

Got plans this Friday, Jan. 20?

The Kaleidoscope visited two local bars, Black Market Bar and Grill and The Collins Bar, to shake up some recipes to get you through Friday whether you're celebrating or mourning. Read more on Page 9.



Library no longer to blame for low grades

The second floor of Mervyn H. Sterne Library is set to re-open, complete with INTO amenities, to students at the beginning of February, eliminating any possible excuses for bad grades this semester. Read more on Page 2.



# The Kaleidoscope



PARKING

## Changing services seek to alleviate need

Transportation Services is resolving tension by opening new lots, expanding BlazerExpress

Sufia Alam  
Online Reporter

With the arrival of a new year and semester, many new plans have seemingly been implemented to improve current parking conditions for both students and faculty as promised by UAB Parking and Transportation Services through two new parking lots and a Blazer Express. As promised by André Davis, director of Parking and Transportation Services, more parking sites have emerged for the use of students and UAB faculty members

for Spring 2017. Specifically, Lot 15B and Express Lot #1, previously known as Remote 1 Lot, have now opened creating 3,000 more parking places available to students. This alteration compensates for the demolition of what was once Lot 15A, the new space for the Collat School of Business and Bill L. Harbert Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship building. The addition of new lots has been coupled with two additional Blazer Express routes, the Silver and

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Cars fill up Lot 15G to capacity. With construction underway for the new Collat School of Business and Bill L. Harbert Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship building, parking near campus is even more of a tension-filled issue.

Photo by Ian Keel/Photo Editor

### Winter Break 2017



Olivia Hendrick, and friends, bundle up in front of a cityscape during Birmingham's snow day over Winter Break 2017.

Submitted via Facebook by Olivia Hendrick



Submitted via Instagram by Sameera Rajpari  
Sameera Rajpari "touches" the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, the world's tallest building, from a distance.



Submitted via email by Juhi Shah  
Juhi Shah and family visit the Antelope Canyon in Arizona.



Submitted via Twitter by Logan Harbin  
Logan Harbin and friend stand in front of the Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy.

SPORTS

## Football building in works

Operations center to include offices, training rooms

Tamara Imam  
Branding and Outreach Manager

UAB will take the field as a Division I Football Bowl Sub-division program this year for the first time since 2014, and the new Football Operations Building is set to be completed just in time for the upcoming season. When construction of the building, which will include a covered-turf practice field known as Legacy Pavilion, began on Sep. 15, 2016, M.J. Harris Construction set July 1 of this year as the projected completion date. According to Ted Feeley, associate athletics director for communications, the project is right on schedule to meet that goal. After demolition of the existing practice field was completed, M.J. Harris received approval to proceed with construction at the site on Sept. 12. By Sept. 19, the first bulldozer hit dirt. As of early January, the building itself has made visible progress, with "daily activity" at its future home on the corner of 6th Avenue and 11 Street South. "The foundation for the

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INSIDE



MERVYN H. STERNE LIBRARY

# Back INTO business, wait nearly over

## Update: Early February should reveal the second-floor renovations

Anthony Roney  
Campus Reporter

The second floor of the Mervyn H. Sterne Library is still under construction and will continue into next month.

Even though renovation is wrapping up, the library won't be fully-functioning until early February, according to Daniel Guarnieri, a library assistant at Sterne, despite its January deadline.

The facility will hold the new INTO UAB Center. INTO University Partnerships is a British-based private global educational company specializing in joint ventures with colleges and universities. Within this joint-venture model, the university maintains education standards while INTO provides an international recruitment infrastructure.

The program seeks to develop pathways to help international students improve their English skills while completing coursework that will count toward the completion of their degrees.

UAB has become the eighth university in the United States to partner with the organization.

Guarnieri believes that

the construction of INTO will localize the program, which will make it easier for foreign students who aren't familiar with the area or the English language.

Along with the construction of the INTO UAB Center, Sterne is updating its sprinkler system to accommodate fire codes, Guarnieri said. Students may notice other sections of Sterne shut down periodically throughout the month for this improvement. Guarnieri added that the north wing of the third floor most likely won't open until construction completes.

However, Guarnieri explained, students still have access to books by filling out a request form at the Circulation Desk. Once construction workers leave for the day, librarians will locate requested books and hold them until the student returns.

"It's just become inconvenient, not inaccessible," Guarnieri said.

Guarnieri was there when the first floor of Sterne was renovated eight years ago.

"To me, this seems less of an inconvenience. Unfortunately, it's students who are currently inconvenienced that don't know it was worse

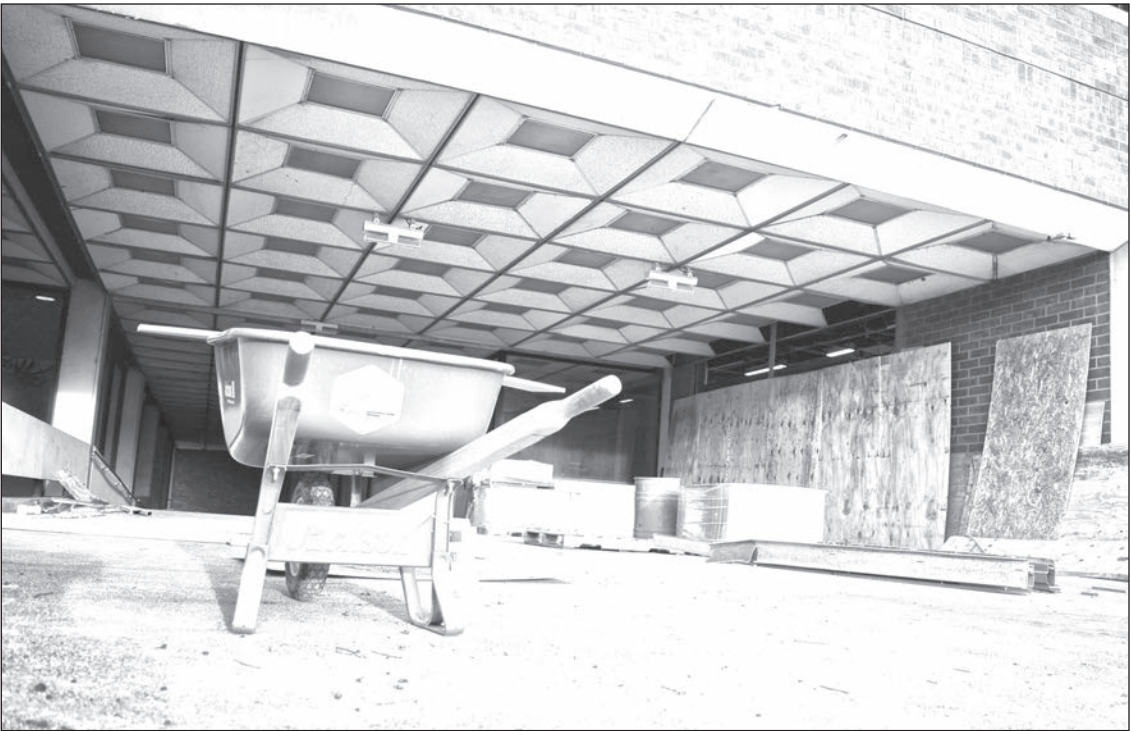


Photo by Ian Keel/Photo Editor

Construction materials sit outside of Sterne Library as construction on the second floor INTO space and overpass bridge continues.

eight years ago," Guarnieri said "It's our job to minimize the negative impacts on students and their studies."

