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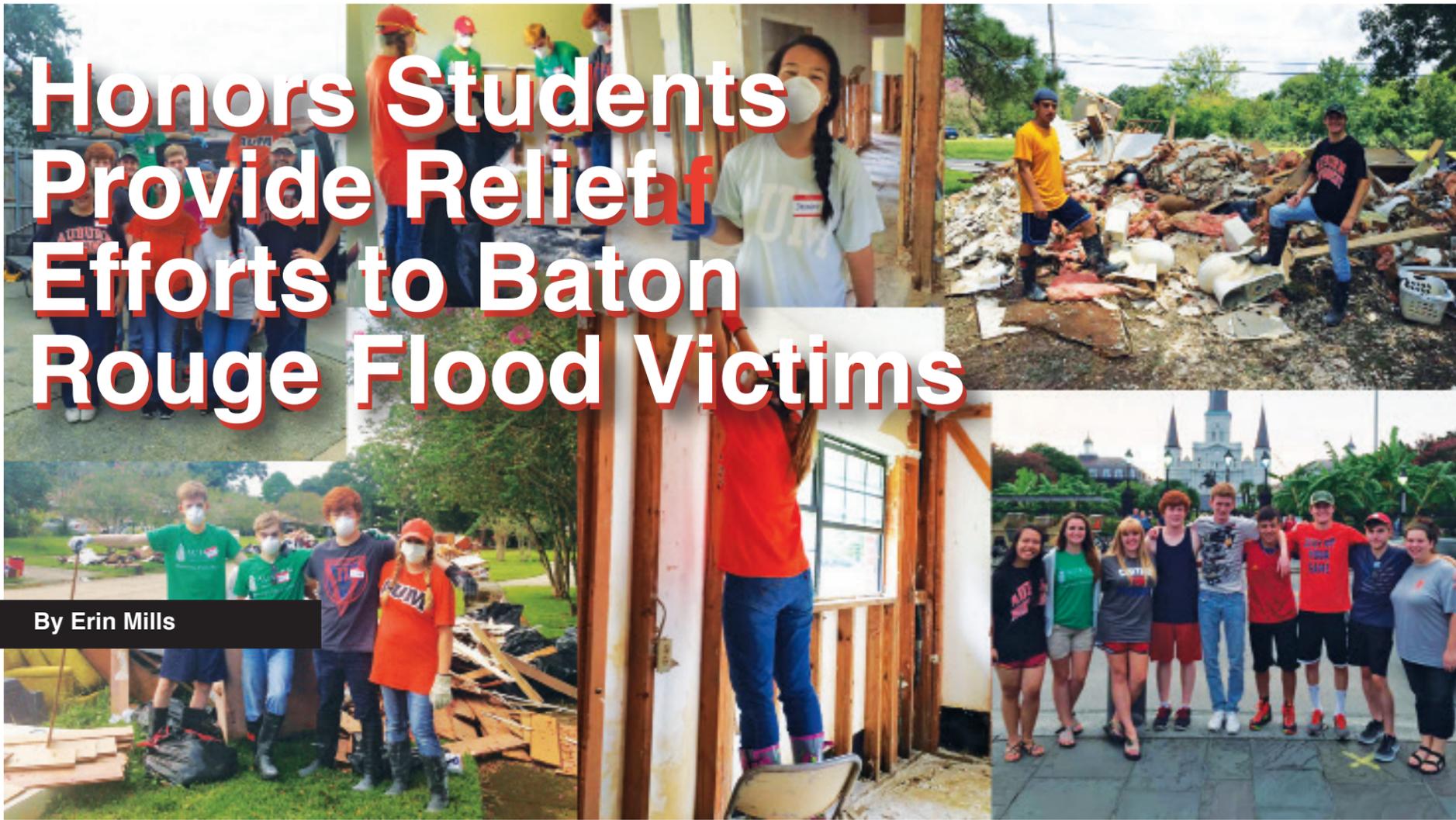
Warhawk Issue

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Chronicling the Campus Community and Beyond Since 1971

Honors Students Provide Relief Efforts to Baton Rouge Flood Victims



By Erin Mills

Honors students Jasmine Boutdy, Victoria Byrne, John Forrest, Brennan Herring, Elizabeth Meads, Rachel Pate, Alex Stephens, Matthew Taunton, and Arri Torres pose for pictures together in Louisiana.

