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Welcome back: Double Decker returns to Oxford after three-year hiatus



FILE PHOTO: REED JONES / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

A crowd awaits the start of the Double Decker Arts Festival music performances on April 27, 2019.

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In 2019, over 70,000 people joyously flooded the historic Courthouse

Square to attend the Double Decker Arts Festival — an annual celebration of Oxford’s illustrious artistic, musical and culinary scene.

“Originally inspired

by the Double Decker bus that Oxford imported from England in 1994, the festival showcases Oxford as a town that supports the arts and has grown to be one of the champion

events in the region,” Lee Ann Stubbs, Double Decker coordinator, said.

After a three year hiatus due to COVID-19, this year’s two-day festival

looks to attract a vast audience, featuring over 100 art vendors and 20-plus local food vendors, in addition to offering a

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More Double Decker 2022 Coverage Inside

Truman awardees make state history

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On April 14, University of Mississippi juniors Jilkiah Bryant and Andy Flores received the Harry S. Truman Scholarship, making state and university history as the first time two Truman Scholarships have ever been awarded to the same university in the state of Mississippi.

The University of Mississippi is among six universities nationwide to receive multiple awards, standing with Harvard University, Stanford University, Columbia University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the U.S. Air Force Academy.

“Andy and Jilkiah have reached an elite pinnacle, and we’re proud of how they are making a difference through their scholarship, leadership and service,” Chancellor Glenn Boyce said. “It is incredible to see how our supportive and invigorating campus environment fuels our students’ passions and prepares them to be competitive on a national stage.”

Created by Congress in 1975 as a memorial to President Harry S. Truman, the Truman Scholarship is the premiere scholarship for undergraduate students interested in pursuing graduate school and careers in public service. Recipients are decided based upon

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Seniors prepare to step into the world

VIOLET JIRA

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Across the nation, undergraduate seniors are watching their final days of college life set on the horizon. At the University of Mississippi, graduation is a mere 13 days away. Next month, hundreds of thousands of college seniors across the country will toss their caps to the sky and step into a world that is just beginning to gain its footing again.

State and local governments have begun to treat COVID-19 as endemic. Mask mandates have been dropped and businesses are bringing their employees back to the office. No matter what their next step is — graduate

studies, family life, professional school, entering the workforce, etc. — all of them are braving a new world.

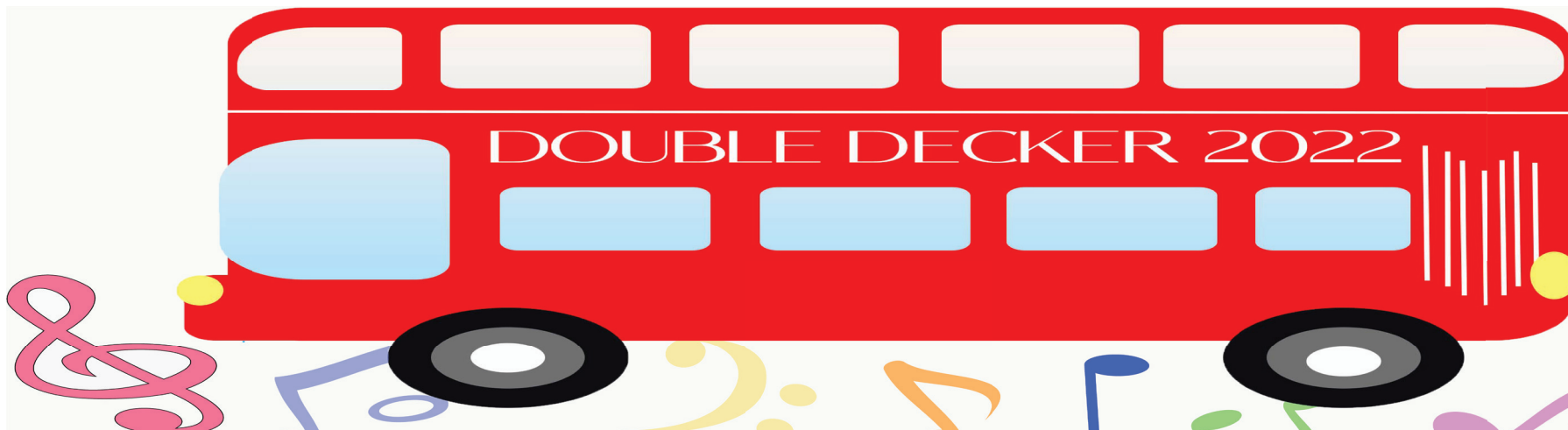
Most of the students who will move their tassels this year graduated high school in 2018, in a world that is a far cry from the one we live in today. Their college experience is sliced neatly in half: before and after. Like all of us, these seniors are unwittingly overfamiliar with what it means to transition.

For MyKayla Williamson, the transition started long before the pandemic did.

“I am a first-generation

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DOUBLE DECKER 2022



DOUBLE DECKER *continued from page 1*

wide variety of musical acts.

Before garnering game day-like attendance and becoming one of Oxford's most reliable traditions, the Double Decker Arts Festival's unprecedented success was not always a sure bet.

In 1995, now-Mayor Robyn Tannehill — at an impressive 24 years old — became the director of the Oxford Tourism Council, immediately focusing her self-determination and high-minded ambition toward creating the city's modern-day equivalent of Woodstock, hoping to fill a void within the city's lack of springtime festivities.

"In March, we had the Red-Blue Football Game. In May, we had graduation, but April was largely empty," Tannehill said. "So we picked a slow weekend where we could boost our hotel-stays and give our local restaurants and bars a well-needed shot-in-the-arm."

In addition to showcasing Oxford's budding cultural venues, Tannehill and her creative team envisioned a festival that would be city-funded, take place on a Saturday and be completely free to the public — college students and families alike.

These ideas wound up being much easier said than done.

"City government at the time was not so receptive to people being downtown potentially drinking beer while streets were closed," Tannehill said.

Through the help and influence of local friends and business owners, Tannehill was able to close the Square for an all-day Saturday event. But populating those streets, with performers and participants alike, became a different story.

As Tannehill vowed for the festival to remain free to the public, she sought to raise the



FILE PHOTO:CHRISTIAN JOHNSON / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Tank and the Bangas brings a large crowd of students and Oxford residents during the 2018 Double Decker Arts Festival .

money through sponsorship deals, from the likes of Coca-Cola and Budweiser.