However, even though the outcome of the renovation will be an asset, the negative effects are taxing on students. Construction began Fall 2016, which caused students to experience the hindrance of space limitations throughout the semester.

"With the excess noise on the third floor, quiet time is non-existent," Shannon Rice, a freshman in Biomedical Sciences, said. "During finals week, there were so

many people up there, it was difficult to study because it was so overcrowded."

The second floor has straddled between being shut down completely and partially throughout last semester, and construction crews have been working during the day causing building noises to float up to the quiet spaces in the library.

"Right now, we're low on space, but when they finish up there - although they're building it for the INTO Program - there will be open space for all students to use," Heather Martin, Associate

Professor and Reference Librarian for Arts and Humanities, said.

Martin also included that extra study rooms will be available for students to use in the evenings.

Martin says students should not be discouraged. The library is still an effective resource for information and studying. By the next time finals roll around, students will indeed be able to study for their exams in peace.

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## POLITICS

# Students, faculty respond to inauguration

Anthony Roney  
Campus Reporter

The election for the President of the United States of America is finally over.

After months of campaigning and debating, America has chosen a successor to Barack Obama: Donald Trump.

Trump, 70, is set to be sworn in on Jan. 20 as the 45th president. However, a lot of Americans have expressed concerns about this decision, while others have taken a more optimistic view.

"I'm not a fan," said Brandon Templin, an undeclared sophomore. "He has no political experience at all. He's a businessman and a good businessman, but he has no experience running the country or running any political office."

When asked if he would watch the inauguration of Trump, Templin said he would not because there's no new information produced from the ceremony.

"I feel like he is impulsive, and he's going to end up having a country blow us up," said Briana Griffin, a senior biology major. "I also don't like that he is appointing these people with racist backgrounds into office. That's scary."

For the inauguration, Griffin felt nobody should perform for Donald Trump.

"Trump has a lot of money and he was already man-made before he got elected," said Juliana Green, a junior kinesiology major. "I feel like him getting into the White House might have just boosted his ego a little more."

Green believes that the most critical negative aspect of Trump's administration is the people's opinion of him because they can affect many of his decisions.

Clarke Tulloch, a senior industrial distribution major, said that he lost faith in the American people after the outcome of the election.

"He's very unprofessional, and it doesn't seem like he is for the people," Tulloch said of the president-elect. "In my opinion, he's more of a terrorist to America than anybody else."

Tulloch pointed out that voters need to educate themselves more thoroughly and research their candidates.

However, she felt that students shouldn't devote their whole time to watching or studying politics because it stresses them to an unnecessary point.

Trump supporters also voiced their opinions on the matter at hand.

Jordan Wilson, a junior communications major, believes Trump is what America needs right now.

"Unlike the rest of the politicians, he really cares about what the American people want," said Wilson.

Wilson also said that she felt Trump would be more advantageous with domestic affairs than international affairs.

"Mr. Trump's inauguration will indeed be an exciting day," said Elizabeth Earwood, Chairman of the UAB College Republicans. "Honestly, it is exciting just to see the process take place. Sometimes the inaugural address is the most quoted content of a president. Mr. Trump has an excellent opportunity to set a high standard for his administration in his inaugural address, if only he will take advantage of it."

Earwood expressed that Trump's inauguration gives him an opportunity to demonstrate specific and attainable goals for the nation.

Opinions on both sides of this issue are very strong, but regardless of any individual's thoughts, we will all wake up Friday with a new president, a new administration and new potential for change.

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Kristina Balciunaite  
Campus Editor

With the upcoming inauguration Friday, Jan. 20, campaign promises such as healthcare reform, building a wall, extreme vetting, infrastructure reform and job growth will take one step closer to fruition. With Trump's official step into the White House, some UAB professors have opened up about the possibilities of the next four years.

Larry Powell, a professor in the UAB Department of Communication Studies, said he is concerned about America's future with Trump as president. Although he said it is too early to see if Trump will make any changes in the American education system, he does not think that his initial appointments look good. Powell expressed that his main concern, however, is that he believes Donald Trump will be the least experienced president.

"His lack of experience doesn't mean just that he doesn't know much about presidency, he doesn't know much about politics at all," Powell said, adding that although President Obama was not the greatest president, he still was an intelligent and eligible man who eventually learned the job. "Trump is even less experienced than [Obama] was. That bothers me and scares me."

Trump is the fourth person to become president with no government experience, but the first in history to be elected without any military experience, according to USA Today.

Renato Corbetta, an associate professor in UAB's Department of Government, said that some of Trump's statements might affect the image of the United States from an international perspective. Corbetta said that some of the policies Trump has advocated "are not popular with the majority of the international community and may influence the U.S. reputation as a staunch promoter of democracy, personal freedoms and free trade and as a loyal ally."

Trump's course of action and the way his conduct could affect the American populace, specifically women's rights, LGBTQI and the rights of

minorities and the poor, are among the concerns that Pamela King, an assistant professor in the UAB's Department of History and who specializes in civil and women's right, said.

Trump is a consistent opponent to marriage equality, according to The Human Rights Campaign. Although his tax-cutting plan is supposed to reduce taxes at every income level, high-income taxpayers would receive the biggest cuts, according to the Tax Policy Center.

"I'm concerned about his assault on the press" she said. "There's no democracy if the press is intimidated, frozen out or silenced. I'm concerned that he is anti-intellectual, and that he and his folks have equated 'elitism', a negative term, with 'smart', 'educated' and 'tolerant', which are, I believe, positive terms."

However, King does have hope for some aspects of Trump's policies such as his plans to improve infrastructure by renovating bridges, roads and airports. Despite describing herself as uncomfortable with his rhetoric, King said she is also hopeful that he might be able to help urban areas in an attempt to address issues such as jobs.

According to Trump's campaign website he will "pursue an 'America's Infrastructure First' policy that supports investments in transportation, clean water, a modern and reliable electricity grid, telecommunications, security infrastructure and other pressing domestic infrastructure needs."

To prepare for the new president, Powell will study Trump in detail.

"But I will not protest, that's not my job," Powell said. "My job is to observe and analyze, and I will do that."

King said she will "discuss him the way I do all presidents" by putting current controversial topics in an historical context.

"I think he will be a change-agent," she said. "I just hope his actions don't match his style and rhetoric."

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Griffin



Green



Tulloch



Earwood



Powell



King



Corbetta



TWIN DEMONSTRATIONS

One road, one war, different battles

Opposing protests occurring at the same time, place support both sides of abortion debate

Wallace Golding  
Community Reporter

The roads lining Brother Bryan Park served as a symbol of the nation's divide as protesters lined both sides of tenth avenue south to stand either for or against abortion.

On one side, the members of the annual Birmingham March for Life held signs reading phrases like "women need love, not abortion." On the other, the supporters of the counter-protest Birmingham March for Reproductive Rights paraded with signs reading "I stand with Planned Parenthood."

Less than one week before the inauguration of President-elect Trump, the new administration was on the minds of many pro-choice observers.

"An acorn is not an oak tree," Karen Arnold, a Birmingham resident, said. "It's only a matter of time until [women's] rights are stripped from us. We are losing our democracy."

Birmingham native Teri Bossard tried to remain optimistic of how the incoming President will handle these issues.