This August, record rainfalls led to severe flooding in southern Louisiana, causing damage to hundreds of thousands of homes. On August 26, a group of nine students and two faculty members from the AUM University Honors Program set out for Baton Rouge, La. to assist with flood victim relief. The students who participated were Jasmine Boutdy, Victoria Byrne, John Forrest, Brennan Herring, Elizabeth Meads, Rachel Pate, Alex Stephens, Matthew Taunton, and Arri Torres. In the parish the group volunteered, over 100,000 homes received flood damage, and only one in ten of those homes were protected by flood insurance.

While in Louisiana, the honors students split into two teams, and each team worked on one house. One student Rachel Pate described the scene in the Baton Rouge area. According to Pate, when an area floods, one of the first things to flood is the sewage system. This means that protective clothing such as masks and gloves are required during the process. Pate's group worked together to clear out the home of an 81-year-old woman whose late husband had built the home for her. She had been in the home for over 60 years. The cleanup process is referred to as a "mud-out," and during this process, all things that have been touched by flood water must be thrown away. "It's like you're taking this person's life and throwing it out," Pate said.

The flood waters rose to

around 2 feet in the woman's home but the mold had already spread up the walls. As a result, Pate's group had to take out almost all of the drywall in the newly remodeled single-story home. Additionally, all of the furniture and belongings had to go. "You also have to go through her accumulated possessions, and you know you can't keep it," Pate said. The experience of the volunteers who helped to clean up the home was difficult, and for the Louisiana citizens, it was devastating. Despite the amount of flood relief efforts that joined together, the damage will take months and possibly years to recover from. Thousands of people remain without homes and are in need of assistance.

If you are interested in joining in the relief effort, there are numerous ways to help. The Baton Rouge Area Foundation is currently accepting donations for their Louisiana Flood Relief Fund. Volunteers can also join with Samaritan's Purse to help with debris removal. Flood relief donations can also be made through United Way. Even a small donation can help to normalize the lives of the people who suffered great losses in this historic flood, so please check out one of the above organizations and find a way to do your part today.

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Happy Halloween!

From
The AUMNIBUS



No Lottery Vote This Year

By Nathan Howell

Chances are, you or someone you know has driven to the Georgia or Florida border to buy a lottery ticket. With the allure of prizes such as the \$1.6 billion Powerball jackpot recorded in January 2016, it's easy to understand why so many people are attracted to playing.

Alabamians might ask why this option has not become available in the state, especially considering the prevalence of lotteries within the United States. Alabama is one of only six states without a lottery, although there have been attempts at creating one.

In 2016, Governor Robert Bentley announced a special session of the state legislature to deal specifically with the budget and the funding of Medicare. A bill was supported by the governor to create a constitutional amendment allowing for a popular vote to create a lottery. It would give 90 percent of profits to the state's general fund and the remaining 10 percent to education programs.

However, the bill was defeated in the House of Representatives due to general opposition to any gambling. Other oppositions were raised on the definition of a lottery. The proposed bill only allowed for paper tickets, not

taking into account the prominence of digital marketplaces, according to Sen. Quinton Ross, D-Montgomery. The defeat of the bill can be seen as unfortunate because the states that have already created these systems enjoy many benefits specifically related to funding. For example, Florida has raised \$1.66 billion for its education program according to the Florida Lottery's website. The benefit of this funding has a visible effect in Florida as it is ranked 6th in education. However, Alabama is ranked 30th according to a report by Education Week. While this comparison does not take all other factors into consideration, it is a broad look at the differences among these states.

This defeat is representative of Alabama's complicated history with legalized gambling. Before this time, Don Siegelman campaigned for a vote on a public lottery in his successful 1998 campaign for governor. His plan was ultimately defeated. A lottery is even addressed in the 1901's state constitution, where it reads "the state shall have no power to authorize lotteries or gift enterprises for any purposes."

The United States was specifically founded on the notion of an open democracy. Refusing to allow a popular vote on the lottery seems counterproductive for the state. For now, you will have to keep making the journey to the border for your Powerball or Mega Million ticket. There's always next time, right?

Club and Organization Spotlight

Tri-Beta—The National Honor Society for Biology Majors

By Seneithia Parker

One of the perks of being a biology major is choosing to join Beta Beta Beta, which is better known as Tri-Beta. Tri-Beta's National website states, "Tri-Beta is the national honor society and club for biology majors with three focus points: academic excellence in biological fields, dissemination of biology information, and encouraging undergraduate research." Tri-Beta was founded in 1922 and has installed well over 400 chapters throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

Here at AUM, Professor Michelle Taliaferro is the adviser for Tri-beta. This 2016-2017 academic year, she has given students the option to go on several trips which

include Georgia's Aquarium, Dauphin Island Sea Lab and Bird Banding, and Long Leaf Pine Forest. Although each exhibit provides resources that are applicable to marine science and related fields, students that attend the Dauphin Island Sea Lab and Bird Banding will partake in three hands-on exhibits.