The beer company, however, appeared to be confounded by Tannehill's seemingly incongruous request: sponsoring a festival where not a single drop of alcohol would be sold.

"I wanted all the beer to be sold in bars and restaurants, so that the local businesses profited," said Tannehill. "From the beginning, it was important to me that the event itself remain family-friendly."

Fortunately, Tannehill stuck to her guns. Budweiser eventually agreed to sponsor the event and remains a sponsor to this day.

In its first year, Double Decker faced several logistical challenges. With unlikely solutions, from hand-making each and every banner, to using an 18-wheeler rig as a makeshift stage, and spending the advertising budget to fly in writers from across the country, they were overcome.

Despite these challenges, Tannehill's candid optimism paved the way for a major success as 1996's inaugural Double Decker Arts Festival garnered over 9,000 people in attendance.

Double Decker began with the bed of an old pickup truck serving as a music stage and only a handful of art and food vendors. Twenty-seven years later, a mere aspirational goal has transformed into one of Oxford's beloved communal experiences year after year.

"We are so excited that 2022 is going to be the biggest and best Double Decker yet," Tannehill said. "After devastatingly having to cancel the festival twice in a row, it's only driven us to make sure that this one is unforgettable."

This year's Double Decker will feature art from Hi Yall! Made in the South, Sabrina Ewing Art, Whitney Winkler Art and many other artists. Food vendors include Bling Pig Pub and Deli, Taylor Grocery Special Events catering and Walk-On's.



SHUTTLE & TOWING INFORMATION

FRIDAY, APRIL 22 at 4:00 am, any cars left on North Lamar and Monroe Ave. will be towed.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23 at 4:00 am, any cars left on the Square, South Lamar, Van Buren, East Jackson Chancery building lot, and any City of Oxford or county public parking lot will be towed.

Shuttles will run from Oxford High School & Ole Miss South Oxford Center parking lot on Saturday, April 23 from 10:00 am - 11:00 pm. The cost is \$5 per person, round trip.

Double Decker Arts Festival and the City of Oxford are not responsible for any towing fees

For more information on the festival, visit WWW.DOUBLEDECKERFESTIVAL.COM



A look back at what to look forward to

The Double Decker Arts Festival returns to Oxford on April 22 and 23 for the first time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.



FILE PHOTO: ADDISON DENT / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

The North Mississippi Allstars perform at Double Decker on April 30, 2011.



FILE PHOTO: CHRSTIAN JOHNSON / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Cold War Kids performs at the 2018 Double Decker Festival.



FILE PHOTO: THOMAS GRANING/ THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

A bus driver transports attendees during the Double Decker Arts Festival on April 26, 2014.

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DOUBLE DECKER 2022

New Orleans legend is Oxford's resident jazz musician for Double Decker weekend



PHOTO COURTESY: TAKAHIRO KYONO VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS.

Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue perform at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival in April 2012.

JACKSON MULLIGAN

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I'll be perfectly honest: I think you'd be hard-pressed to find a more exemplary personification of New Orleans jazz culture than Double Decker Arts Festival headliner Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews.

Andrews' prolific career and deep pride for his hometown's unreplicable culture has made his status as a New Orleans legend irrefutable.

Andrews grew up in the Tremé neighborhood, one of the oldest black neighborhoods in America and an epicenter of New Orleans jazz. He began playing trombone at the age of four and became so proficient that he led his first brass band at the age of eight. Andrews set to work further honing his virtuoso-level musicianship, attending the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts.

While in high school, he developed his longtime band, Orleans Avenue, and developed a friendship with fellow musician Jon Batiste. If the name Batiste rings any bells, then you're likely thinking of his band, Stay Human's, seven year stint as the studio band on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert," or perhaps you know him as the most recent recipient of the album of the year award at the Grammys for his album "We Are," which Andrews also contributed to.

Batiste is only one in a long line of notable musicians Andrews has collaborated with in his career. These musicians span a wide array of genres, from rock musicians such as Lenny Kravitz and Aerosmith, former

Beatle Ringo Starr and R&B artists such as Bruno Mars.

These collaborations early in his career helped Andrews develop his own unique musical style, which he coined supafunkrock, an intense hybrid of the rock, R&B and swinging NOLA jazz. Andrews first began exploring this style on his 2010 sophomore studio album "Backatown," which received widespread critical acclaim, receiving multiple Grammy nominations and praise from notable critics.

The collaborations Andrews prides himself the most on are those with fellow New Orleans musicians and legends.

On "Backatown," named after a nickname for the Tremé neighborhood in which Andrews grew up, Andrews taps Louisiana native Marc Broussard and legendary New

Orleans songwriter and pianist Allen Toussaint. Outside of Louisiana, neither of these names may appear to carry much weight, but if you've ever had a parent walk around the house humming "Southern Nights" to themselves, you can thank Mr. Toussaint for penning that song.

Andrews doubles down on these collaborations in his subsequent albums. His 2011 album "For True" features the electrifying Rebirth Brass Band, 5th Ward Weebee and the Neville Brothers. These collaborations allow Andrews to forge something that is both entirely unique yet welcomingly familiar, optimistic yet not blindly so, all while paying homage to the hometown he takes such pride in.

Andrews has made a point to perform with other hometown

legends. In addition to the aforementioned Rebirth Brass Band, Andrews has also performed with the beloved and historic Preservation Hall Jazz Band and the Soul Rebels, a group which fuses NOLA big band sound with hip-hop.

Andrews' pride for New Orleans extends beyond music. Outside of his career, Andrews has been a prominent figure in promoting the culture of New Orleans. Andrews had a recurring role on the HBO drama "Tremé," a show which explored the lives of those living in the neighborhood following Hurricane Katrina.

In a similar vein, Andrews contributed to the New Orleans Social Club,

a supergroup of famous New Orleans musicians seeking to create a benefit album for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Andrews also founded the Trombone Shorty Foundation. Andrews hopes to pass the musical traditions which raised him onto future generations by providing them with world class instruction, quality instruments and the proper resources to succeed in their career.

Trombone Shorty will be performing on April 23 as one of the headliners of the Oxford Double Decker Arts Festival, and with a stage presence as electrifying as his, I'd easily consider him one of the weekends can't miss events.

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DOUBLE DECKER 2022

Samantha Fish makes a splash

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Contemporary blues artist, Samantha Fish, known for her powerful vocals and captivating performance ability, is a must-see at the 2022 Double Decker Arts Festival.