"There is still much to be known, but [Vice Presedent-elect] Pence has said he does not support women's autonomy," Bossard said. "People need to understand that not everyone in Alabama wants to outlaw

abortion."

For many pro-choice women, the perceived right to control their own body is what is at the core of their argument in favor of abortion. Julia Juarez stood quietly for most of the protest, holding her sign that read "Pro-women. Pro-family. Pro-choice."

"It is my body, and I have a voice," Juarez said.

With the Senate recently taking the first steps to repeal the Affordable Care Act, more commonly known as Obamacare, many pro-choice women at the rally felt as if their rights will eventually be discarded. The availability of abortions is what is important to Arnold and is what ultimately led her to come to the demonstration.

"You do not stop abortions when you outlaw them," Arnold said. "They will occur regardless. You only hurt women by banning them. You only kill women."

When asked about the potential repeal of the Affordable Care Act, Juarez replied with a passionate tone of voice.

"I think it's potentially devastating," Juarez said. "It is a huge step backwards in all respects, but especially for women's health and women's rights."

On the south side of tenth avenue south, however, the story was vastly



Photo by Wallace Golding  
Demonstrators walk next to eachother, Saturday at Brother Bryan Park, with posters of differing opinions on abortion.

different. For these women and men, an unborn life is just as important as their own.

"I'm here for those who have no voice," Jessica Johnson said. "Abortion hurts an entire family, not just the mother or the child."

Pro-life supporters like Tina Robinson think the incoming presidential administration will be good at supporting their values.

"[Trump] is pro-life," Robinson said. "He wants to walk in the same values that I walk in."

Furthermore, Robinson says that she attended the rally for not only the

unborn, but also for post-abortion women.

"There are so many negative consequences," Robinson said.

Ken Gables believes that the issue does not lie in the hands of a single presidential administration. Rather, it will take the entire government to make it right.

"The government should not be in the business of subsidizing abortions," Gables said.

Regardless of their viewpoints on abortion, pro-life supporters Bossard and Gables, were able to reach common ground on one thing. For both, the Affordable Care Act could use at least some reform.

"We understand there are flaws with the ACA," Bossard said. "But we need to strengthen the existing legislation rather than leave women without a choice."

"This is one of the most pivotal elements of our social structure," Gables said. "We need to champion this. The ACA is not the right way."

According to the United for Life Foundation, 5,899 abortions were performed in Alabama last year, with nearly half of them being performed at the Tuscaloosa-based West Alabama Women's Center. In Alabama, nearly 60 percent of all abortions occur in 18 to 29 year-old women.

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Protesters fill Brother Bryan Park as a way to showcase their viewpoints on the ethics and laws surrounding women's rights and abortion.

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

7 of 36 schools pass state standards

Ordinance to fund \$1M reading comprehension initiative passed at meeting

Surabhi Rao  
Community Editor

Lashunda Scales, councilor of District 1, spoke at Tuesday's weekly council meeting on the allocation of \$1 million to the Birmingham Public Library for the New Start Reading Program Proposal.

There are currently 43 schools in the Birmingham City School District, seven of which the council considers "passing." Birmingham has the largest school system in Alabama, and the council is working to increase test scores with a new initiative to promote reading.

Scales called out the council on multiple issues she saw that disconnected administration from students, which she believes, in turn, hindered progress over the past

few months to better Birmingham's school system.

"We keep talking and we keep talking, and they keep failing and they keep failing," Scales said. Scales expressed concern over the lack of efficiency, despite the five months of discussion over planning this reading initiative.

Scales listed the investigation of Birmingham's fraudulent test scores as an indication of the need of a reading comprehension initiative.

Councilor Valerie Abbot, of District 3, discussed the need of an additional meeting to be clear of the relationship between the Birmingham Public Library, the educational board and the \$1 million fund.

The current Council President, Councilor



Photo by Surabhi Rao  
Glen Iris Elementary, located less than a mile from campus, is part of the school system failing to meet standards set by the state of Alabama.

Johnathan Austin of District 5, responded with the idea that if the Resolution were passed, it would set the stage for the mayor to start getting different things in order to pass an Ordinance, which would truly begin the process of establishing the program.

Dr. Darryl Lee, the Executive Chief of Staff to the Chair-Education

Committee, answered a few questions after the council meeting to clarify the details of the Resolution.

"A school that is not 'passing' indicates that they have not met the expectations of the standard test scores set by the state. This resolution was passed because they wanted to move forward to let the payor put all items

necessary to move the program forward," Lee said.

According to Dr. Lee, all high schools except for Ramsay High School, on 13th Avenue, are failing.

Also, the council appointed four new members to join the Birmingham Water Works Board for the 2017-2020 term, and the mayor will be

appointing two more. In addition, the educational committee will be meeting to appoint new board members to the Library Board. Birmingham residents are welcome to join on January 24th at 2pm, on the third floor of City Hall.

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NEW YEAR, NEW INITIATIVES



Caleb Carter aspires to go into southern politics with platforms ranging from universal healthcare to the green initiative.

# Young democrats, grassroots politics

UAB student works campaigns on his terms, and on campus in his climb to political office

Surabhi Rao  
Community Editor

Birmingham is positioned as a drop of blue in a sea of red Alabama, and this provides younger progressives with specific opportunities to pursue platforms as agents of change. Among these involved include junior Caleb Carter and graduate student Garrett Stephens.

In 2014, Carter’s grandmother, who was younger than 65 and disabled with a pre-existing condition, did not qualify for the health care that she needed when she became ill and subsequently passed away.

Carter reflected on the way this event has shaped his political aspirations, with his main platforms focusing on universal healthcare, the green initiative, the support of strong public education and clean energy production.

Carter moved to Alabama in 2015 as a transfer student and does not yet qualify to run for the House of Representatives, his ultimate political goal, until 2018. He is currently weighing a run for the Alabama Democratic Party for the non-paid position that seeks one male and one female from distinct districts. These positions are responsible for conveying the message of the party to the community.

“The Alabama Democratic Party needs new voices to reconnect with communities that feel left behind now more than ever,” Carter said. “I think Trump is an unqualified dema-

agogue. He is erratic and highly unfit to serve as commander-in-chief, and this is all apart from my ideological disagreements from him.”

As such, Carter has become extremely involved in local democratic groups and initiatives during his collegiate career. Carter is double majoring in political science and history. He hopes to graduate with a master’s in public administration at UAB, while at the same time working for local democratic parties and progressive organizations.

Carter is the LGBT Caucus co-chair and the Birmingham Regional Director for the Alabama College Democrats. He is also president of the UAB College Democrats and worked for Hillary Clinton’s campaign as a field organizer.

“When you are a field organizer you hear a lot of stories when you knock on doors. I was hired in mid-August, went to Akron, Ohio and I was given a turf, a part of a county,” Carter said. “I immediately began reaching out and building a team to turn out as many voters as possible. I was also a face of the campaign.”

Apart from his hero Hillary Clinton, Carter takes his inspiration from local activists who take it upon themselves to be mediums of change in the community. Carter had a canvas captain named Iris, who is 79 years old. She has worked on every presidential campaign for the Democratic Party since 1972.

“She knocked doors for me four times a week and opened her

doors for volunteers to relax in her home,” Carter said. “One time, she said she looked at her children and realized she had the responsibility to leave them in a better world, and that is how it all started. Even now that the election is over she will be attending local women’s marches.”

