

Free

The

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Chronicling the Campus Community and Beyond Since 1971

IN THIS ISSUE:

1. Student Safety During the Holiday Season

SGA

2. Upcoming / Month in Review / Study Abroad / What I Wish People Understood about Immigration

FEATURES

3. Get Connected with Reading / Farmers Markets / Thanksgiving Around the World

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

4. Woyzeck / Actor's Spotlight

5. Learning Through Film / **Organization Spotlight:** Spectrum

SPORTS

6. AUM Men's Basketball / AUM Women's Basketball / Matthew Pellegrim

7. Curtis Crazzies / Sports Schedule Highlight

ADS

8. Jack's Ad / Meet the Staff

Student Safety During the Holiday Season

By Rachel Son



Students should keep in mind that the winter season is one of the busiest travel times of the year and take extra precautions to be safe over the holidays.

According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics from the U.S. Department of Transportation, “the Thanksgiving and Christmas/New Year’s holiday periods are among the busiest long-distance travel periods of the year.” Just within the week of Thanksgiving, “the number of long-distance trips increases by 54 percent and by 23 percent between Christmas and the New Year.” Auburn University at Montgomery wants to ensure students are safe over the upcoming holiday breaks whether they are on campus or traveling during that time.

Tips provided by both the AUM Student Affairs office and the Personal Safety page on the AUM website are condensed to inform students of important safety information while on break:

Personal Safety:

Campus police urges everyone to always carry photo identification. If you plan to travel abroad, be sure to make photocopies of your passport and other important documents to prevent losing that information while out sightseeing. Student affairs suggests to “extra backup by loading copies of these documents and information

into your phone.”

- You should “know where you are and where you are going” at all times. Navigating unfamiliar cities can be daunting, so always prepare for trips ahead of time with having important addresses and phone numbers readily available, but also, “always have a backup plan.” When driving, plan an alternate route in case there are any problems with your initial plan.

- When traveling, “make sure you can stay in touch” with loved ones to inform them of where you are. When traveling abroad, get in touch with your cell phone carrier to ensure you will have service while on your trip and if there are additional costs associated with international services. Always have your phone fully charged. “Consider taking along a mobile power bank for your phone.” Label emergency contacts with I.C.E (in case of emergency) in front of their names.

- When you are in another country, keep in mind that local laws and ordinances may be different from the U.S., so be sure to know what those are. This includes the legal drinking age. The legal age to purchase and consume alcohol is 21 in the U.S., but that minimum age may

be different in another country. If you plan to consume alcohol at any point in time, it is important to do so responsibly.

- “Know your limit: decide on limits ahead of time” and stick to it. Drink plenty of water and eat some food while consuming alcohol.
- “Know where to get help. Take a moment to find out the location of local medical facilities and law enforcement. Know who to call or where to go in the case of a medical or other emergency.”
- If you are traveling with friends, make sure that you “look out for each other” and never go somewhere alone. It is easy to fall into the “vacation mindset” and to not remain alert, but for your safety, “keep track of each other when you go out, and make sure your friends are in a state of mind to make safe, healthy decisions.”

Driving Safety:

- “If your car breaks down, lift the hood, put on flashers, and wait inside the car for help with the doors locked. Ask people who stop to call the police or AAA. Don’t go with anyone.”
- When in traffic, be sure there is enough space ahead of you, so you can easily pull away if you need to. “Be suspicious of people

approaching your car asking for directions, or change, or handing out flyers.”

- Be sure to “never approach or get into a vehicle with someone you do not know.” Get away from the situation immediately. Also, never offer rides to strangers or stranded motorist.

- Remember to buckle up. It’s the law in Alabama.

Staying on campus during breaks:

- For those staying on campus during the breaks, your safety is just as important. Classes are not in session, some offices close during the holiday break. So being aware of who to contact, where to go and how to be safe. In the October issue of the AUMnibus, there were several campus safety tips to familiarize yourself with. Be sure to follow-up on those tips by going to the Personal Safety page on the AUM website. Those tips are applicable whether or not classes are in session.
- Always “stay alert and tuned into your surroundings, stand tall and walk confidently, and trust your instincts.”
- Personal Property (including your vehicle):
- Never leave your property unattended. Mark all personal property with your name and a unique number that only you would know.

- Never write your personal information on your keychain. There is always a chance of theft if your keys are lost, so always know where your keys are to reduce the chance of someone making copies of them.

- When keeping items in your car, it is suggested that you keep those items, no matter the value, in the glove box or in the trunk out of sight. This goes for any lighter jack, radar detector or other items that you typically keep in your car. Be sure to remove all keys from your vehicle, even a hidden spare key box. “Thieves look for keys under fenders and in magnetic key cases. Walk with your keys in hand.”

- Copy your vehicle and tag number. If your vehicle is stolen, it cannot be entered into the nationwide law enforcement network without this information.

For a full description of these tips, go to the Personal Safety page on the AUM website or contact the AUM Office of Student Affairs. In the case of an emergency on campus, contact campus police at 334-244-3424 or dial 911 when you are off campus. The AUMnibus hopes that every student will have a fun and safe holiday season.

Happy Holidays!