Fish will take the stage this Saturday, April 23 at 3:30 p.m. Her Double Decker performance is one of 17 scheduled in her band’s current tour, which includes 50 performances scheduled through March of 2023. The band also plans to visit ten countries total.

Their current tour is centered around Fish’s eighth album, “Faster,” which she wrote during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“When everything shut down, I started writing,” Fish said. “I wanted to make something that made people feel good.”

Inspired by producer Martin Kierszenbaum, Fish decided to write about how she wanted to feel as opposed to the reality of such a gloomy time for the world.

“These songs are confident, they’re empowering,” Fish said. “Faster is about having control over your life and

feeling your own inner power.”

Released on September 10, 2021, “Faster” debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Blues Album chart, No. 2 on Billboard’s Americana/Folk Album Chart and No. 10 on the Billboard Rock Album Chart.

“Through the process of making that album, I started to feel like there is hope for music and arts. We can find a way to get through it,” Fish said. “My job is to write something that can connect to people — that tells a universal truth. Because after you put the song out, it’s not yours anymore. It’s everybody else’s.”

She grew up listening to classic rock bands, such as AC/DC, The Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers and many others.

“I learned to play guitar by playing along to my heroes,” Fish said. “I started digging into who they were inspired by — it was the blues.”

Fish began her career in her hometown, Kansas City, Missouri.

According to Fish, it is a place with “a great contemporary scene” and “long, rich history of jazz and blues music.”

In Kansas City, there’s “a jam every night of the week,” Fish said. Through attending jams, as both a performer and audience member, Fish learned fellow blues musicians and was able to come into her own.

“I was able to learn how to play in a band, how to be on a stage, how to improvise within my form,” Fish said. “The combination of loving and learning about the blues is what got me started.”

Since her humble beginnings, Fish has played with many different bands. However, her current band is her favorite.

“My band is very passionate,” Fish said. “When we’re out on stage, we’re looking to make a point.”

The Samantha Fish Band includes herself on vocals and guitar and three other artists from different areas of the country — pianist Matt Wade from New Jersey, bassist Ron Johnson from New Orleans and drummer Sarah Tomek from Nashville.

“Everyone’s funny and likes to have fun,” Fish said.

On a tour bus, close sleeping quarters can lead to tension.



PHOTO COURTESY: KEVIN & KING.

Samantha Fish.

However, Fish and her band hold “great respect for each other.”

Fish looks forward to Saturday’s performance because connecting with an audience is “the most

incredible feeling in the world.”

“It’s always a great time,” Fish said. For those planning to attend on Saturday, “Bring your comfortable shoes. We’re gonna throw it down.”

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For updates on the 2022 Double Decker Festival, visit DoubleDeckerFestival.com

DOUBLE DECKER 2022

Americana superstar returns to Oxford

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The air is filled with a steady anticipation as the long awaited 2022 Double Decker Arts Festival approaches. Streets will be flooded for miles with giddy festival goers, vendors, students and art enthusiasts as the Square is brought to life with artistry.

Double Decker Festival has been a monumental occasion for the Oxford community since its establishment in 1994. The entire weekend is artistry heaven for music lovers and art enthusiasts alike. From the smooth tones of jazz to the distinct twang of country, music constitutes a large part of the festival.

Maggie Rose, an independent artist based in Nashville, will step out onto the mainstage this Saturday at 2 p.m. before later performing at Proud Larry’s.

This Americana artist is no stranger to Oxford. Rose has performed at Proud Larry’s twice, guest starred on Thacker Mountain Radio at both Square Books and The Lyric, sang at Rowan Oak and was originally scheduled to perform at Double Decker in 2020 before it was canceled due to COVID-19.

Rose moved to Nashville as a teenager to pursue her love of music and was thrown into a major label country-music machine. However, the label Rose was signed to folded and she found herself struggling

with connecting to the music, scared that everything was going to go away.

She struggled to find herself as a musician but soon found inspiration in life as an independent artist in a different genre of music.

Americana or American Rock and Soul — a genre of music defined by its quirky blend of folk, blues, gospel, country and more — is where Rose found herself after the trials she faced in the music industry.

“It was a great opportunity for me to set the records straight and go in a direction that was most natural for me, which was being a more soulful singer and not apologizing anymore,” Rose said.

Everything from Rose’s music to her stage performances reflect the eclectic aesthetic American Rock and Soul is so well known for. Her music draws strong inspiration from the blues of the Mississippi Delta as well as powerful singers such as Aretha Franklin, Nina Simone and Susan Tedeschi.

“We are pretty funky, we transcend a lot of genres,” Rose said. “There is rock and soul and a little folk element in there. A little bit of country.”

Outside of her life as a musician, Rose hosts a podcast on Apple Podcasts called “Salute the Songbird” where she interviews women in the

industry like Allison Russell, Natalie Hemby and more.

The young artist draws strong inspiration from the podcast, stating that she feels it has made her a better musician and a better listener.

Rose will be performing many songs from her latest album “Have a Seat” when she takes the stage this Saturday.

“I have a stellar band. We will be playing a lot of material from my latest album. We are going to do a few covers as well,” Rose said.

The 11-song album is meant to preach inclusivity and acceptance, highlighting the importance of finding your individual self and taking a seat at the table only you can occupy.

“It feels like an extension of individuality and a way to connect with people that is unlike anything else,” Rose said. “I have been setting this table for years and years with all of the experiences that I have been through, and this was me finally claiming a seat at this proverbial table.”

Festival goers can expect a very entertaining performance from Rose as she lights up the Square.

“It is a very dynamic show. I hope people will really dance a lot,” Rose said. “We want to connect with people. I hope to make people feel more connected to each



PHOTO COURTESY: ADAM JONES.

Maggie Rose performs live.

other in the audience as well after the show is over.”

Her show — billed as “Super Jam” — at Proud Larry’s is a post-festival late night that will include a few special guests, including Happy Landing and Tate Moore of the Kudzu Kings.

As Double Decker approaches, Rose is ecstatic about immersing herself in the Oxford community and sharing her music once again.

“I am just so happy that it is happening,” Rose said. “It is the return of a really wonderful tradition and I feel honored to be on the bill. We have had a

Double Decker poster hanging in our house for as long as I have known my husband and it has always kind of been an aspirational thing to say that I have played it. I am very excited to finally realize that moment.”

Other performers include Trombone Shorty and Orleans Avenue, The Wilkins Sisters, 49 Winchester, Happy Landing, Buffalo Nichols, The Revivalists, Samantha Fish, and Mavis Staples.