"Being a part of Tri-Beta has introduced me to a world of biological research that I may not receive otherwise," said Sarai Beecham, a Tri-Beta member who feels that being a part of Tri-Beta has enhanced her college experience.

Annually, Tri-Beta members participate in the Pet Adoptathon. According to AUM's website, "The Pet Adoptathon has over 10 pet shelters and rescue organizations to attend every year." Potential pet adopters have a variety of cats and dogs to choose from that differ in breed, size and age. "There are a lot of great things that AUM has to offer, but I would say that the Pet Adoptathon has been one my favorite events," Jessica Law said. "Because of this event, I am

thinking about adopting a new puppy."

Students that are interested in joining Tri-Beta must have taken three semesters that included the courses Principles of Biology I and II. Potential members must have received a grade point average that is equivalent to a 3.0 in all of their biology courses as well as having an overall GPA of a 3.0.

If you or someone you know is interested in finding out more information about Tri-Beta, please contact Michelle Taliaferro at mtaliafe@aum.edu.



TriBeta is the honor society for biology students. Image courtesy of TriBeta.

Calling All Thrill Seekers

By Katelyn Turner

For weeks leading up to Halloween, people all over the nation find ways to celebrate the holiday before its arrival. Some celebrate by watching horror films or decorating their homes. Others, like myself, enjoy traveling to thrilling haunted attractions, all of which are different from each other.

Aatrox Factory in Leeds, approximately an hour and a half northwest of campus, is one of the most popular “haunted house” attractions in Alabama. According to Aatrox Factory, it is “the largest indoor haunted attraction in the Southeast” as the structure, which used to be a factory, encompasses 50,000 square feet. Most thrill seekers visit the factory during the month of October to experience the “industrial strength horror” produced by a cast dressed in realistic, and perhaps gory, monstrous costumes. Some guests go in the hopes that they will spot one of the rumored ghosts of factory workers who were killed while operating dangerous machinery back when the factory was in operation. The month of, guests may get to meet and greet the star of a classic horror film, such as Tony Moran who portrayed the masked killer Michael Myers in the

1971 horror film Halloween.

“Aatrox factory seemed very realistic to your worst nightmare,” nursing major Samantha Robbins said. “The scenes were scary-good and the actors were terrifying. Even waiting to go in was suspenseful.” The Aatrox factory did indeed offer back-to-back scares. The relentless suspension met with the constant appearance of monsters made it feel as if visitors were getting their money’s worth.

If constant horror isn’t your thing, then you might find yourself headed to Ramer, approximately half an hour west of campus, to experience its “Haunted Hayride in the Forest.” However, when stepping out of your car, expect to be chased by a masked man with a chain saw to the entry gates before you can rest easy. You can snap pictures in lines with a few lurking monsters, and then park yourself on a bail of hay on a trailer to be pulled across vast fields that are creeping with hidden monsters and ghosts. This attraction offers a more theatrical approach to haunted attractions. The hayride will pull slowly through several dramatic as well as bloody scenes accompanied by eerie music and spooky structures and lighting. Between each scene, there is some downtime on the ride, which allows for time to recover between each scare. Some monsters on foot may try to accompany you in the trailer, but the close crowd of people and constant motion of the trailer

lessen the desire to escape.

“The hayride was suspenseful,” said Kendal Butler, an accounting major at AUM. “But the actual scenes weren’t as frightening as I was expecting.”

Hole-in-the-wall haunted attractions may not get a lot of buzz, but that doesn’t mean they can’t pack a horror-filled punch. Greenville, Alabama’s “Haunted Firehouse,” approximately an hour south of campus, does just that as the “scare crew” terrifies guests around what seems like every corner and room of the house. Guests may feel the desire to escape as the walls around confine them and prevent an easy exit. The crew goes all out by dressing in terrifying costumes and literally breathing down the necks of guests.