SGA

Highlights

Upcoming:

SGA will be hosting a town hall meeting on Nov. 15 in Warhawk Alley from 6:00 p.m. until 7:15 p.m.

Month in Review:

SGA presented a political speaker series this semester. On Oct. 4, SGA had Secretary of State, John Merrill come speak to the student body about the election process in the state and civic engagement. On Oct. 25, SGA had State Rep. Danny Garrett (R-Trussville) and State Rep Rod Scott (D-Fairfield) come speak to the student about education policy, the Education Trust Fund (ETF) budget, and the Alabama legislature.

Study Abroad

By Darya Farsinejad

A global community is what this nation represents and our AUM Study Abroad Program is playing its part in helping our student body become more engaged and familiar with a global mindset. The annual Study Abroad fair just kicked off the excitement of the student body about this year's travel opportunities. In an interview with Yiyun Liu our Study Abroad Manager, she gave insight on how you can study abroad and what the benefits of studying abroad are.

Q: What students are eligible to study abroad?

A: Students are eligible to apply for AUM Study Abroad programs if they has the minimum AUM Overall GPA of 2.75 for

undergraduate students and 3.0 for graduate students, and have completed a whole year (Fall and Spring semester) of study at AUM when the chosen program starts.

Q: What are the benefits of studying abroad?

A: The students who have studied abroad could tell you better than me. According to a post-trip survey we created for all Study Abroad returnees, I collected the five most presented opinions of how the studying abroad experiences benefit them:

1. This experience opened a whole new world to me to understand a different culture.

2. Study Abroad created a priceless experience that not only grew our knowledge, but also we grew as individuals.

3. The trip gave me a greater appreciation for what I learned from the class, especially to study with my own eyes.

4. I will be forever grateful for the opportunities that I was given to experience another culture in person which might be once in a lifetime.

5. The Study Abroad program gifted me with new skills, cultures, and international awareness that will last a lifetime.

Q: How many programs do we offer?

A: I'd say the Study Abroad programs vary on each year. In 2018, we have 5 faculty-led programs and 5 exchange programs.

Q: Can students participate in exchange programs?

A: Absolutely! The exchange programs are considered as the typically

wide-known Study Abroad programs that students study at our foreign partner universities. It is less major-based comparing with the Faculty-Led programs, which means students who meet the two requirements (Question 1) are able to continue their curriculum in their foreign no matter what major and college they are enrolled in.

Q: How was this year's annual study abroad fair?

A: It was a success. Around 400 AUM students, faculty and staff attended the fair. All 2018 programs had a table to present the fascinating components. We collaborated with five AUM units on the culture activities. Mrs. Jaime Andress from the Human Resource department utilized the Cultural Intelligence self-assessment

to help our students have a better understanding of the cultural differences between the countries that AUM students will be able to visit in 2018. AUM mascot – Curtiss from the Athletics Department flew through the event to inspire students to fly with him to see the world. International Student Association had their ambassador – Simran Kumari who is an AUM Indian student demonstrated two traditional Indian dances. Confucius Institute brought the Chinese calligraphy and traditional dances to let our students touch a different culture. Muslim Student Association provided henna tattoo which is the cultural element among the countries in the Southeast Asia, Africa and Arabian area. The Study

Abroad Fair provided an opportunity to AUM students to touch different cultures and discover the possibilities of exploring the world. We had a blast.

So what are you waiting for? A once in a lifetime opportunity if exploring the world for yourself is available on campus. The study abroad office is located in the Administration building in the Global Initiatives office for any further questions about the programs. Find out today where you can go!

What I Wish People Understood About Immigration: A University Honors Forum

By Rachel Wallace

Encouraging the discussion of immigration has been a focus for the University Honors Program (UHP) this semester. In the month of October, the program hosted three immigration-themed events for the campus community. One of those events was a forum entitled "What I Wish People Understood About Immigration." It featured five expert panelists, debating hot-button issues such as safety—for both current citizens and those seeking to become citizens.

Sam McLure, a Republican candidate for Alabama Attorney General, opened the discussion with a defense of President Trump's travel bans and plans to build a wall along the Mexican border. Likening immigrants to dangerous hitchhikers, McLure urged audience members to "take a look inside the president's mind," and see that "American safety is the number one priority." However, Alan Cross, a member of the "Bibles, Badges, and Business"

program of the National Immigration Forum, challenged McLure's accusation that immigrants are inherently dangerous. "There's been many studies which show areas with high levels of immigrants have low levels of crime," he said. Cross believes that actually immigrants tend to avoid committing crimes because they're afraid of deportation.

Cesar Mata, a Mexican activist with Adelante Workers Center, and the only immigrant voice on the panel, wants people to understand immigrants aren't out to harm our country; they're just chasing the American dream. "The media is doing so much harm, but the bad people you see aren't us," he said. "When something bad happens here, it hurts me because this is my country too."

"We need to dispel the myth that our country is constantly under siege," said Jessica Vosburgh, Staff Attorney for the National Day Laborer Organizing Network. In response to Mata's comments,



Pictured from left to right: Alan Cross, Jessica Vosburgh, Cesar Mata, Nicolas Bartell, Sam McLure and Matthew Jordan. Photo by Frank Williams.