All performances will take place on the main stage at North Lamar.

Blues music and blue jeans

MARY BOYTE
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After two years of cancellation due to COVID-19, Oxford’s beloved Double Decker Arts Festival is back in full swing this weekend. Part of the weekend’s festivities will include the Blue Delta’s Blues Alley on April 23 hosted by Blue Delta Jeans.

Mississippi-based company Blue Delta Jeans will be hosting the blues event for the second year in a row. This is the first time it will be held during Double Decker weekend.

Blue Delta Jeans was co-founded by Josh West and Nick Weaver, both Mississippi natives. They specialize in raw denim, which they term “bespoke.” The entire process is done in partnership with the customer, so the jeans are fully customizable. They make all their denim in Tupelo.

Weaver, also the COO of Blue Delta Jeans, said he is excited for the chance to make the second Blue Delta’s Blues Alley even

better than the first.

“Last year, despite Double Decker being canceled, we held the first iteration of the Blues Ally event and had a great time,” Weaver said. “With Double Decker back in full force this year, it was a no-brainer to do it again, even bigger and better.”

The event will take place in the alley between the Blue Delta Jeans Studio and The Lyric. Weaver expressed his gratitude toward the City of Oxford for allowing them to shut down the alley for the shows.

Live music will be held from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Performances will include Joe Austin and the Tallahatchies, Jake the Snake and The Pearl Street Jumpers, and Mr. SIPP.

According to Weaver, Double Decker holds a special place in the heart of Blue Delta Jeans.

“Our design studio on the Square opened during Double Decker weekend of 2014, so this weekend is always very special to us,” Weaver said.



PHOTO COURTESY: TYLER WRIGHT.

The Blue Delta’s Blues Alley at the Double Decker Arts Festival on April 23 will be hosted by Blue Delta Jeans.



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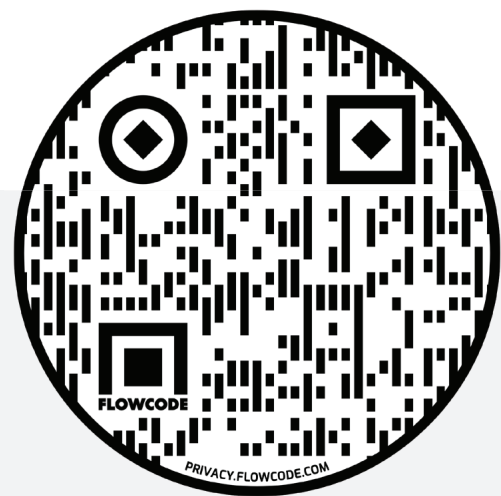
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TRUMAN

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The 16th and 17th Truman Scholars for the University of Mississippi, Bryant and Flores will each receive a \$30,000 scholarship to pursue a public service-related graduate degree and have access to unique opportunities for government employment and internships.

“I am still in awe. I would even go as far to say speechless! Words cannot express the mixture of emotions I am experiencing from being selected as a Truman Scholar in 2022,” Bryant said.

Majoring in public health in health sciences with minors in mathematics and African American studies, Bryant plans to allocate the scholarship towards a Master of Science in Public Health in Health Systems at John Hopkins University’s Bloomberg School of Public Health. From the small town of Macon, Mississippi, Bryant wants to expand access to health care and health resources in rural Mississippi while addressing the systemic factors that contribute to unequal health outcomes.

“In my small town, I found that there is more to health than what can be read on a scan or seen in an operating room. I saw that it’s more than just physical being, but mental and social circumstances. It’s where I learned the meaning of underserved. My community showed me that I want to advocate for the

underprivileged and serve the underserved,” Bryant said.

From Ocean Springs, Mississippi, Flores is a proud first-generation college student and double major in public policy leadership and philosophy.

“I came to college knowing that I wanted to dedicate my life to public service. Once I found out about the scholarship for the first time, I almost felt like its requirements were speaking directly to me and my life’s mission. I knew I had to apply,” Flores said.

Influenced by his family’s background as working class Mexican/Afro-Panamanians, Flores is devoted to ensuring equal access to high-quality education for all Mississippians.

“Growing up as a low-income Latino student, I often felt isolated and misunderstood. However, I found myself in the classroom, and I found joy in the lifelong friends and mentors I met through school. Education changed my life, and it taught me that I want to dedicate my life to helping others,” he said. “Throughout the course of my life, I want to harness the law’s capacity to uplift marginalized communities, while also constructing policies that positively transform our education system.”

Flores serves in several leadership roles on campus: as president of the First-



PHOTOS COURTESY: LOGAN KIRKLAND/OLE MISS DIGITAL IMAGING SERVICE.

University of Mississippi juniors Jilkiah Bryant and Andy Flores were awarded the Truman Scholarship.

Generation Student Network, vice chair of the Lott Leadership Institute Student Advisory Board and Principal of Inclusion and Cross-Cultural Engagement of the Associated Student Body. Flores also founded HelpSaveHELP, a movement to preserve current financial aid standards for low-income Mississippi students in the face of new policy that plans to redistribute aid to wealthier prospective students. He currently plans on using his scholarship to

attend Yale Law School or the University of California at Berkeley School of Law.

“It’s my belief that the law is an instrument for protecting people, their liberty, and ultimately, their dignity. Specifically, I want to undertake an interdisciplinary legal education that unites my interests in law, public policy, and education advocacy,” Flores said.

With the Harry S. Truman

Scholarship Foundation investing in young leaders since 1977, this year’s 58 recipients join a community of 3,442 Truman Scholars.

“When I consider what it means to me to be a Truman scholar, I am reminded of the work I have done as well as the work that remains to be done. I am grateful, overjoyed, and kind of nervous, but most importantly, I am ready,” Bryant said.

SENIORS

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college student from the small, rural southeast Mississippi town Waynesboro,” she said.

Waynesboro, east of Laurel and south of Meridian, has a population that is just one-fifth that of Oxford’s.

“Coming from a smaller, more rural space, I was navigating an entirely new social sphere. My first-year experience was filled with learning curves and adjustments. Nevertheless, I persisted,” she said. “I realized early on that being a first-generation student from a lower-income home posed challenges.”

According to a report published by the U.S. Department of Education, a plethora of research shows that first-generation students face challenges in accessing and completing post-secondary education. Being the first to attend college, they cannot benefit from their parent’s experience attending college.