“I have been to several popular haunted attractions around Alabama, and the firehouse is by far the scariest,” said Matt Langford, a student majoring in information systems. “The monsters get right in your face to scare you. It’s really realistic.” The firehouse donates the proceeds of the attraction to The American Cancer Society as well as the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

As far as Halloween attractions go, there is something for everybody. The Aatrox Factory offers Hollywood-style gore and suspense. It’s worth a visit so you can decide for yourself if it lives up to the hype. The “Haunted Hayride in the Forest” is best for those who want to experience the

thrill from a safe distance. Even if you think it is a bust, you might be lucky enough to capture a few breath-taking views of the stars on a clear night. If seeking out the best-kept secrets of Halloween attractions is up your alley, then Greenville’s Haunted Firehouse is the place for you. You can expect an up close scare as well as the chance to help support good causes. I encourage you to get out there and celebrate this Halloween by finding your favorite haunted attraction.



AUM students Katelyn Turner and Kendal Butler pose with a participant at the “Haunted Hayride in the Forest.” Photo courtesy of Katelyn Turner.

Roll Tide or War Eagle?

By Samantha Dunaway

“Do you go for Alabama or Auburn?” It’s a question that you probably have an answer for immediately. In Alabama, that question is frequently asked during football season and sometimes even during the off season. Football is more than just a sport in the south. It’s a religion. It affects work schedules, weddings and other social get-togethers. As fall and football season are upon us, it is easy to see how football takes charge and things begin to change.

Saturday is the best day of the week. It’s a day where people get to hang out with friends and family to enjoy nice weather, eat good food and watch college football. It’s a great way to bring people together who are passionate about the same thing. “Football in the south is our social event. Often times our best friends are the people sitting next to us in the stands, discussing play calls and accusing the opposing team of cheating. We live and breathe with these people,” Becky Teague, a grad student at the University of Alabama and former AUM student, explained.

The atmosphere around college football is different than any other. There are people everywhere and there is so much to do. People tailgate and bring games for anyone

to play. It’s when everyone is a friend. On game day, there is a lot of hype and it seems as if everyone is having the best day—at least until the game actually starts. “On game day, the entire campus is buzzing,” Teague said. Instead of students just walking around campus with the sense of dread from schoolwork, there is excitement because their team is going up against a rival school and hopefully winning the game which will lead to much celebration.

Not everything to do with football is good, though. People lose money in bets because they were so sure that their team was going to come through. Fights ensue between fans because of talking trash about the other team or just making fun of the person for being a fan. Then there is the infamous Harvey Updyke who poisoned the beloved trees on Toomer’s Corner in Auburn. Some people take it too far when it is supposed to be fun. Even teachers go on to use football as a bargaining tool. William Jobson, a student at Auburn University, spoke on that when he said, “Football is so influential that professors will use it as encouragement for students. If Auburn wins, professors will push back deadlines and give free quiz grades.” This seems unfair since the students have no control over the success of their team. College football is fun but can be taken to a level that makes it not as fun.

College football isn’t the only type of football that people get

excited about. Even at a high school level, football is everything. Rivalries between high school teams can get just as wild as college ones. Rose Wallace, a student at Prattville High School, talked about how it affects her school and community. “It’s constantly what we focus our school and community around. Our weekends are controlled by Friday night football.” High school football is a different experience than college football, but it is still seen as a big deal.

In the south, there are three things to live by: God, food and football. Football is more than just a sport. It really is a way of life. Not all people who live in the south love football, but the majority does. It’s a great way to be connected with other people and show support and pride for your favorite team. If you haven’t experienced a true college game day, get out and see why it’s one of the greatest parts of the south.



The rivalry between Alabama and Auburn is a focal point for football fans in the south. Image by Brittany Roberson.

My Life as a College Parent

By Samantha Banks

According to the Institute for Woman's Policy Research, 25 percent of college students in the United States have dependent children. I am part of that 25 percent. Since having my son, everyday activities like completing schoolwork, running errands and maintaining housework are a challenge.

I am a full-time student in my senior year. My class schedule is spread out throughout the day, and in between classes I have my internship. Even thinking about child care overwhelmed me, and I had to find another way. Luckily, my mother retired and can now watch my son while I go to school. The majority of parents are not that lucky. Child care is one of the most expensive parts of parenting. Several colleges, including AUM, offer discount child care for undergraduates. AUM's Early Learning Center is available to families with children who are potty-trained. AUM students are eligible for a 15 percent discount at a monthly price of \$488.80 tuition.

As an undergraduate student, I have not begun my full-time career yet, and affording everyday expenses can be a challenge. Being a working student is hard enough, and raising

a child on top of that makes it almost impossible. For single parents, this is even harder. Around 75 percent of single parent college students are low income. There are several options the government has in place for families with financial issues. I currently have a food stamp allowance and Woman Infants and Children benefits. Some people see this a weakness, but it is there for families in need.