Vosburgh said, "We need positive foreign policy that addresses the reasons why immigrants abandon everything they know for a country where they might be targeted and treated unfairly."

Nicolas Bartell, Director of the Montgomery field office of Citizenship and Immigration, was legally unable to discuss matters of safety, but offered detailed explanations of our country's complex immigration laws. The

complexity of immigration was one point all five panelists seemed to agree on. "The more I study, the more I realize I don't know," Cross admitted.

Rachel Pate, President of the 2017-2018 UHP, says the forum was a unique opportunity to learn from a range of viewpoints. "The thing that stood out to me most was the wealth of knowledge the participants had, but also the presentation of the issue as a human issue," Pate said. "I found it really useful,

as I've been exploring different ideas and opinions to better form my own." As a junior Spanish major, Pate believes studying immigration is more important than ever. "There are so many international students on our campus, and we have so much to learn from them," Pate said. "If we only ever know how one narrative of life works, then our education isn't successful. It's ignorant to see immigration as anything less than vital to our success as a society."

Dr. Matthew Jordan, Director of the UHP, is taking steps to provide a successful education for all students on campus. "We strive to ensure honors students can honestly and openly discuss the issues we're studying, including the very controversial ones," Jordan said. "By hosting public events like the immigration forum, we hope to extend that ethos to the broader community."

Get Connected with Reading

By Rachel Son

About five years ago, the AUM Connected: Common Reading Program began at Auburn University at Montgomery. It was initially housed under the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching where the founder of the Warhawk Academic Success Center pushed for the program to implement the common reading program. As of this year, the program is officially under the WASC. Dr. Virginia Lacy, the Director of the WASC, says that the common reading program “exposes students to a book that they might not otherwise read and it gives a common theme or element for everybody to come around.”

This year’s common reading book is *Dracula* by Bram Stoker. Published in 1897, this book is a well-known literary classic. The program has planned several events this semester, which began in early August with the Zombie Bash and will continue into early December with a staged reading of *Dracula* by Theatre AUM. AUM Connected will reconvene in the spring with a full semester of common reading events.

According to a national survey of First-Year Seminars conducted between 2012 and 2013,

45.8% of four-year universities use a common reading program in their first-year seminars. From a 2014 Study on the Common Reading Experience, such a program “orients new students to critical thinking & college-level writing,” and “establishes a culture of readers.” Earlier studies have found that students who are involved with activities in and outside of class have an “impact on cognitive development, including critical thinking.”

AUM Connected is a common reading program designed not only for UNIV 1000 students but for upperclassmen as well. According to the AUM website, “this ‘group read’ will engage [students] in a common academic and social experience that connects [them] to the university, faculty, and peers through a campus tradition.” It will introduce students to academic discussions outside of the classroom and establish a platform for everyone involved to hold intelligible discussions on social and cultural conflicts in a “non-threatening setting.”

Dr. Lacy explained that “UNIV is the main adopter and in some way a rite of passage.” The book is also used outside of UNIV 1000 depending on the theme of that year’s book. For example, since

2017-2018 COMMON READING BOOK
connected
 AUM COMMON READING PROGRAM

DRACULA
 By Bram Stoker

ZOMBIE BASH
 CAMPUS EVENT
 AUG. 16 / 11 A.M. - 1 P.M. / TAYLOR CENTER 230

VAMPIRES IN SCIENCE FICTION: IMAGINING THE UNDEAD
 LECTURE BY DR. DARREN HARRIS-FAIN
 AUG. 29 / 6:30 - 7:30 P.M. / GOODWYN HALL 111

WHAT WE DO IN THE SHADOWS
 MOVIE
 SEP. 11 / 12:15 - 1:45 P.M. / GOODWYN HALL 109

BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA
 MOVIE WITH INTRODUCTION BY DR. MATTHEW KILLMEIER
 OCT. 10 / 6:30 - 9 P.M. / LIBRARY TOWER EAST

BATS: MISUNDERSTOOD CREATURES OF THE NIGHT
 LECTURE BY DR. MATTHEW GRILLIOT
 OCT. 11 / 1 - 2 P.M. / LIBRARY TOWER EAST

DINNER IN THE DARK
 EVENT SPONSORED BY CENTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES
 OCT. 17 / TBA / TBD

BITE ME! DAY
 ACTIVITY
 OCT. 25 / ALL DAY / BEGINS AT WASC

LET ME IN
 MOVIE
 NOV. 9 / 6:30 - 9 PM / GOODWYN HALL 111

DRACULA BY THEATRE AUM
 STAGED READING
 DEC. 1 - 3 / TBA / TBD

The common reading program goes through an annual selection process. This year’s book is *Dracula* by Bram Stoker.

Dracula is a literary classic, several faculty members in the English Department decided to assign this book for their classes. The committee tries to choose a

selection to be voted on that would appeal to different subjects each year, so that it is not geared toward the same topic every year, and establishing versatility of

the common reading book. To organize the book selection process and planning of events, there is a committee made up of faculty from each

college, staff, a student representative and other representatives. The selection process begins with asking for nominations that can be submitted by students and faculty. After the September deadline, the committee orders copies of each book, takes turns reading them and then towards the end of the fall semester, has a meeting to discuss the books. The committee then narrows down the selection to two or three books. Sometime during the spring semester, students and faculty are asked to vote on which book they would like to have as the next common reading book. Information for submitting nominations, voting and other announcements are put on the TV and myAUM boards, as well as via email.