In absence of the “cultural capital” that the non-first-generation students that surrounded her had, Williamson paved her own way, quickly adjusting to the new environment and excelling.

“I joined clubs and organizations

and sought out constructive programs that would provide mentorship. I learned to view myself as malleable and open to new experiences and critiques,” she said. “By the close of my sophomore year, I held leadership positions in many clubs and organizations that I joined as an eager freshman.”

Williamson’s sophomore year ended just as the pandemic began to tighten its grip on the nation. The smoke around the novel virus had cleared, revealing an impending crisis: COVID-19 was not just another flu.

By the end of spring 2020, the University of Mississippi had swiftly ceased in-person operations. Classes and finals were moved online. Students moved out of their dorms solemnly, with no fanfare.

On the other side of the state, in Starkville, Kerrigan Clark was wrapping up her freshman year at Mississippi State University.

“As for my experience overall, I think it was a tad underwhelming. I think that the pandemic had a really big impact on it due to the fact that a lot of things were canceled or moved online, and you just couldn’t get the full experience,” she said.

Like all of us, though, Clark found that living and being a student through the pandemic taught her a thing or two.

“I think one thing it really taught me was adaptability,” she said. “I was forced to learn new ways of doing things such as learning or just enjoying life overall.”

Williamson, too, marks the pandemic as having a distinct impact on her enjoyment of her college experience.

“COVID-19, of course, changed this newfound sense of belonging,” she said. “I was thrust into a world of not speaking to many of my classmates that I was used to seeing simply because we never thought to exchange numbers or social media.”

Fast forward a few years later and both Williamson and Clark have more than overcome the challenges that greeted them at the onset of their college careers.

Williamson will be attending Cornell University to pursue a master’s in archaeology.

“I am fortunate to have the support of the prestigious National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program in this endeavor,” she said. “I am the first student in Cornell’s MA in archaeology program to have the NSF Fellowship. I hope to make an impact in historical and African diaspora archaeology.”

Clark, too, is continuing her education with the hopes of making an impact.

“After graduation, I plan to continue my education at MSU pursuing a master of public policy and administration,” she said. “I hope to eventually get a job as a policy analyst and work for a nonprofit in the south.”

Clark, who is finishing her third and final year at MSU, is graduating a year early with the class of 2022. Her decision to do so was largely influenced by funding — college is expensive, and finishing early often means saving money in the long run. However, Clark believes there is value also in taking things slow.

“If someone is thinking about graduating early, I would probably tell them to reconsider. I think back over the past three years, and they went by so fast. So fast that I felt like I was always busy and I sometimes feel like I missed out on some ‘college experiences,’” she said. “Yes, school is so important, but I think I put my mental health on the backburner because I was so focused on getting to the next step to get out. And now that I’m about to be out, I’m honestly pretty anxious about it.”

Many people see graduating college as the first true step into “the real world,” as the entrance into a life devoid of flex dollars, spring break and date parties. It’s the first time you’re really alone in the world, without a safety net to be grateful for when you fall.

“In some ways graduation will be a step into adulthood with the gain of independence and confidence that come with having a bachelor’s degree,” Elizabeth Swindell, another member of the University of Mississippi’s class of 2022, said. “I am, however, apprehensive to transition into this new stage of life and constantly wonder if I am as prepared as I should be. It will also be difficult to have an ‘in between’ year before grad school which will stall my becoming an ‘official’ adult.”

Swindell, like many seniors, will take a gap year between graduation and professional school. After a year in Dallas, she will return to school and continue working towards her goal of becoming a physician’s assistant. Despite her anxieties about the future, she can look back on her time well spent at the university and offer a token of sound advice.

“I wish someone had emphasized how much of a growth experience college is. I think a lot of times professors, other adults and peers put too much pressure on students to be the perfect, well-rounded student when that isn’t where anyone starts,” she said. “College is for making and fixing mistakes and learning how to do better the next time.”

Many might say that perhaps, that is the essence of life in general.

Students hold Take Back the Night march for sexual violence awareness

SOPHIA JARAMILLO
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Heads turned as students and faculty marched across campus to protest sexual violence on Tuesday at the annual Take Back the Night march. An event created to show support and raise awareness of those affected by sexual violence, Take Back the Night began in the 1970s in Europe and has since spread across the world and onto college campuses.

The event was hosted by the Violence Intervention and Prevention Office, Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies, and Rallying Against Sexual Assault. Other organizations, including the Oxford Police Department and Family Crisis Services, were present to show their support.

“This is just yet another one of hundreds of our programs that we have in our campus community to use our voices and to support individuals who have experienced sexual violence and to be advocates for those individuals as well,” said Natasha Jeter, assistant vice chancellor for wellness and student success.

Beginning with speeches from faculty and staff at the university, the speakers educated event attendees on resources that can be accessed in the community and on campus, including how to access the Violence Intervention and Prevention office and a Title IX representative.

The march began after the speeches. Led by officers from the Oxford Police Department, the group first marched from the Grove stage around the J.D. Williams Library and then through the Circle before ending back at the Grove stage. The participants chanted and held signs as they marched.

“It was a beautiful and empowering moment to be able to walk in our power and to say how we really feel,” Jeridiane Ray, a freshman psychology major, said. “Being around survivors and just watching them be able to take their power back is a beautiful thing.”

Although the University of Mississippi now has resources for students to report sexual violence, Title IX Coordinator Honey Ussery noted the lack of student access to resources in the past, evidenced by the fact that she is only the second-ever Title IX Coordinator at the university.

“We weren’t addressing the issues of sexual violence on our campuses,” Ussery said. “I know we still have a long way to go, but I want to let you know how far the university has come.”

Title IX exists to allow students to report sex discrimination, including complaints of sexual harassment or sexual violence. The Title IX office can then use disciplinary procedures to address the complaints.

“Now we have a robust Title IX office, fantastic resources with the Violence Intervention and Prevention Office and those resources are available to each and every one of you,” Ussery said.

Approximately 19% of women and 6% of men will experience sexual assault while attending college, making sexual violence a prevalent issue on college campuses. Student organizations such as RASA help to advocate and provide resources for survivors of sexual violence.

“I think it’s always really powerful and vibrant coming together, and it takes all of us,” RASA advisor and Assistant Director for Violence Intervention Prevention



SOPHIA JARAMILLO / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Students walk around the circle on the evening of April 19 during the Take Back the Night event organized by the Violence and Intervention and Prevention Office, Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies, and Rallying Against Sexual Assault.



