it to them to celebrate something like this and I'm glad we can do it."

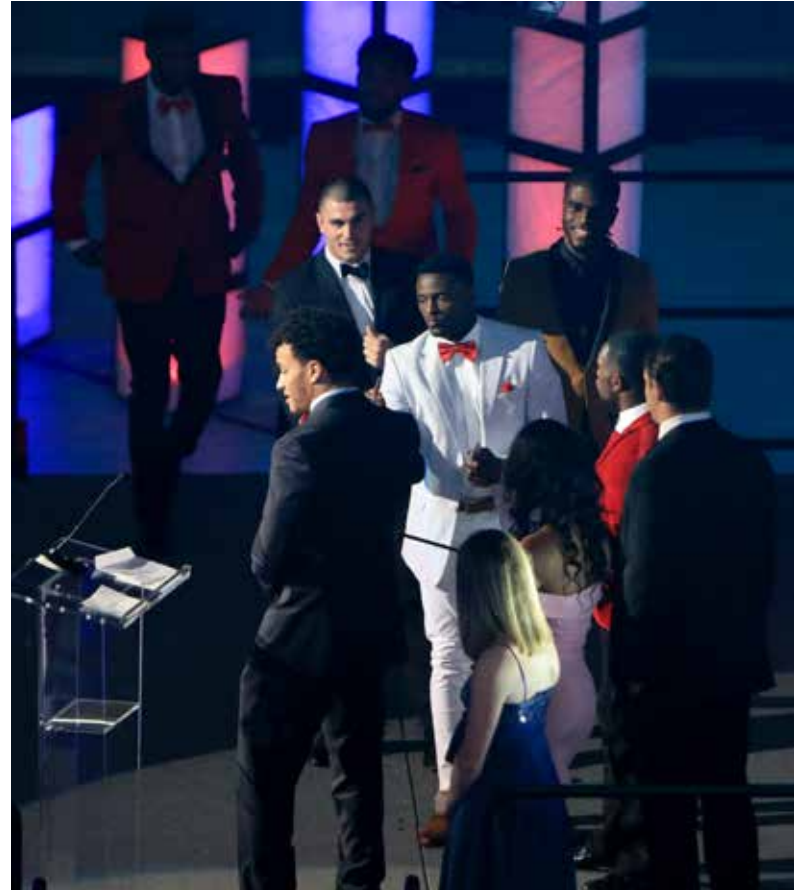
Various sports across campus received 19 awards. From football to riflery and everything in between, the achievement and hard work of student athletes is recognized across the board.

Stefan Moody and Raven Saunders of the basketball and track teams each won Most Valuable Rebel, given to the student athlete whose outstanding individual performance was instrumental to his or her team's success on the field.

"It means a lot that I can get the support of Rebel nation. It feels great," Moody said. "It



LEFT: Stefan Moody and Rasheed Brooks pose for a photo on the red carpet at the sixth annual Rebels' Choice Awards on Monday April 25. RIGHT: The Ole Miss Football team walks on stage to accept the award for Team of the Year during the Rebels' Choice Awards Monday night.



PHOTOS BY: CAMERON BROOKS

shows that Rebel nation is a family. We are not just a bunch of individuals. We are a family and we root for each other."

Football Head Coach Hugh Freeze and soccer Coach Matt Mott won Coach of the Year. Freeze and the Rebels won 10 games in 2015 that culminated with a Sugar Bowl win. Mott and the Rebel soccer team

reached the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament for the first time in school history while collecting 14 wins, which was good for third-most in school history.

Football brought home another award after Quincy Adeboyojo's deflected catch and touchdown run against Alabama won Play of the Year.

"I'm truly blessed to be a part

of Rebel nation," football defensive back Derrick Jones said. "I look forward to what's to come for us."

Forrest Gamble of the men's golf team and Sam Sanders of the soccer team took home the Hotty Toddy award given to the student athletes who show the most passion for their sport and team.

The same two sports were honored again when golfer Braden Thornberry and Cece Kiser took home Rookie of the Year, which given to the most outstanding freshman.

The baseball team took home the Community Outreach Award given to the team that makes the biggest impact in the community.

"Ole Miss has always had the ability to compete and they've always had resources and a great University to showcase," Bjork said. "I think what we've done is try to have a really posi-

tive attitude. I think we've tried to capitalize on those assets, and we've tried to grow those assets too."

It was clear on Monday that under Bjork's leadership, along with the time and effort the student-athletes and coaches at Ole Miss, that its athletic brand as a whole is growing.

"I think that attracts more success. When you have a positive attitude, and you're committed at the highest level, then great things can happen," Bjork said. "I believe that it's always had this potential. Now we've got to get it to the next level, and win those SEC championships, and win national championships. We've laid a foundation, and I think that's a starting point to get to the next level."

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