The AUM Connected: Common Reading Program is in a transition process as it becomes part of the WASC. Dr. Lacy explained that the WASC is working on increasing student involvement in the program through the selection process and events that continue to take place throughout the year. Anyone who would like more information about the common reading program can contact the WASC on the second floor of the Ida Belle Young Library.

Farmer’s Markets: Just Around the Corner

By Dana Horton

Things in Montgomery are either incredibly congested or inconveniently spread out. Eastchase, a shopping center off of Taylor Road, is a perfect example of this. It has a series of shops lined tightly together, weaving through narrow streets and packed parking lots, but also the space and potential for more. Juxtaposed between department stores and pub-like food places are areas of grass that are becoming more common in modern mall-centers. Across Eastchase’s grass and narrow areas between parking is a growing farmer’s market, boasting numerous vendors and colorful merchandise.

Open every Saturday between May 20 and Oct. 28, the farmer’s market provides locally grown produce to Montgomery residents outside of expensive health food stores. These vendors offer everything from home-grown tomatoes to natural dog treats to maple trees for your home. Additionally, the farmer’s markets offers vendors who teach different arts and crafts. They’re open 7 a.m. - noon each Sat., and it should be something more college students attend. The outdoor atmosphere and home-grown merchandise creates an inviting and eclectic feel that promotes

pride in local business but also a connection between people.

On the other side of the city sits a small green building only open Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturday’s 5 a.m. – 2 p.m. They serve fresh lunch made with ingredients from the local vendors and there is an outside area with wooden picnic tables where patrons can sit. Each vendor is connected to one another in the long, wooden structure. Small bay doors open the vendors to the street and parking lot, allowing quick and convenient access for the visitors. They offer a variety of vegetables, fruits and homemade crafts. This last weekend brought in many pumpkins, squashes and fall-themed crafts.

Called the “Montgomery Curb Market,” it sits between the Crampton Bowl and the entrance to downtown, right on the edge of Madison Avenue. During the week, it is seldom overcrowded, but typically bustling for lunch each day it is open. Vendors prepare a warm lunch for buyers, usually working professionals on break. Over the outdoor seating area stands a wooden pavilion that adds a rustic overhead feel to the market. People move about the market, sensitive

to those around them, but unbothered by the proximity and connection that is required in such environments.

Everyone around seemed happy, or maybe distracted by the convenience of freshness in an open area. A glowing nostalgia comes out from places like this, of a Montgomery that never really existed, but that people hope for. It brings together citizens of a city with a traumatic past, and perhaps gives hope and comfort that peace can exist, if only in small places. For a relatively small capital city, there is an abundance of character and intermingling of many cultures that creates a buzzing atmosphere that keeps the city going. It may be naive to take small instances at farmer’s markets and create grand ideas about a place, but Montgomery has a way of continuing to revive itself because its people aren’t settling for the alternative.

Thanksgiving Around the World

By Elisa Miller

Thanksgiving Around the World is an event that brings a variety of cultures together to learn about one another and share in native dishes from around the world. All AUM students and faculty are invited and encouraged to bring friends.

This event brought a room full of happiness, food and lots of fun. Several brave students came to represent their native countries and share their culture with their peers. One student and Professor spoke on the behalf of China. The student spoke about the Moon festival, which is when they keep the

dead from chasing them. Professor Kelley spoke about Chinese New Year, Autumn Festival, and Chinese National Day. Another student from Haiti, shared how they celebrate the New Year. A student from India spoke about the Lordi Harvest Festival, which is held to thank God for his creation. Next, a student spoke about the Denmark holiday and explained that they burn their concerns that are written on a piece of paper. Last but certainly not least, a student from Africa spoke about three holidays that they celebrate, including: Heroes Day, Labor Day, and African Day.

Of all of the holidays that the students shared, none of them are just like American Thanksgiving, but they all had one thing in common: food. This event was a great way to learn about other cultures. Be sure to mark your calendars for this event in the fall of 2018.



A reminder that no matter where or how you celebrate Thanksgiving, we all have something to be thankful for. Graphic courtesy of Brittany Roberson.

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

Woyzeck: AUM's Twist on Tragedy

By Dana Horton

I spoke with Kodi Robertson about Theater AUM's upcoming production of Georg Buchner's tragic story about the heavy effects of war and military life on a man. This unique rendition comes from the mind of director Val Winkelman, who is also a professor in the communication department. Robertson and I communicated via email where he answered a series of questions regarding the modern take on this story, the director's vision, and what the audience can expect.

As confusing and ambiguous as online communication can be, Robertson seemed eager and enthusiastic in his responses, precluding to a play audiences will marvel at.

Will this be an original rendition of the play? This will be a rather unique way this play will be performed! Audiences will have complete control over what scenes we perform, which, in my opinion, makes this the most-raw form of theatre I have ever been a part of. What should the audience expect with this production?