If this was not tough enough, home life is now harder than ever. My husband is currently deployed, and this leaves me to act as a single mom. Instead of coming home to relax, I am taking care of my son. Doing school work is very stressful. Most of the time, he is sitting in my lap while I try to study or finish my homework. From the moment I start an assignment, I usually only have about 15 minutes or less until my son starts squirming and not being cooperative. I have learned that doing a little over a longer period of time is easier and less stressful than trying to finish an assignment in one sitting.

Although being a college parent can be tough, it has also taught me valuable lessons. From the moment my son was born, I couldn't love anyone more. Everything I do, I do for him. He is my motivation to finish college and be successful. I want him to be proud of me as a mom. Having a child has taught me time management skills, responsibility and so much more. While being a college parent is not ideal, it is not the

end of the world. If you utilize your resources and find motivation from your support system, there is nothing you cannot do.

Warhawk Squawk:

“The United States presidential election is just around the corner, and this year millennials will make a large impact on the results. Students were asked: What important questions do you think we should be asking the presidential candidates?”

-Deanna Chavez

Paisley Blackmon

Sophomore
Psychology

“I think we should ask the presidential candidates what they plan on doing for college kids. Will they implement a better loan forgiveness plan? Or even amend the student loan process as a whole in order to make it better and more affordable?”



Keyunna Moody

Freshman
Criminal Justice

“We should ask them how are we going to make our country better. What steps will be taken both economically and financially to achieve these goals?”



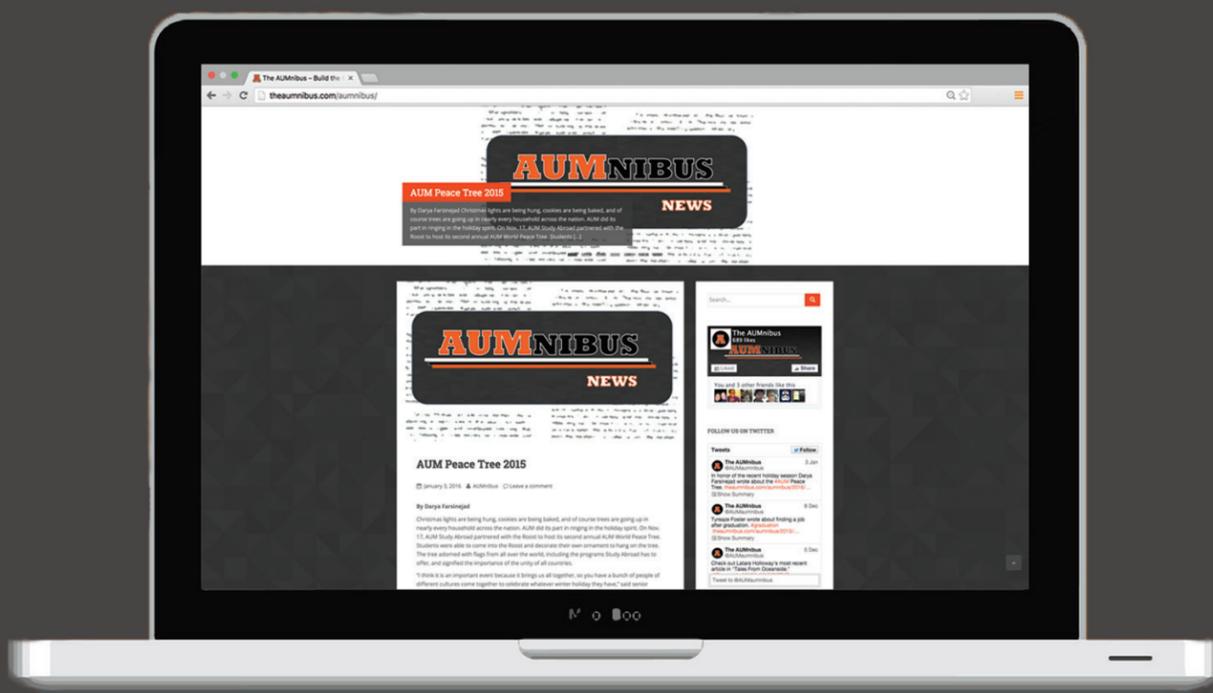
Taylor Barndt

Junior
Nursing

“I think we should be asking what can they do, not only for our generation, but also for future generations to come. Also what will they do both economically and environmentally.”



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