Carter grew up in rural North Carolina and believes that rural areas, such as coal countries, can be revitalized to play into the green initiative and decrease the neglect of such areas on many levels.

Stephens, a former USGA president and student studying public administration, is working on Randall Woodfin’s campaign to become mayor.

“I think Randall brings a fresh perspective to Birmingham politics and that’s something we need now,” Stephens said. “He is in his mid-30s, was the president of the Birmingham City School Board and is a city attorney here now. He’s not a typical politician.”

Stephens hopes to translate the changes he is trying to make on a local level to a national level and go into public policy as a formal position in a political office.

“I think coming from UAB really energized me to get involved in a lot of ways because UAB represents the way the country is headed, with the diversity we see a lot in our everyday lives and interactions,” Stephens said.

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## People of Birmingham



“We have a fun job. Most people just want to drink and have fun. We had a huge bar fight one night. It took all nine of us 22 minutes just to fold and keep the club intact, keep the bartenders out of the way. I think the most dangerous part of the job is that the people we kick out stay in Birmingham. We see them at the mall and around... I’m an elementary school teacher during the day. We all have day jobs. I think the [Birmingham city educational] system is kind of warped. Most of the inner-city schools failing have 40 students per class. Go over the hill to Homewood and every 25 students, they hire a new teacher. Don’t you think it’d be easier to teach 25 students instead of 45?”

— Ulus Terry, elementary school teacher and bouncer at Skyy Nightclub



“I graduated with a degree in history in May of 2015. I am now an administrative representative for Virginia College, and I am homeless by choice. I am a musician. Look me up - Lovelight The Messenger. I have performed at Saturn, Secret Stages and Syndicate. I have four mix tapes and one album. I don’t like the social aspect of what it means to be a musician in Birmingham. Everybody hates you till they love you, in that, nobody cares about you until everybody cares about you. I don’t like the rat-race type deal of B’ham in that way.”

“I rap and sing about positivity in life, but my new stuff is a bit sad. I struggle with depression, and who doesn’t, nowadays, in our generation? I see life as something to be survived. Life is kind of hard even if you were born rich. I’ve been homeless as a child on these very streets. My mother went to jail and my aunt took me in, but she was terrible. She took credit cards in my name and maxed them out before I was 18. My mom works at a gas station now. You can’t amount to too much as an ex-con. No one would hire her for 11 years.”

“I personally feel like life is something to be survived, and that’s why it is so difficult for everybody, regardless of your station. Everybody needs help. People have trouble finding purpose and identity, because they look to themselves instead of others. That’s why I live out of my car. I have a job and a gym membership and I can do whatever I want with my money. I used to live on the top floor of Highlands with a view of the Vulcan and an empty apartment. Now, I live a purposeful life of minimalism because I use my money to help whoever I can. I feel really good about where I am in life because I can help anybody. You can’t possibly sustain that gratification if you aren’t using your money to help.”

— Lovelight Cross, musician and voluntarily homeless man

Surabhi Rao  
Community Editor

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## MEN'S BASKETBALL



Photos by Ian Keel/Photo Editor

Tosin Mehinti, top right, slam dunks the basketball Thursday night against Western Kentucky University. William Lee, center, and WKU players look on. BELOW: Mehinti retains a career shooting percentage of 51.5.

# Blazers topple WKU

## In revenge rematch, UAB dominates in the paint, cruising to big victory

Jack Ryan  
Sports Editor

In their first meeting since Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers ended UAB's Conference USA Championship hopes in 2016, UAB scored 44 points in the paint to defeat WKU on Thursday, Jan. 12.

Junior forward, William Lee, led all scorers in the game with 19 points followed by Tosin Mehinti who scored 17 points.

"I was very pleased with the win tonight against a very good opponent," Rob Ehsan, UAB men's basketball head coach, said. "I thought the first half, defensively, we were as good as we had been all year. It was 20 minutes of solid defense against a very solid opponent."

UAB led the Hilltoppers at halftime 30-20. WKU's twenty points were the lowest amount of points the Hilltoppers had scored in any game.

In the first half, UAB shot 57.1 percent (12-21) from the field, while holding WKU to just 29.6 percent (8-27) shooting from the field. One of UAB's shots electrified Bartow Arena as UAB ran the Nick Norton's signature backdoor alley-oop.

At the first media timeout, UAB and WKU were tied at seven, with Mehinti scoring all seven of UAB's points. By the end of the game, he tallied 17 points to go along with seven rebounds and two blocked shots.

"[We] had a couple of big individual performances and none bigger than Tosin, who I thought played one of his better games that he has played in a UAB uniform," Ehsan said. I think he has been coming along and starting has helped. He has been due [for a big game]. He was physical, and I was proud of Tosin."

The 44 points scored in the paint were the most by UAB this season. Even though UAB was outsized by WKU, they got the ball inside and scored

around the rim.

"44 points in the paint," Lee said. "That's pretty good. We were just playing inside out trying to feed our big man over there, Tosin. He was feeling it at the start of the game so we kept going to him."

In the last meeting between the two teams, junior forward, Justin Johnson, of WKU, out played UAB on the interior. Johnson recorded a double-double by scoring 14 points and grabbing 15 rebounds. Coming into Thursday night's game, he was averaging 12.9 points per game and 8.2 rebounds per game.

In Thursday's game, UAB held Johnson to just 12 points and 6 rebounds and rattled him to the point of going 1-6 from the free throw line, including an air ball free throw that drew stark reactions from the UAB crowd.

"I thought Tosin did a great job to start on him," Ehsan said. "[Lee] guarded him a little bit. He made two baskets early. I thought we had a great team effort on him. It was just our mindset. We were ready to guard especially him [Johnson]. He has been a thorn in our side, I guess you could say, the last two years. I thought we did a great job on him. He still had 12 points and six rebounds though."

The 72-54 win was the second largest margin of victory for UAB against WKU and UAB improved to 14-3 at home against WKU. UAB led for 36 of the 40 total minutes played.

Thursday night, WKU's largest lead of the game came in the first half when they went up by two points. That was the Hilltoppers' only lead.

UAB was able to extend their lead in the second half to 27 points.

UAB's next game is on Saturday against Marshall at 1 p.m. in Bartow Arena.

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## Mehinti reflects on four-year career after standout game

Jack Ryan  
Sports Editor

Tosin Mehinti plays a senior forward for the UAB Men's Basketball team. Mehinti was born in Lagos, Nigeria. He played high school basketball at Greenforest McCalep Christian Academy, a preparatory high school located in Decatur, Ga.

247Sports.com listed him as a two-star recruit coming out of high school, but he was highly recruited and ranked the twentieth forward in the state of Georgia. Out of his seven offers, he choose UAB.

"Pretty much the whole environment and the coaching staff," Mehinti said. "They make it feel like a family and take care of us on and off the court."

Mehinti is in his fourth year of playing for UAB. He was recruited by UAB Head Basketball Coach, Rob Ehsan, who, at the time of Mehinti's recruitment, was in his first year as Associate Head Coach to Jerrod Haase.

In his career at UAB, Mehinti averages 5.4 points per game. He grabs an average of 4.3 rebounds per game. Mehinti swats away 1.3 blocks per game. In the history of UAB, Mehinti ranks as No. 3 in blocked shots.

Mehinti had one of the best games of his career on Thursday against WKU. He scored the first seven points of the game and wound up tallying 17 points and seven rebounds. He also blocked two shots and stole a pass.