As for what the audience can expect



Robertson (far left) at the Southeastern Theatre Conference.

from this production... nothing! This play will change and be virtually different every night so some audiences will see the show in one order while a completely new audience will see it done completely backwards (or if fate should be ironic, in the perfect chronological order). We are performing it this way because Georg Buchner

died before completing this play. We know very little how he intended the play to be performed because the scenes were found scrambled in his desk. Audiences can expect to be surprised and asking friends what the show is about won't be a simple answer. Some people may even have to see it twice to see any details they missed!

What details can you tell me about the play without giving too much away? I can tell you... that the show revolves around a man named Woyzeck who slowly loses his grasp on reality. The play is based off of a soldier who allegedly killed his wife. The play centers [on] some of most extreme unfortunate things a human

being can possibly go through. To me, this is a show of a man crying for help and not receiving it. Who is directing?

Val Winkelman is our director, and she has been brilliant in coming up with the concept of what she wants seen out of each of her performers.

Woyzeck premieres Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m. It continues November 3, 4, 9-12 at 7:30 p.m. with the exception of Sunday, Nov. 12 which is a matinee at 12:30 p.m. All showings are in the AUM theatre located in the Taylor Center.

Actor's Spotlight: Olivia Crutchfield

By Dana Horton

Auburn University at Montgomery Theatre's humble projection onto campus life hides the eclectic and imaginative soul of its participants. To fully immerse oneself into any form of art takes courage, originality and talent that only few have. I interviewed communication student and budding actress, Olivia Crutchfield, and asked her what her journey has brought to her and what her art means to her.

Crutchfield is originally from Odenville, Alabama where she played soccer and focused on school and classmates. She says she played soccer for 16 years and that her high school did not offer any theatrical channels, so she was unable to pursue anything before college.

"At my high school, theatre didn't exist. I always had an interest in acting and performing but [because] my high school didn't offer any theatre outlets and I was busy playing soccer year round (which I had consecutively played for 16 years of my life), by the time I graduated high school... and working a part time job and being active in clubs, I never actively pursued theatre."

She recounts navigating her way to



Photo courtesy of Olivia Crutchfield.

theatre and becoming an actress; Crutchfield didn't audition until her sophomore year of college. She recalls a series of moments where she pushed herself to try something that would make her uncomfortable, but would be rewarding.

"I told myself when I got to college I would take the plunge and give theatre and acting a chance. I actually didn't start getting involved in theatre until my sophomore year of college. I found [an] activity that I am so

passionate about."

When asked about her experiences as an actress, Crutchfield replied with insight and hope that her career is just starting. She discusses the amount of raw, tough emotion that is required to make a performance successful, and why that influences her to keep going. Likewise, she says that a good instructor provides the proper footing to create meaningful art. To perform well, an actor/actress needs to be fully open to their mind, body, and emotions

in order to breathe life into a character.

"I learned that acting is not easy; it requires great amounts of human emotion to be manipulated, taken from past experiences in your own personal life, and to be showcased for complete strangers for the sole reason of telling a story. My instructors are another reason why this passion has been ignited. Neil David Seibel, Val and Mike Winkelman are so incredibly passionate about theatre and about their

student's success in the industry, and in life, that regardless of where their students are performing, they make an effort to come and support, [which] speaks volumes of the professor/student relationships that are able to form at AUM." Crutchfield continues with her hope, explaining that Montgomery and its surrounding areas are blossoming with art. "I love the fact that the River Region is rich in community theatre. So there are many opportunities to perform in the Montgomery

than where I am from, and the fact that the community supports my passion only adds gas to my already burning fire."

One of the most powerful aspects of theatrical art is the human connection that is thrust upon anyone who participates, whether it's the audience, cast, production team, etc. Actor's spotlight gives small insights into the artistry of those in this creative field, expanding on their humanity, intellect, and emotion.

Learning Through Film

By Rachel Son

This semester, the Political Film Series showed three films from September to November. The series started off with showing *The Secret State of North Korea*, which was introduced by Dr. Kalu N. Kalu. The second film, was *The Other Side of Immigration*. Dr. Silvia Giagnoni presented this film's topic. When *Trumpets Fade* was the film that wrapped up the screenings for the fall semester. This film was introduced by Dr. Ben Severance. The Political Film Series is co-sponsored by the Department of Political Science & Public Administration and the College of Public Policy & Justice, but also, each event is co-sponsored by a group or organization. This fall, the AUM Office for Global Initiatives, the University Honors Program, and the College of Arts & Sciences, each co-sponsored one of the series' events.

Dr. Pia Knigge, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, is the founder of the film series. The decision to create the series stemmed from her political film class that is offered during the summer semester. "The first time I had to put together a syllabus for that political



The political film series has been screening films in room 112 Goodwyn Hall this fall.

film class," said Dr. Knigge, "I had to of course decide which films to show." She further explained that beyond the classics that must obviously be shown, she discovered that it was a difficult decision because there are so many great films to choose from and such little time in the class to show them. Then over the years, students began suggesting various films to show in the class as well.