SOPHIA JARAMILLO / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Natasha Jeter speaks at Take Back the Night on April 19..

Shelli Poole said. “There are some people who aren’t even comfortable with coming to this event, and we are walking and to help them be seen and heard in the ways they need.”

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Ole Miss loses beloved junior Thomas Hayes Mayo

HAL FOX
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Thomas Hayes Mayo, a junior finance major and Oxford local, passed away on Thursday, April 14. He turned 21 years old only 12 days before his tragic death.

“We mourn the passing of Thomas Mayo, an Oxford native and a young man who was beloved by many including classmates and community members,” Brent Marsh, assistant vice chancellor and dean of students, said. “We know there are many on our campus who are deeply affected, and we encourage them to reach out to others for support and utilize the support services available on our campus.”

Mayo was a member of the ETA Chapter of the Sigma Chi fraternity. A friend to

many, he was beloved by his fraternity brothers and a source of inspiration for the people that knew him. Mayo’s friends remember his never-failing enthusiasm, positivity and kindness to others.

“His energy and constant positive attitude was contagious to all around him,” Thomas Hayden, a junior member of the Sigma Chi fraternity and one of Mayo’s close friends, said. “Thomas was one of the most accepting and loving individuals one could ever meet. He was not only one of my best friends, but someone who taught me so much. His efforts in his short life will have a lasting effect on all who he touched, and he will never be forgotten in this community and far beyond it.”

Mayo was the youngest child in his family with three older siblings. He graduated from Oxford High

School in 2019 where he played soccer for the Oxford Chargers and was captain of the team his senior year.

He is survived by his parents, Cal and Caroline Mayo, his sister Virginia Coan, his brother William Mayo, his sister Callie Mayo and his grandmother Stella Salmon. He also leaves his girlfriend, Georgia Hippe, as well as his many friends too numerous to list.

Contributions in Thomas Mayo’s memory may be made to the William Magee Center at the University of Mississippi or the James and Sandra Mayo Scholarship Endowment at the University of Mississippi Foundation, 406 University Avenue, Oxford, MS 38655 or to St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, 113 S. 9th Street, Oxford, MS 38655.



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Thomas Hayes Mayo.

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- Taught the Mississippi DUI Law and 5 different Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure courses each and every semester at the University of Mississippi for 29 consecutive years.
- A member of the Chancellor's Trust at The University of Mississippi since 1981.
- Former Municipal Prosecutor for the City of Oxford, Mississippi for over 6 years.
- Former Municipal Court Judge for the City of Oxford, Mississippi for 8 years.
- Former Vice President and President of the Lafayette County Bar Association; member of the Mississippi Bar Association, etc.
- Appointed by the Mississippi State Bar to the Mississippi Commission on Attorney Ethics and Attorney Violations of the Canon of Ethics and All Mandatory Rules concerning the Practice of Law. Occupied the positions of Vice Chairman and Chairman served for 18 years.
- A Founding Member of the National College for DUI Defense conducted at Harvard Law School.
- Selected as one of the Top 50 DUI Attorneys in Mississippi by the National Advocacy for DUI Defense.
- Selected as one of the Top 10 Best Attorneys of Mississippi for Client Satisfaction Award by the American Institute of DUI/DWI Attorneys.
- Selected as one of the Top 100 Trial Lawyers by the National Trial Lawyers Organization.
- Recipient of the DISTINGUISHED AWARD OF MERIT for 1989 from the Mississippi State Bar given to one Attorney in the State each year for outstanding contributions to the practice of law.
- Voted "Best Attorney in Oxford, Mississippi" in the Grove's Choice Awards.
- Member of the American Association of Premier DUI Attorneys.
- Member of the National League of Renowned Attorneys- Top 1%
- Awarded the United States Congressional Medal of Distinction by RNCC.
- Member of the American Jurist Institute - Top 10 DUI/DWI Attorney for Mississippi
- Member of the American Society of Legal Advocates - Top 100 Criminal Defense Lawyers in the State of Mississippi.
- Selected by the Attorney and Practice Magazine as one of Mississippi's Top 10 Attorneys, et cetera.

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Women's Golf defeated in SEC Championship quarterfinals

JANE ROB PANNELL
thedmsports@gmail.com

The SEC Championship began in Birmingham, Alabama, on Wednesday, where the Rebels sat in fifth place after day one with a score of 292 (+4).

“Today was a solid start for our team,” head coach Kory Henkes said. “We did a lot of things really well in the windy conditions. The team also did a great job of managing our mistakes and they battled hard all day long.”

The team maintained their position on the leaderboard after the second round of play, with a two-day team score of 590 (+14).

After an impressive third round, logging a 286 (-2), Ole Miss was able to secure a spot in the SEC Championship quarterfinals as the No. 4 seed. This marks the fourth consecutive SEC Championship that the Rebels have qualified for match play.

Ole Miss ultimately fell 3-2 to No. 5 Florida in the quarterfinals, battling through wet conditions. The teams were forced to finish out the back half of their matches on Saturday, after Friday’s play was paused due to darkness.

Junior Andrea Lignell was able to get a point for the Rebels after defeating Florida’s Marina Escobar Domingo 1-up in 20 holes. Lignell trailed her opponent by one heading into the final hole of the match, but defeated Escobar Domingo on No. 9 to send the pair into

playoff holes. After two extra holes to determine a winner, Lignell secured the win on No. 11.

Senior Julia Johnson came up with a 2&1 victory against Maisie Filler to get the Rebels another point on the board. Johnson gained a lead on hole No. 13 and kept it the rest of the match.

Despite this, the Rebels were unable to come up with another match play win needed to secure the team victory against the Gators. Chiara Tamburlini (4&3), Natasha Host Husted (2&1) and Maddie May (6&5) fought persistently throughout their matches, but ultimately came up short.

The Rebels will now wait on the NCAA Regional Selection Show to determine the team’s postseason fate. This year’s



PHOTO COURTESY: PETRE THOMAS/OLE MISS ATHLETICS

Natacha Host Husted competes in the SEC Championships at Greystone Golf and Country Club in Birmingham, Alabama, on April 16.