"[Tosin has] been coming along, and I think starting has helped him a little bit, but he was due [for a big game]," said Ehsan "I recruited Tosin, I've known him for four years, and sometimes you have to keep him positive and keep him coming."

One other high point in Mehinti's career came two years ago. UAB

was 4-9 by the time conference play started in January. However, UAB would end up making a run in conference and eventually won the Conference USA tournament. With the win, they received an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament, where Big XII foe, Iowa State, awaited them.

After going down early, the Blazers fought back, and the second half was back and forth between the teams. UAB was down two with just 52.9 seconds to play in the game. UAB ran a double screen play, involving Mehinti and junior forward, William Lee, setting a screen for Robert Brown. Brown drained the shot, and UAB would win the game.

"[My favorite memory was] my sophomore year when we went to the NCAA tournament," Mehinti said. "That whole experience when we beat Iowa State and played UCLA. I set the screen to get [Robert] Brown that shot. Coach drew that play up. The Iowa State player was actually on the wrong side of the screen and, if he would have just taken a step around it, wouldn't have worked, but he went inside instead, and I knew we had him."

Off of the court, Mehinti studies as a senior in business management. Mehinti said his favorite course while at UAB was math because he enjoys numbers.

"[In ten years] Oh man, I'll be old, 32. Maybe close to retirement. If you play ten years of basketball that is solid. After that, just trying to look for that next step for me. Right now, I am business management. I want to be an entrepreneur that is going to be something huge for me," said Mehinti.

Mehinti also enjoys listening to music, playing video games and eating macaroni and cheese.

Jack Ryan can be reached at sports@insideuab.com and on Twitter @kscope\_sports.





MEN’S BASKETBALL

# Blazers scorch Thundering Herd

## Five players score in double figures to blow past Marshall

Trinity Dix  
Sports Reporter

UAB men’s basketball faced Marshall Thundering Herd and senior guard Austin Loop, once ranked No. 16 in the nation for 3-pointers, according to the NCAA, when the two teams met for the 24th time in an early afternoon matchup on Saturday, Jan. 14.

In the first half of Saturday’s game, the Blazers started slow when it came to offensive plays, turning the ball over to Marshall eight times, but picked up the pace in the second half. When junior forward Chris Cokley and sophomore guard Deion Lavender came off the bench, the team racked up a 15-point lead.

“The crowd got into it a little bit, and we got into it,” junior guard William “HaHa” Lee said. “We started cheering for each other and we just got it going. We got a couple of fast break points and hit a couple of threes as a team.”

By the second half, the Blazers were able to throw off the Thundering Herd’s offensive rhythm, using defensive pressure to force Marshall to slow down their usual fast pace and play half-court basketball. In the paint, UAB scored a number of points using athleticism and length, despite last-quarter scores.

“We try to be really physical on the ball,” UAB

head coach Robert Ehsan said. “[Hakeem] and Denzel are more physical guys. Deion came in and really bothered them with ball pressure. I thought that helped a little bit.”

With athleticism and physicality, the team kept its hold on the Thundering Herd until the end of the second half. Overall, the Blazers shot nine 3-pointers successfully, thanks to Lee, Baxter, Lavender, senior guards Dirk Williams and Denzell Watts. Lee, Baxter, Lavender and Williams each scored points totaling in the double digits.

“We made three after three after three,” Ehsan said. “And we’ve done that in the past. Not necessarily as much this year, but it’s great to have that feeling back because, I think, it breeds confidence in us.”

UAB ended the game with a 94-78 win against Marshall, totaling eight straight wins over the Thundering Herd. The win, UAB’s fourth in a row, brought the Blazers up to a 4-1 record in C-USA and 11-7 overall this season.

The UAB Blazers will travel to Boca Raton, Fla., where they will face the Florida Atlantic University Owls on Thursday, Jan. 19. The game will tip-off at 7 p.m. central time and will be broadcast live on beIN Sports.

Trinity Dix can be reached at [tri915@uab.edu](mailto:tri915@uab.edu).



Guard Deion Lavender goes in for a lay up, Saturday afternoon against Marshall’s Ryan Taylor.

Photo by Giani Martiny/Creative Director of Student Media

## MARY BOWERS FIELD



Construction continues on the new bleacher seats at Mary Bower’s Field. Along with additional bleacher seats, renovations include new concrete and press box.

Photo by Ian Keel/Photo Editor

# Construction brings new views to game

## As the season looms, 700 seats will be added to accommodate crowds

Trinity Dix  
Sports Reporter

This year, UAB’s Softball team kicks off their season with new stands for the Mary Bowers Field, named in March 2016 after the late-Mary Bowers. 700 seats will be added to the stands to accommodate over a thousand fans. One addition to the stadium is the observation deck. These bleachers grant fans a view that goes from fence line to fence line, replacing the previous temporary and low-set bleachers.

“We have recruits coming on unofficial and official vis-

its,” Marla Townsend, UAB Softball Head Coach said. “And just seeing the stands’ field, especially those premium seats, it is going to tell them what kind of support we have and what kind of family atmosphere that we have here at UAB.”

The softball team – consisting of six freshmen, five sophomores, eight juniors and eight seniors – though they may not show it, believe that the new bleachers will help the program even further with fan-involvement. This is especially true, given that in this season, they will be playing against the Al-

abama Crimson Tide and Washington Huskies at Mary Bowers.

“We think it’s going to bring a lot of people to come watch us play, and it is just something really exciting,” Mary Warren, a senior double majoring in business and accounting, said. “It’s one of the few things that’s going on around campus, with all the new renovations with football and everything, so we’re really, really excited about it. I think it’s going to draw a really good crowd.”

The newcomers and returning players for the 2016-2017 team, including Warren and Lizzie Ryan, sophomore in mechanical engineering, will be able to see the new bleachers with their fans and

opponents.

“I think it’s going to really help the game-day atmosphere,” Ryan said. “And a lot of people put in a lot of hard work, time and money into our program. So for them to have comfortable seats to watch us play is a huge deal.”

Along with the field changing its bleachers, Townsend has seen the community change over the course of 18 years. Ever since her arrival to the campus, the softball world has boosted thanks to the support of the community, namely coming from social media. Aside from the field, the major changes come from the community, fans and students.

“Being at a community

park field for ten years, and then coming on campus,” Townsend said. “When we came on campus, we went to five straight NCAAs. So we’re hoping that this new addition. This stadium expansion is going to give us that little boost, but we need to get back in the NCAAs.”

The UAB Softball team will kick off this season in Hawaii during the second week of February, which they are excited about, given that most of these players have never been to Hawaii before.

Their first game will be Feb. 9 against Oregon State Beavers at 4 p.m.

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Spring 2017

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## EDITORIAL BOARD

# Obama's legacy, a climax of U.S. history

Connor McDonald  
Writer

As Obama passes the torch of the presidency on to his successor, it's important that we look back on the man who led us as a nation for the last eight years and his accomplishments.

Obama's primary accomplishment as president was the passing of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known pejoratively as "Obamacare." While still highly controversial, the legislation has produced results that many would characterize as positive. According to Mother Jones, 30 million individuals used the ACA to get health insurance. Of those 30 million, 11 million previously did not have any health insurance before the ACA was passed, lowering the rate of uninsured adults to 12.3%. The ACA is often criticized by Republicans for contributing to some rising healthcare costs such as increased premiums, but the ACA has also been accredited with the now slower rate of

increase in healthcare prices, so the debate over its effectiveness in lowering healthcare costs is still fiercely debated.