The need for a setting to show the great films not covered in class is what made Dr. Knigge

create the Political Film Series. At first, the idea was to show one film each month, but after consideration of winter break in December and the adjustment period of students returning to school in January, it was decided that three films would be shown each semester and one in the summer. After the first year, the Political Film Series has received an annual grant from the Ida Belle Young Special Projects Fund.

"The series seeks film diversity by

incorporating a mix of film genres (documentaries, drama, comedies, etc.), foreign and U.S. productions, classics and contemporary films." There are a variety of topics that are presented, ranging from historical events to current political issues. The broad range of topics helps to connect other departments to the film series.

During every film screening, Dr. Knigge invites a speaker to give a 5-15 minute introduction to the film's topic. She says that this helps to provide

context for the audience. Following the film, there is a discussion session that can vary in length depending on audience participation. The audience can vary in size, which mostly depends on whether a class incorporates the film into their lecture. There are refreshments offered at every event which is free of charge to everyone. The Political Film Series is open to the public. Films begin at 7 p.m. and the location can vary depending on room availability.

At the beginning

of each semester, after Dr. Knigge has made the final selections, posters and flyers are distributed, as well as a campus-wide email to notify everyone of when and where the films being shown for that semester. For more information regarding the Political Film Series or if you are interested in co-sponsoring one of the events, contact Dr. Pia Knigge at pknigge@aum.edu or 334-244-3834.

Organization Spotlight:

Spectrum

By Darya Farsinejad

Inclusivity is the goal of Spectrum on campus. Formerly known as the Gay Straight Alliance, this organization has changed names in order to cover the whole "spectrum" of sexuality and make sure everyone feels welcome. Vice President, Eva Valentine explained the reason for the name change was to "help the organization be a part of a larger community because both Troy University and Auburn main campus have their organizations as Spectrum."

"We are doing a lot more educational events than we have in the past. We want to get our name out there and also the community doesn't have the information that it needs like safe sex, mental health and isolation are big things in our community, so we are battling that," says Valentine. Spectrum hopes that with this organization there is a safe place on campus for everyone. With educating the public about different issues and providing a support network this is a place for the student population to feel at home. "It's really dangerous for someone to feel so different and so isolated and not have anywhere they can go. There is a much larger population, or more people



that are more comfortable admitting it to themselves now, especially in a college campus. College is really the first place most people find out about the community and about the resources so having to find that outside (of campus) they might not get the help they need and they could fall into problematic situations," explains Valentine on the importance of having an organization like this on a college campus.

If you have any questions or want to become a part of Spectrum you can email them at aumgsa@aum.edu, follow them on Facebook or every other Thursday night at

6:30 they have meetings in Goodwyn Hall. They assist in connecting students with services outside of Spectrum they may not have known about before, they also offer safe zone training for educators to teach them how to handle situations with students feeling suicidal. Valentine's final thoughts encompass the love this organization has for the community, "We are better together. If you don't speak up, no one is going to hear you."



SPORTS

AUM Men's Basketball

By Joshua Easley

The AUM Men's Basketball team is coming into the new season ready to set things off with Coach Michael Cheaney to lead them to victory. Coach Cheaney has more than 15 years of experience at the NAIA level, as well as having played at NCAA Division I, II and III institutions. Cheaney, from Indiana, comes from a family that is known for playing basketball. He earned his Bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Kentucky Wesleyan in 1996, and went on to earn a Master's in Sports Management from Indiana State University.

Cheaney was a standout student-athlete at Kentucky Wesleyan University. During his playing career, Cheaney earned the Senior Award as the Panthers' outstanding athlete, set the school record for field goal percentage and was named the team's most improved player. He began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. After his work at DePauw,



Kenneth Keith, Junior from Opelika, AL. Photo by Joshua Easley.

Coach Cheaney went on to Voorhees College in Denmark, South Carolina where, as their head coach, the team won two conference titles.

This is Cheaney's fourth year as head coach of the AUM men's basketball team. Cheaney believes, "the current team of 18 solid players is what we need to build a good Division II program." Although they have a lot of freshmen this year, Cheaney "expects to see

them grow and mature every day." Coach Cheaney strives to share a constant vision with his team. "Victory is our goal," says Cheaney.

Kenneth Keith, a junior for the AUM men's basketball team, is excited for the upcoming season. Keith, inspired by the coach's belief in the team, strives to give his all every day. He believes in all for daily commitment to the goal, saying, "If you do not sacrifice for what you

want, what you want will be the sacrifice." He also believes that, "In order to succeed your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure." Keith intends, like the rest of his team, to do his part to achieve the goal: victory.

Coach Cheaney, who is committed to community service, wants to see his team not just as basketball players, but as student ambassadors, making a difference in our AUM community as well

as in our communities beyond AUM walls, as role models and leaders. He wants them to raise the bar for the program, for themselves individually and for the complete student-athlete. He wants them to be their best on and off the court, and in the AUM community. Cheaney said, "We're not only about basketball but we are also about the community". Cheaney is very excited and determined that his team will do great this

season. After all, as he said, "Victory is the Goal."

The AUM men's basketball team will compete in their season opener Nov. 3, at Alabama State University in Montgomery, AL at 7:30 p.m.