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| regionals, set for May 9-11, will be hosted by Vanderbilt, Michigan, Stanford, New Mexico, Florida State and Oklahoma State. | | SEC CHAMPIONSHIP Q U A R T E R F I N A L S VS. FLORIDA | |
| Individual | | Scores: | |
| T9. | Chiara Tamburlini: | 1. Andrea Lignell (Ole Miss) def. Marina Escobar Domingo (Florida) – 1-up (20 holes) | |
| 70-79-68-217 | (+1) | 2. Annabell Fuller (Florida) def. Chiara Tamburlini (Ole Miss) – 4&3 | |
| T9. | Julia Johnson: | 3. Clara Manzalini (Florida) def. Natacha Host Husted (Ole Miss) – 2&1 | |
| 74-73-70-217 | (+1) | 4. Julia Johnson (Ole Miss) def. Maisie Filler (Florida) – 2&1 | |
| T26. | Natacha Host Husted: | 5. Jackie Lucena (Florida) def. Maddie May (Ole Miss) – 6&5 | |
| 78-73-71-222 | (+6) | | |
| T34. | Andrea Lignell: | | |
| 74-73-77-224 | (+8) | | |
| T57. | McKinley Cunningham: | | |
| 74-80-79-233 | (+17) | | |



Ole Miss dominated by SEMO 13-3

DILLON CADER
thedmsports@gmail.com

The Ole Miss baseball team was blown out by the Southeast Missouri Redhawks 13-3 in Tuesday’s game and were nearly

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run-ruled in the process.

The Rebels were uncompetitive against a mid-major school that should have been beaten. The Redhawks scored 13 runs on 12 hits while the Rebels were only able to score three on a 10-hit day. SEMO’s Austin Williams earned the win while Drew McDaniel was docked with the loss.

Here are takeaways from the game:

Sheesh

That’s one of the worst midweek losses in head coach Mike Bianco’s tenure at Ole Miss. The Rebels played very poorly in all three facets of the game and did not look like a team that wanted to be there. There was no energy or life in the dugout as the team put up zero fight.

Coming off a disappointing series loss at South Carolina, the Rebels needed to get back on the field and get that sour taste out of their mouths. Instead, they’ll head into a massive weekend with three straight losses and probably very little confidence.



PHOTO COURTESY: PETRE THOMAS / OLE MISS ATHLETICS

Tywone Malone celebrates after hitting a home run during a game against VCU on February 27.

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ACROSS
1- Actor Cronyn;
5- Bhutan's continent;
9- Roseanne, once;
13- Domain;
14- Elephant parts;
16- Singer Adams;
17- Petri dish gelatin;
18- Sheep cry;
19- Shootout;
20- Neuter;
21- Supplement, with "out";
22- Seldom;
24- Cheerful;
26- Structure for storing grain;
27- Enumerate;
29- Wrapper;
33- Picture border;
34- Dagger of yore;
35- Den;
36- Ignited;
37- Chevets;
38- ___ chi ch'uan;
39- "So be it";
41- Massive wild ox;
42- Peace goddess;
44- Liquid hydrocarbon;
46- Shorthand taker;
47- Guitarist Lofgren;
48- Round object, often used to store computer data;
49- Sad;
52- Thanksgiving tuber;
53- Mozart's "___ kleine Nachtmusik";
57- Sunset direction;
58- Puppeteer Lewis;
60- "Johnny Mnemonic" actor;
61- Capital of Norway;
62- Roman general;
63- Blood vessel;
64- Dance move;
65- Brio;
66- Actress Best;

DOWN
1- Dutch name of The Hague;
2- Goad;
3- Kind of ticket;
4- Membrane in the ear canal;
5- Optimally;
6- Sullen;
7- Words of understanding;
8- Police blotter abbr.;
9- Campers mattress;
10- Liquid hydrocarbon;
11- Monetary unit of Cambodia;
12- Depend;
15- Tries hard;
23- Malt beverage;
25- United;
26- Twisted expression?;
27- Serious wrongdoing;
28- Western;
29- Result;
30- Like Cheerios;
31- Device with 88 keys;
32- Fort ___, captured by U.S. forces in 1814;
33- Strong criticism;
34- Bridges;
37- Eternal;
40- Without interruption;
42- T.G.I.F. part;
43- Accept delivery of;
45- Canine command;
46- Apelike;
48- "Our Gang" girl;
49- Terrible time?;
50- Repose;
51- Capri, for one;
52- Southern address;
54- Secured, as victory;
55- Dresden denial;
56- Gas burner or Sicilian volcano;
59- Color;

Crossword puzzle provided by BestCrosswords.com (www.bestcrosswords.com). Used with permission.

Tywone Malone
To talk about something not depressing about Ole Miss baseball, freshman first-baseman and football defensive lineman Tywone Malone hit his second home run of the year in just his fourth at-bat.

He crushed a no-doubter to center field and had he not done that, the Rebels would have been run-ruled in the eighth inning. It was a nice treat for all the die-hard fans still watching whatever this Ole Miss baseball team is right now. If Malone gets more at-bats and those are successful, there’s a possibility that his role will get bigger as the year winds down.

Huge series ahead
If the Rebels don’t take two of three from the Mississippi State Bulldogs this weekend, you can go ahead and forget about this season. There’s still time for Ole Miss to make a run and play itself into the NCAA tournament, but it’s going to take nearly a miracle to make that happen, and it has to start with beating Mississippi State this weekend.

It’s hard to ask for such, but honestly what the team really needs is a sweep. If it can do that then it just needs to go .500 the rest of the way in conference play to make the tournament.

Again, hard to ask for, but that’s what needs to happen.

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HOW TO PLAY

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats.

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

Things to watch for in this year's Grove Bowl

AIDAN GALLARDO
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The Grove Bowl is back in action Saturday as Ole Miss hosts its annual spring scrimmage game where fans can catch a preview of the new-look football team. The players are assigned by the coaches to either the “Red team” or “Blue team.” They then play a full-contact 60 minute game. This year’s Grove Bowl will feature a lot of exciting and talented new faces both on the offensive and defensive ends. The Rebels acquired a total of 13 portal transfers that gave them the No. 1 transfer class according to 247Sports. A player to keep your eyes on is sophomore transfer running back Zach Evans. Theformerfive-starprospect played his freshman year at Texas Christian University before making his decision to transfer to Ole Miss. Evans will help fill a hole in the Rebels running attack as they lost their main trio of running backs due to the NFL Draft and transfer portal: Jerriion Ealy, Snoop Conner and Henry Parrish Jr. “It’s a big difference coming from the Big 12 to the SEC,” Evans told the media. “But I’m loving it.” Another thing to keep your eye on is the quarterback battle between sophomores Luke Altmyer and Jaxson Dart. Altmyer was the backup quarterback to Matt Corral last year, so he knows the offensive system well. Dart is a transfer from the University of Southern California and the No. 2 ranked pocket passer coming out of high school. Although he has a