Arguably another one of Obama's biggest accomplishments was his class and the precedent that he set for ethics in 21st century American politics. He managed to remain completely scandal free during his eight years in office and is often praised for his ability to speak to and with others. Obama remained transparent with his life – openly sharing his convictions and passions, his experience growing up as a mixed African child to a single white mother, and the effect of the absence of his father in his life. Unlike some other Democratic Party politicians, Obama never felt the need to change anything about himself or be anything besides genuine for the American public. Obama knew exactly how to demonstrate his love for America in a constructive way and with tact, even through the toughest of times. In two terms, Obama had less scandals than Trump has had in the past

two weeks alone.

Another one of Obama's greatest hits was the successful assassination of Osama bin Laden – I don't have much else to say about that one, I just liked the pun.

While there is much to praise of Obama, there is also much to criticize. One common criticism of Obama was his lack of strong foreign policy. Obama will be long remembered for his inaction on the issue of the Syrian Civil War, and his inaction is often cited as one of the primary reasons the war turned into the sprawling geopolitical mess it has become. Obama's inaction against the Russian annexation of Crimea is also often criticized for making America look like it could be tread on easily by foreign leaders with little repercussions. Obama will also be remembered for opening trade relations between Cuba and the United states for the first time in decades. While criticized largely by many, especially Cuban Americans, open trade between the two nations is projected to positively impact both nations economically.

From my perspective, Obama was often criticized for his disconnection from the Democratic Party, when it came to his supporters also supporting the democratic cause as a whole. This is something that Obama himself has admitted frustrated him during his tenure as president as he could never figure out how to channel the energy of his supporters into the party as a whole. Obama was also repeatedly criticized for appearing arrogant throughout his term, especially by Republicans who did not feel he attempted to reach out to them at all.

Other minor footnotes to Obama's legacy includes many strong speeches in favor of stricter gun regulations, desire to reform the American prison system, a desire (but inaction) to close Guantanamo Bay, and a desire to make community colleges free.

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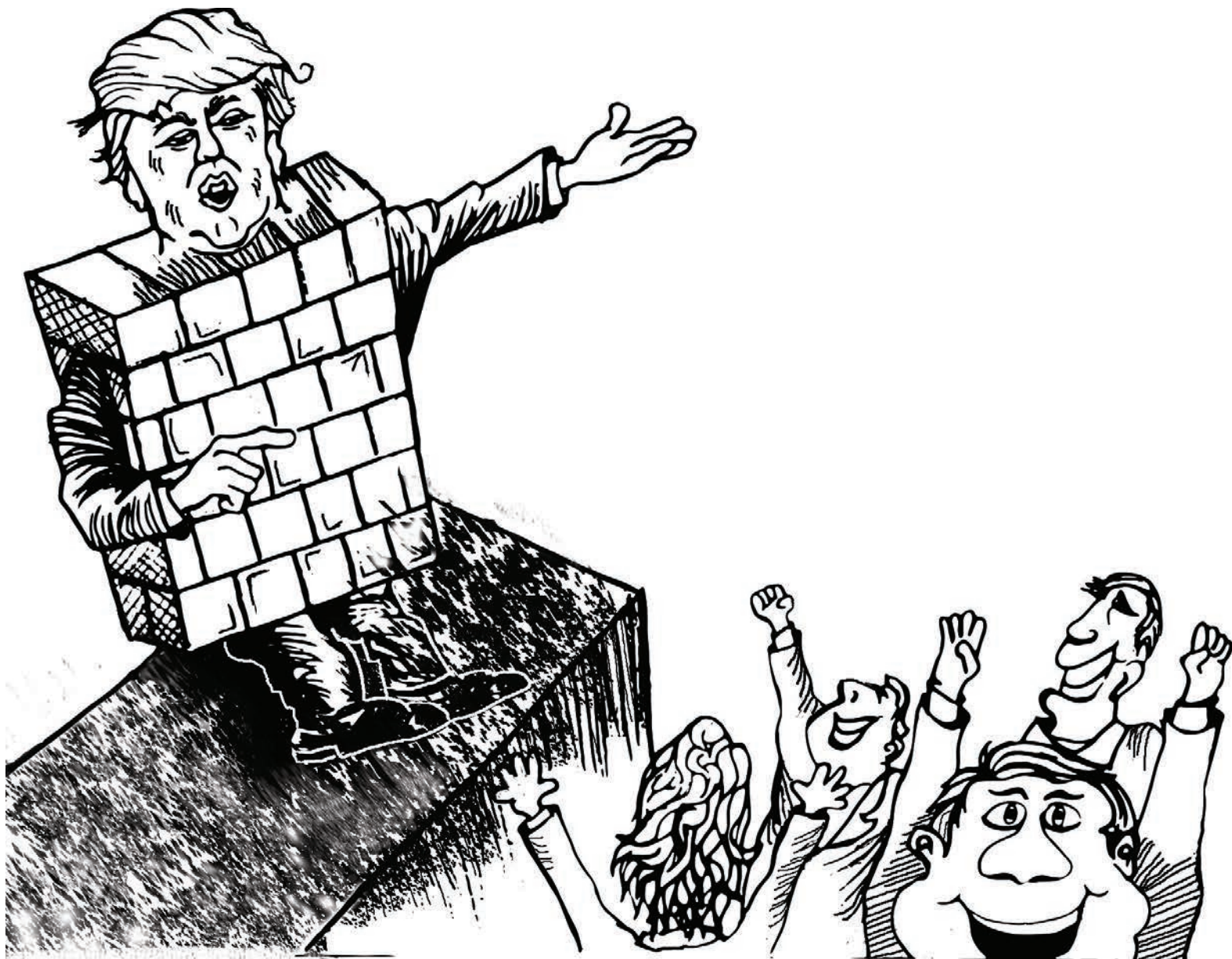


Illustration by Manuela Portilla/Head Illustrator

## INAUGURATION

# The Presidency is not a popularity contest

Chris St. John  
Head Opinions Columnist

Donald J. Trump will be inaugurated the 45th president of the United States of America and I keep hearing people say that Hillary Clinton won the popular vote. This terminology can be misleading especially if people don't understand the Electoral College system and why we use this the system.

The Electoral College was designed to keep the Presidential election fair as our Founding Fathers did not want one state to be more powerful than any other state. This is also why each state has two senators and representation is based on population.

From what I can see, Clinton's popular vote win can be attributed mostly to California. She got 65,84,610 and Trump got 62,979,636 votes. However, in California, she got 8,753,788, and if you subtract that amount from her total, she ends up with 57,090,822.

Additionally, Clinton only won 20 states while Trump won 30 states, and, for me, the most interesting set of numbers is when you look at the counties won. A glance at PolitiFact.com shows that out of the 3,112 counties in the United States, Trump won 2,623 counties and Clinton only won 489 counties.

Being Republican also doesn't feel popular on campus. Other students, and faculty, can be intimidating. My fellow Republican voting students and I had to talk in private, before class, and in the hallways. Professors would then tell us what we needed to do in the upcoming election. We needed "to do the right thing," and that was obviously not to vote for Donald Trump. When I first started school in the summer I was told by students not to let professors know I am Republican because it could affect my grade. It shouldn't, but it does.