For more information on Coach Cheaney and the Men's Basketball team and the schedule of the games, visit the AUM Athletics webpage.



Coach Michael Cheaney, AUM Men's Basketball Coach. Photo by Joshua Easley.

AUM Women's Basketball

By Joshua Easley

The AUM Women's Basketball team is under the leadership of Coach Dan Davis. Davis graduated from AUM in 1999, receiving his degree in Secondary Education and Social Sciences, and played basketball throughout his four years as an AUM student. Davis is proud to be back as a part of the AUM family and as the coach. During his AUM career, the team played in the NAIA National Tournament, won the NAIA Southeast Region and were the Southern States Conference Champions.

Davis has been married to his wife, Christi Shirley, for 18 years and they have four children, Abigail, Cooper, Nash and Tate. Basketball is what Davis is passionate about, and he loves the journey that he gets to take with the team. Davis said, "this team is made up of a diverse group of individuals and it's a great profession to be in."

The AUM women's basketball team consists of 24 team members. Davis wanted a talented group of players, where he could have a team large in size and length as well as in speed and quickness. He wants the team to win its conference championship and go to the Gulf South, he plans to "go out and make some noise, and compete for the championship." Davis and the women's basketball team want to set the bar



Coach Dan Davis, AUM Women's Basketball Coach. Photo by Joshua Easley.



Kyla Rooks, Senior from Birmingham, AL. Photo by Joshua Easley.

high and give their all.

Coach Davis encourages his players to, "attack this day with an enthusiasm unknown to mankind," meaning his players should bring enthusiasm to every day with what they do, on and off the court. Davis also reminds his players that the letters in "team" stand for something - T for togetherness, E for enthusiasm, A for attitude, and M for mental toughness. For the success of the team, the players have to remember that no one person will do anything by themselves. "They will

do it together and they will have to have each other's backs," says Coach Davis.

Having the opportunity to play collegiate basketball and be apart of something great has him looking forward to the season. Davis said, "Life is going to knock you down, but the toughness is what is going to get you through it." The attitude of being positive, and the mentality of doing anything you believe you can do will help pave the way. Davis believes that with these qualities he will have a formidable team.

Matthew Pellegrim

By Elisa Miller

Auburn University at Montgomery's new sports information director is Mr. Matthew Paul Pellegrim. Pellegrim is responsible for keeping statistics for the home games, writing press releases, running media, live video streams, highlights and edits, giving interviews, being the liaison between media and public, and setting interviews for coaches and athletes.

Mr. Pellegrim was born Oct. 27 in Meridian, Mississippi. During his childhood years, Pellegrim was always active; he loved to play basketball and enjoyed watching football. He has always been involved with sports, from his own career, to supporting friends and family.

Pellegrim attended Mississippi State College, where he earned his bachelor's degree in science and communication. He decided on this path because he could not decide whether he wanted to be a coach or broadcast. In fact, a student worker customized his major into sports information director. Pellegrim has been in his career field for 12 years and counting. His first job in his field was at Troy University as a graduate assistant. When asked about the most memorable moment of his career, Pellegrim stated, "the men's basketball in 2010-2011 first year UNC Asheville defeated Coastal Carolina

to win a trip to NCAA tournament and the coach invited me to cut the net." What Pellegrim likes most about his career is getting to know student athletes, everybody else telling their stories for people all over the place, and working with athletes who have been to the Olympics before or are trying to get to the Olympics.

Being a part of several teams in the Athletic Department allows Pellegrim to live through student athletes and watch them achieve their goals. The advice Pellegrim would give to all college athletes is to be patient. Pellegrim explained, "sometimes everything you think you deserve you will not get right away. There will be competition against others who were the best at their school, just like you were the best at your school. Learn what you need to work on to be able to be ready." Pellegrim is inspired by the quote, "There is no 'I' in team, but there is in win. I stand for individual responsibility."



Curtiss Crazyies

By Darya Farsinejad



Preston Collins at the Athletics Complex in the Curtiss Crazyies Student Section.

Basketball season is upon us and it's time for us to get hype! With our transition into Division II we have some very excited students on campus ready to cheer on our team. Preston Collins took his excitement and put a plan into action and with that we have a new student section, "The Curtiss Crazyies." With a relatively young campus he wanted to instill some more tradition on campus in hopes this would inspire others to feel just as passionate. "I just thought the Curtiss Crazyies would catapult us into a traditional school when it comes to sports and actually have a student section so people would have a reason to come to the games besides watching our team play," said Collins.

The athletics department has been very excited about this wave of enthusiasm. In the athletics complex where the

student section is we now have stickers with "The Curtiss Crazyies" on them highlighting the area where the student section is. To be a part of this movement, students simply to have to show up to our games and be ready to cheer on our Warhawks. Collins has hopes this section will help our athletes on the court with more students cheering them on. "I'm hoping it will improve our performance in the athletes because as a former athlete I understand that people supporting you in a large mass helps you want to play hard."