ton of arm talent, his decision making has held him back. Although Dart seems like the clear-cut player to win the starting quarterback job, the competition between the two is closer than people think. “I think both guys have done good things, made big plays. We’ve got some good competition and doing some new things on offense with the guys,” head coach Lane Kiffin said. “Both guys really don’t have a ton of playing time. Jaxson’s had more but it wasn’t with us, so not a lot of carry over there.” On the defensive side of the ball, the Rebels lost some key starters from a year ago. Chance Campbell, Jake Springer, Jaylon Jones, Mark Robinson, Sam Williams Sr. and Tariqious Tisdale all declared for the NFL Draft. The defensive position battles will be interesting to watch. At linebacker, TCU transfer Khari Coleman, Central Michigan transfer Troy Brown and Northeast Mississippi transfer Reginald Hughes have been taking reps at the position. Ashanti Cistrunk is the sole linebacker remaining that was on last season’s roster. He will be part of the mix as well. At defensive back, the Rebels managed to acquire a few talented commits. Four and three-star cornerbacks Davison Igbinosun and Jarell Stinson will help fill the gaps at cornerback. Auburn transfer Ladarius Tennison and Iowa State transfer Isheem Young will keep the safety position secure. Not only did Ole Miss gain a lot of new players, they also made some drastic



PHOTO COURETSY: JOSH MCCOY / OLE MISS ATHLETICS

The 2021 Ole Miss Football Grove Bowl on April 24 at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium.

moves with the coaching staff. After offensive coordinator Jeff Lebby’s departure for Oklahoma and co-defensive coordinator D.J. Durkin left for Texas A&M, the Rebels knew that they needed to find worthy coaches to replace enormous losses. Charlie Weis Jr. is the new offensive coordinator for the upcoming season.

Weis was one of Kiffin’s assistants back at Florida Atlantic University, so the two have a strong connection. Maurice Crum will take over as the new co-defensive coordinator for the Rebels. He will also serve as the linebackers coach. Crum served as the defensive coordinator for Western Kentucky for the past two seasons, where his

defense held opponents to 21 points or less in seven of their last eight games in 2021. It’s been a busy spring for Kiffin and the Rebels, but the excitement is in the air as we get closer to the football season. The Grove Bowl will be played on Saturday, April 19 at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium. Kickoff is set at 12 p.m. on SEC Network+.



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WOMEN OF OLE MISS

From hay bales to high heels: UM student shares her journey in the modeling industry

KHARLEY REDMON
thedmfeatures@gmail.com

“Women of Ole Miss” is a four-part interview series documenting the voices of women attending the University of Mississippi. Each part focuses on a different student, exploring their unique life experiences and accomplishments and what it means to them to be a woman.

Every little girl dreams of one day having a pony. For Ellis Ross, a senior integrated marketing communications major here at the University of Mississippi, her mom made that a reality. “My mom got me into it because she always wanted to ride growing up,” Ross said. “She bought herself a horse and me a pony, and ever since then, I’ve ridden horses.” While much of Ross’ life has been spent competing in horseback riding competitions, racking up awards and tossing hay bales at the barn, she has also made time for new endeavors. Now, Ross splits her time between the stables in her hometown of St. Simons Island, the Phi Mu house in Oxford and the runway in New York City. One of the largest endeavors that Ross has taken on is that of modeling, but until she was scouted, Ross said it wasn’t something on her radar. “I did some test shoots, sent them to agencies and then got signed to an agency,” she said. “Over the past six months, I’ve gotten to book some cool

jobs and work with four or five super cool designers.” Among the jobs that Ross has booked is the infamous New York Fashion Week, a series of runway shows that allow established and upcoming designers to showcase collections for the forthcoming season. Ross has walked New York Fashion Week twice, with her first time in September of 2021 and her second time in February 2022. Ross said that being in the modeling industry and walking in high profile shows has both its challenges and pleasant surprises. She also said that while the challenges mainly lie in the pressure of upholding the traditional standards for modeling, the industry also values being unique. “There’s always the pressure of your skin breaking out or that girl looking thinner than you and if they’re going to book the job, and that’s stressful,” Ross said. “But overall, I feel more normal being there than I do here a lot of the time. A lot of the girls are different looking in a way, like maybe they have a unique feature about themselves, or maybe they have short hair like me, so it almost makes me feel like I fit in more.” In addition to this, designers are trying to tackle these beauty standards by employing diverse body types according to Ross. “There’s a lot of girls that I’ve met that are maybe not the typical beauty standard for modeling,” she said. “It’s really interesting and fun to see designers



KHARLEY REDMON/ THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Ellis Ross.

branching out and making clothes for the runway for girls of all different sizes.” One of the pleasant surprises is the sense of sisterhood that modeling provides. This sisterhood is something Ross discovered at her first runway show at the Southampton Arts Center. “At first, I was so nervous because these girls, I didn’t know if they were going to be nice or if they’re going to be standoffish,” Rosssaid.“It was the best experience. Everyone was so nice, and they were helping coach me through it.” But modeling is not the only place where Ross feels a sense of sisterhood. Not only does Ross have two little sisters at home, but she has hundreds of sisters here at the university as a member of Phi Mu.

Phi Mu was founded in 1852 at Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia, and is the second oldest female fraternity organization in the United States. Phi Mu currently has over 200,000 total members. Being a part of Phi Mu has played a critical role in Ross’ experience at the university. “I’m from a place that’s 10 hours away,” she said. “So coming here and meeting a group of girls that made me feel like home when I’m so far away from my real home is amazing.” In addition to making Oxford feel like home, her sisters at Phi Mu have also acted as a crowd of support for Ross’s modeling endeavors. “Sometimes I get embarrassed talking about it because I don’t want to sound

like I’m being pretentious or anything,” Ross said. “But no, they’re always really proud of me, and they cheer me along.” After graduating, Ross plans to move to New York to continue her career in modeling and further explore the world of fashion. She also hopes to use her integrated marketing communications degree to work for a fashion magazine or newspaper. Ross’ experiences have led her to hope that she leaves behind a message of self-love and acceptance as she moves on from the university. “You have to always love yourself first because if you can’t love yourself, then you can’t reciprocate love to anybody else,” Ross said. “You’re beautiful for more than what you look like. That’s what really matters.”

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