During the summer term my Trump bumper sticker was torn off my car while I was in class on a Tuesday night. No matter

how much I did not believe in the ideas of Bernie or Hillary, I never once thought to tear off someone's bumper sticker. I guess this person thought by doing this cowardly act in the parking lot, that I would come out of my class, see my sticker ripped off, and change my mind.

I don't mind others not agreeing with me, that is part of our freedoms in this country. But I like what Lindsey Graham said during the confirmation hearings: "Freedom of speech is a great thing, and so is the freedom to listen."

After the election, everyone at UAB received an email from Dean Palazzo about de-stressing and coping with the post-election loss. If Hillary had won, I and my conservative friends would have received no such consolations.

Trump enters the presidency beholden to no one. The democrats didn't get him in office. The Republicans didn't help him. The lobbyists didn't. The donor class didn't. He can

almost be considered the first independent president because he did not have the help of his party while running, and when he eventually won.

Perhaps we should take the advice of President Obama when he spoke about not arguing with people on social media, but talking to them. Don't talk exclusively to your like-minded colleagues, but listen to the ideas of others and consider them.

I may think and believe differently than you but that doesn't make me evil. It just means that I disagree with you. Me and my wife disagree all the time, but I still love her. You may not like him, and you may disagree with him, but he will be the President of the United States, and if you live in this country and enjoy its protection and freedoms, he will be your president.

Chris St. John can be reached at cstjohn@uab.edu and on Twitter at @cstjohn416.



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NIGHTLIFE

Drinks to Trump them all

Inauguration-night cocktail recipes from local mixologists

Pierce Edwards  
Features Reporter

Inauguration is right around the corner. No matter how you voted, President Barack Obama concedes his seat to 45th President Donald Trump on Jan. 20. Whether you agree with President-Elect Trump’s proposed policies or not, an inauguration is an official day of celebration. Let’s be realistic, we are in college. We really don’t need a reason to party and have fun. We would not be doing our civic duty if we did not join in on this national day of festivities. President-Elect Trump likes to party and is throwing a big one on Inauguration Day. Since we cannot be there, we can at least honor his decision and party along with him. Granted with the upcoming inauguration, you might find yourself either celebrating the momentous occasion or wanting to drown your sorrows away. No matter which side you are on, I think we can agree that drinks can help push the night along (assuming that you’re of legal drinking age.) I have to reiterate, that as future leaders in America and members of the coolest generation ever, we love to party. Drinks, good food and great people are all part of the festivities. In preparation for the impending event, I took it as an obligation this past week

to find some of the best drinks and spots to go to in downtown Birmingham. There were two that really stood out. First, there was Black Market. Black Market has an edgy aesthetic and a sense of familiarity. It is great place to visit, if you like to hang out with trendy people who are in the know about everything. You might even meet a future Steve Jobs there. You will see that these people all bond and care about one another, and it is a place where you can take your hat off. Whether it is at the bar or outside; if you prefer to be outside, you can get a great view of everything happening in Five Points South. These great drinks were made by the laid-back and cool bar manager, Ryan O’Connor. Last, but most certainly not least, is The Collins Bar. It has a New York sense of style and brainiac motif. You cannot help but wonder how such a nice place is somewhat hidden away from most eyes



**The Dire Wolf**

- » Cathead Honeysuckle Vodka
- » St. Germaine
- » Fresh Lemon Juice
- » Soda Water



**The Gretzky**

- » Tanqueray Gin
- » Earl Grey and Honey Simple Syrup
- » Fresh Lemon Juice
- » BrancaMenta



**Born Agin**

- » Gin
- » Champagne
- » Strawberry Juice
- » Dill
- » Lime
- » Sea Salt



**Lei Me Down**

- » Champagne
- » Vodka
- » Pineapple Juice
- » Lime Juice
- » Vanilla

**Black Market Bar & Grill**

1035 20th St. S.  
Open 3 p.m. to 2 a.m. Monday-Thursday  
11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Friday-Sunday  
(205)933-8035  
Specialty cocktails range from \$10-\$15

**The Collins Bar**

2125 2nd Ave. N.  
Open 4 p.m. to 12 a.m. Tuesday-Thursday  
4 p.m. to 2 a.m. Friday-Saturday  
6 p.m. to 12 a.m. Sunday  
(205)323-7995  
Personally crafted cocktails were \$7

to see. Since it has a New York edge, The Collins Bar is for those people who consider themselves to be more upscale. It can also be regarded as a Northerner’s comfort zone. With an ambient, you may engage in conversations about politics or the latest investment on Wall Street. The music selection is divine to match the extraordinary drinks made by the charismatic mixologist Michael Tobey. Pierce Edwards can be reached at xander93@uab.edu.

AVONDALE

Shop owners leave their legacy in ink

Locals branch out, combine love of tattoos and comics

Jason Grover  
Features Editor

A persistent buzz fills the air, almost drowning out the punk-rock soundtrack. Dozens of colorful comic books, bagged in clear plastic, fill the shelves that line the walls. Sanctum Tattoos and Comics is open for business. Wess Gregg and Aaron Hamilton, both stalwarts of Birmingham’s DIY music scene, opened Sanctum just in time for Christmas 2016. Gregg runs a local small-press music label, Social Cancer, and co-founded the music blog DIY Birmingham. Hamilton, meanwhile, ran the famed non-profit, all-ages music venue Cave 9 and has been operating his own business as a tattoo artist for almost ten years. “Aaron already had a well-established tattoo business. Using that as a cornerstone to branch out on an additional endeavor felt like the right thing to do,” Gregg said. For both shop owners, comics and tattoos are life-long hobbies that go hand-in-hand. Both got their first

tattoos at age 18 and have acquired many in the years since. Several of those tattoos relate to beloved comics. “My dad took me when I was 18,” Hamilton said. “It was a Tank Girl tattoo. I eventually had to cover that one up.” Gregg said his favorite is an image from Charles Burns’ “The Hive.” Hamilton did the work for him. The shop has two tattoo artists on staff currently. They work on a by-appointment basis primarily, Hamilton said. Tattoo work is priced according to size and complexity. Hamilton’s introduction to comics seems almost like a superhero origin story. “I found a bag of old comics when I was about four that I looked through and eventually read till the pages were falling apart,” he said. “And I haven’t stopped since then.” For his part, Gregg said he’s been a fan of comics “since before I could read.” When asked about current comic titles that he likes, Hamilton said “A ton of great independent and creator-owned



Hot Diggity Dogs owner Tom Bagby receives a new tattoo from Sanctum Tattoos and Comics co-owner Aaron Hamilton. Photo by Ian Keel

titles are being made right now.” He goes on to note a shift in mainstream comics to focus on female or non-white characters, like Black Panther or Ms. Marvel. That trend is made ev-

ident by Black Panther, who was a major part of 2016’s commercially successful “Captain America: Civil War,” and whose own film is due out next year. In light of both Gregg and Hamilton’s backgrounds in the Birmingham’s DIY punk scene, these trends seem right up their alley. “It’s a great time for comics,” Gregg said. The shop has a laid-back atmosphere that invites customers to peruse the growing assortment of new and used comics or chat with staff and other customers. “We goof off a lot,” Gregg said. “We get stoked about sharing various types of art with the community and then goof off some more. “Exactly that,” Hamilton added, “We work a little too.” New comics hit the stands every Wednesday. Single-issue comic book prices range from \$3 to \$4, while comic collections cost between \$10 and \$25. Sanctum offers a subscription service and will hold new issues for subscribers. Subscribers receive discounts ranging from 10 percent to 20 percent based on the number of titles subscribed to. Jason Grover can be reached at features@insideuab.com.