With a roaring student section our Warhawks will be on their way to victory. Now it is up to you guys to come out and support all of our teams. If you have any questions regarding "The Curtiss Crazyies" you can email Preston Collins at pcollin4@aum.edu.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Women's Basketball

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 30TH

VS. Lee University
Cleveland, TN @ 5pm

SATURDAY DECEMBER 2ND

VS. Shorter University
Rome, GA @ 1pm

SATURDAY DECEMBER 9TH

VS. Samford University
Birmingham, AL @ 2pm

TUESDAY DECEMBER 12TH

VS. Spring Hill College
Montgomery, AL @ 6pm

SATURDAY DECEMBER 16TH

VS. Delta State University
Montgomery, AL @ 2pm

MONDAY DECEMBER 18TH

VS. Mississippi College
Montgomery, AL @ 6pm

SATURDAY DECEMBER 30TH

VS. Anderson College
Montgomery, AL @ 2pm

Men's Basketball

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 30TH

VS. Lee University
Cleveland, TN @ 7pm

SATURDAY DECEMBER 2ND

VS. Shorter University
Rome, GA @ 3pm

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13TH

VS. Spring Hill College
Mobile, AL @ 7pm

SATURDAY DECEMBER 16TH

VS. Delta State University
Montgomery, AL @ 4pm

MONDAY DECEMBER 18TH

VS. Mississippi College
Montgomery, AL @ 8pm

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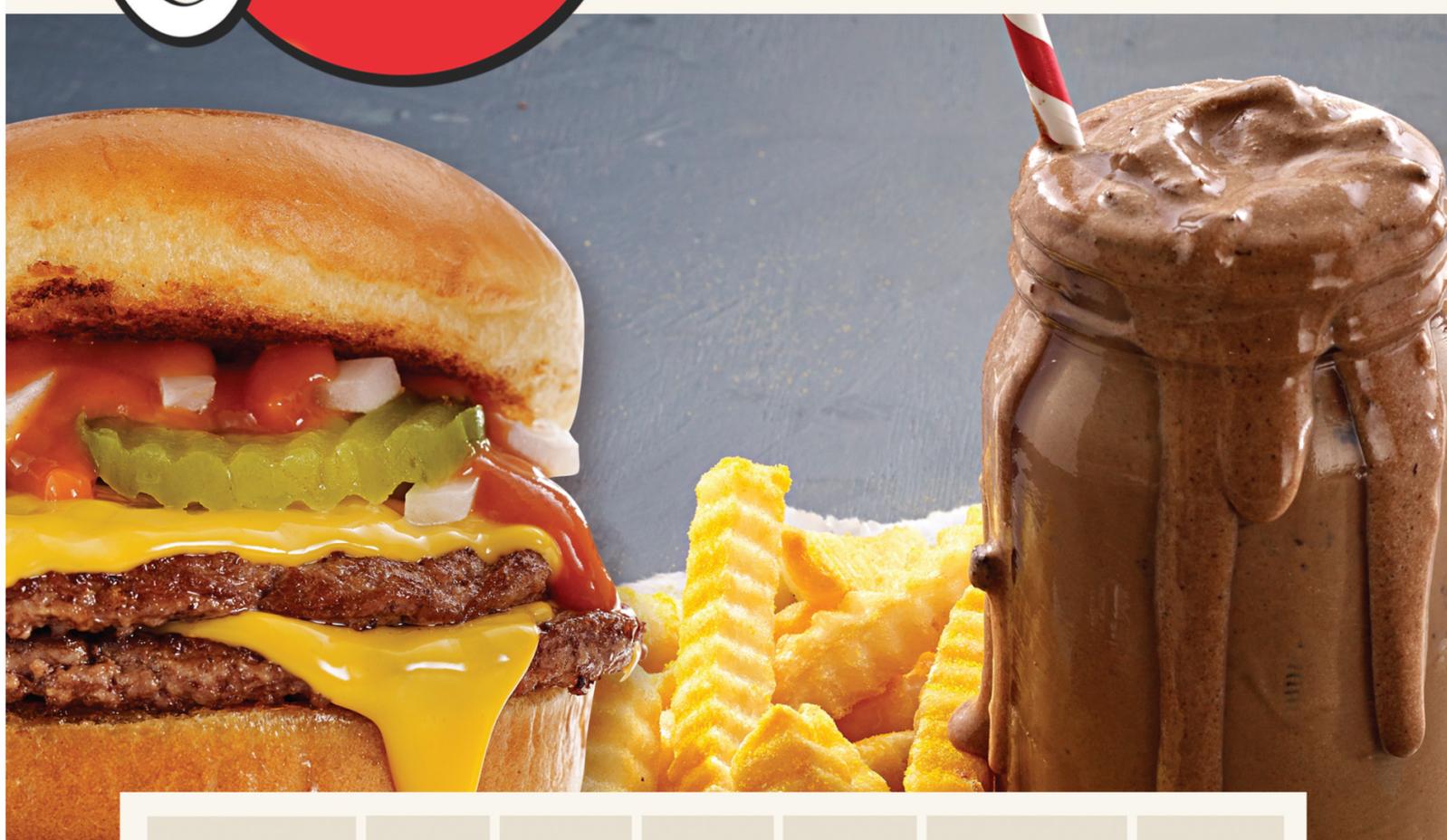
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