Arts&

# Students hold community-centered contest

Sarah Faulkner  
Writer

Arts&, an interdisciplinary initiative developed in part by art majors Cima Khademi and Bailey Barrow, is calling creative community members to propose creative projects intended for social good by Jan. 20.

The winners, who will be announced Feb. 1, will be awarded \$1000 of the seed funds that were initially awarded to Arts& through the Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities in order to set the initiative in motion.

The contest is influenced by Khademi and Barrow’s experiences at the a2ru Emerging Creatives Summit. The Summit, which eventually led to the conception of the initiative as a whole, hosted panels and lectures focused on how the arts impact the community. The professionals that were involved in the events had been engaged in creative projects that promoted community welfare. Additionally, Khademi and Barrow visited the Heidelberg Project, a community art project that brought color and creative



A viewer looks on at artwork displayed at one of the salons held by Arts& last fall.

spirit to the inner city of downtown Detroit, during their time at the Summit. Taken together, these experiences paved the way for the current contest.

“We feel that this project will allow students to see that they can have an impact on the community, as well as engage in the bigger picture

of bringing the arts into the focus of community projects and interdisciplinary collaboration,” Khademi and Barrow said in a jointly written statement to the Kaleidoscope. “Not only is this the chance to help the community and express creativity, but also this project will look great in a portfolio and/or résumé.”

Khademi and Barrow pointed to the “endless possibilities” that students could accomplish through their projects, such as “[speaking] against societal issues, [helping] those in need, [bringing] encouragement, and [beautifying] the city.” Projects could include designing a smart-phone app, spearheading a

poster campaign or producing packages that could be given to community members, among other examples.

Students that are interested in proposing a project are encouraged to have a realistic budget and a feasible chronology. For other guidelines, students are urged to visit [artsandinitiative.wixsite.com/uabirmingham/arts-social-good](http://artsandinitiative.wixsite.com/uabirmingham/arts-social-good).

“UAB is not only a university, but a university that is located in the city of Birmingham and it is part of a community larger than itself,” Khademi and Barrow said. “It is important for UAB students to get involved to not only address the issues on campus but to help the Birmingham community and its future. Like a2ru, we believe in the importance of the role of the arts in research universities. We want students to have the opportunity to take the things that they’ve absorbed this semester and take action; to get excited about ways that they can creatively share their voice in the community.”

Sarah Faulkner can be reached at [sfaulkn2@uab.edu](mailto:sfaulkn2@uab.edu) and on Twitter at [@SarahOFFaulkner](https://twitter.com/SarahOFFaulkner).

## Football

From Page C1

Operations Center is currently being constructed, and they are going to start going vertical with Legacy Pavilion in the upcoming weeks,” Feeley said.

In addition to the attached field, the 46,000 sq. ft. building will be equipped with a locker room, training room, meeting rooms and offices. The program’s operations are currently housed in a building on University Boulevard and 13 Street South, which will be demolished in the fall of this year.

“The new football facility is a total game changer. UAB has never had facilities like this, but now UAB is going to be just like every other program in the country,” Russell Brasseale, administrative director of Gang Green, the official UAB student athletic fan

club, said. “It will only help with recruiting when recruits have their official visits and are able to come see the campus and the brand new facilities. Coach Clark has said multiple times about the football program coming back that we are going to do it the ‘right’ way, and so far I think they have done that. Having [this facility] will take UAB football to heights never seen before.”

According to UAB Athletics Director Mark Ingram, those interested can see the progress for themselves and “see the crew hard at work every day” via a live stream at [uabsports.com](http://uabsports.com).

The Blazers will open the season with a home game against Alabama A&M University on Sept. 2.

Tamara Imam can be reached at [online@insideuab.com](mailto:online@insideuab.com) and on Twitter at [@Tamaraimam](https://twitter.com/Tamaraimam).



In addition to the attached field, the 46,000 sq. ft. building will be equipped with a locker room, training room, meeting rooms and offices. The program’s operations are currently housed in a building on University Boulevard and 13 Street South, which will be demolished in the fall of this year.

## Parking

From Page C1

Purple Routes, which alternate from the lots to campus every 15 minutes. Despite these new accommodations, however, students have still struggled to find parking during the first week of classes.

Davis said he recognizes that changes do need to be made in the parking system at UAB, and new things are slowly being implemented. Parking and Transportation Services has planned to execute a new system where the price of a parking permit will vary through “zone parking.”

Depending on how close or far a student has picked which deck or lot to park in, will determine what price the student will pay for a permit for the semester.

“In a perfect world, I’ll have this new system along with all other plans up and running by Fall 2017.”

According to Davis, however, adequate amount of spots exist to allocate all student’s parking needs.

Colton Clayton, a sophomore in biology, said even students who live in the dorms face issues with parking.

“If I don’t come back to campus by 6 p.m. on Sunday then I know I’m pretty much going to have to search over 45 minutes to find any park-



ing in the residential lots,” Clayton said.

A study conducted by Kimley-Horn Consulting, a company specializing in strategic planning, concluded that, at present, there do exist a sufficient number of spots available to students and faculty combined. This conclusion accounts for all the perimeter and core parking lots, according to Davis.

“A lot of the time, students think that if they go to the top three most popular places, and they are full, they come to the conclusion that that there is not enough parking on campus,” said Davis. “But my perimeter

lots are still empty.”

Davis said that students may not find the most convenient parking, but parking has always been available as long as they are willing to walk or use the transit system.

Some students still feel UAB is not doing enough to accommodate the growing number of students.

“Every semester we get an email telling us not to worry, and that there are enough spots at the remote lots, which is simply not true” said Scarlett Ridley, a sophomore in psychology. She continued to say she feels that UAB doesn’t care about the

## MORE PARKING, SHORTER COMMUTES

Combined changes to remote parking assignments and Blazer Express routes begin Jan. 2, 2017.

**1** This 432-space lot replaces the 381-space Lot 15A, which is the location of the new Collat School of Business building. UAB/Callahan employees who park in Remote 1 will move to Remote 2; medical center employees will move to new Remote 4 lot.

**2** A new Blazer Express route (Purple Route) has been added, running every 10 minutes from 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Friday, from Express 1 to the edge of campus at 13th Street.

### FUTURE PLANS

Class schedules are being adjusted in future semesters to reduce demand for parking during the traditionally busiest times.

UAB is working with an outside expert to conduct a comprehensive traffic and parking analysis to guide future investments.

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practical parts of being a student. “If I’m paying \$1,000+ for a class, and \$100+ for a hangtag for a parking spot, I better not have to park by a meter. Or worse, miss that expensive class because I can’t park.”

While new lots have opened to students, few students are aware of the new resources.

Ajanet Rountree, graduate student and intern of Institute of Human Rights, said that she did not receive a single email or announcement informing her of her new options.

“Not a single student I know uses the Blazer Express

or has any knowledge of the new spaces opening up for students.” Rebecca Smith, a senior psychology, said.

As for now, Davis encourages students to learn to plan their day more adequately and not to expect to find parking five minutes before class.

“Don’t think we are ignoring the problem and don’t think we are blind to the need,” Davis said. “We will do everything in our power to make the parking and transit experience as best as we can make it.”

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