

The Crimson White



3 Blount Community

The Blount Undergraduate Initiative is celebrating 15 years of making the occasionally overwhelming UA experience more intimate by providing a living-learning community that encourages incoming freshman to make connections.

2 Voting Concerns

Some UA students who registered to vote via the SGA Voter Drive were turned away Tuesday when they tried to cast their ballots because they were never officially registered to vote.

7 LSU Activities

As the Crimson Tide gets ready to face the LSU Tigers in Baton Rouge, fans traveling to the game should prepare for a busy weekend. Check out our list of things to do in Baton Rouge.

NEWS | SMOKING

UA BANS SMOKING ON CAMPUS



Beginning in 2015, The University of Alabama will join more than 1,400 colleges and universities with smoke-free campuses. CW / Pete Pajor

Regulation includes usage of e-cigarettes

By Collin Burwinkel | Contributing Writer

The University of Alabama will become smoke-free effective Jan. 1, 2015.

An emailed statement sent to students Tuesday said "smoking, including the use of e-cigarettes, will be prohibited in all facilities, grounds and parking areas on the UA campus."

The Faculty Senate, the Professional Staff Assembly, the Office, Clerical and Technical Assembly, the Black Faculty/Staff Association and the UA Association of Residential Communities passed resolutions in support of a smoke-free campus, according to the email.

Colleges and universities across the country have established smoking bans as an effort to fight potential health effects from secondhand smoke.

According to the emailed statement, the University joins

SEE SMOKING PAGE 6

CULTURE | GAMING

Ubisoft brings new social racing game to Tuscaloosa

Students can demo game against players from LSU

By Matthew Wilson | Contributing Writer

In anticipation of the upcoming Alabama vs. LSU game, video game developer Ubisoft, in partnership

with marketing agency Creation, will be bringing their soon to be released racing game "The Crew" to campus Wednesday as part of The Crew College Tailgate Tour.

The six-week tour includes stops at key college football rivalry games. Two trucks outfitted with gaming stations will tour the country, allowing fans

from each school to play "The Crew" and compete head-to-head with their rival school.

"There are many similarities with 'The Crew' and these storied college football rivalries," said Dominic DiSanti, public relations manager for

SEE GAMING PAGE 10

PLAN TO GO

WHAT: "The Crew" College Tailgate Tour
WHEN: Wednesday-Friday, 2-8 p.m.
WHERE: Student Recreation Center



THE NORTH FACE



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561-1712 | Tuscaloosa Galleria



UA graduate donates \$1.5 million

By Ben Jackson | Contributing Writer

The Culverhouse School of Accountancy, recently ranked No. 8 in the nation by the 33rd Annual Survey in "Public Accounting Report," continues to make news this fall as alumnus Gary Fayard announced a \$1.5 million gift to create the Fayard Endowed Chair in Accounting. The donation, the largest in school history, will open up a new faculty position and help continue Culverhouse's competitive edge.

"This endowment by the Fayard family really gives UA a unique opportunity to compete for another top-tier researcher," said Rich Houston, director of the Culverhouse School of Accountancy.

Culverhouse recently posted about the new chair position online, and Houston and his colleagues have begun a search for the best candidate.

"While we could fill the position internally this endowment allows us to maybe bring in a behavioral accounting researcher with lots of published work elsewhere, and that's incredibly exciting," said Houston.

Fayard retired earlier this year after 20 years with Coca-Cola, most recently serving as the company's chief financial officer. Fayard and his wife, Nancy, are both alumni of the Capstone, graduating from Culverhouse and the College of Education, respectively, in 1975.

"We are forever thankful to the Fayards for their generous gift and support of the College," said Michael Hardin, dean of the Culverhouse College of Commerce, in the school's release of the news. "This type of donation is necessary to help the school of accountancy and the college move forward as a top-notch program."

In addition to the Fayard family's donation, Hugh Culverhouse, Jr. has agreed to match the \$1.5 million for his

2014 School Rankings

- 1 University of Texas
- 2 University of Illinois
- 3 Brigham Young University
- 4 University of Notre Dame
- 5 University of Southern California
- 6 University of Mississippi
- 7 Texas A&M University
- 8 **University of Alabama**
- 9 Indiana University
- 10 University of Georgia

CW / Maggie Woodroof

scholarship program in the college.

These additional funds, Houston said, will help continue to provide students necessary support to graduate with less debt and will help students in all areas of the business school, not just accounting.

"This chair position means a number of exciting things for our school going forward," said Houston. "We already attract very strong research and Ph.D. students and this new position will only work to increase our reputation as a world-class research institution in accounting."

Professor changed by CrossingPoints

By Geena Marshall | Contributing Writer

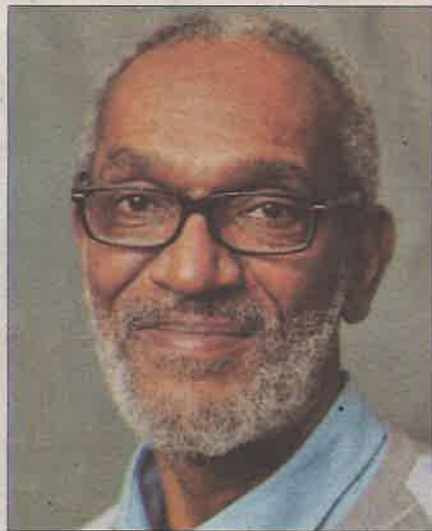
John Myrick didn't expect one 4-year-old boy to change the rest of his life. During his first practicum in special education, Myrick met Hank. Hank was non-verbal, couldn't walk and suffered from cerebral palsy. Hank may have lacked abilities physically, but this didn't affect his ability to change lives. Myrick was there to teach, but ended up becoming the student.

Myrick, clinical assistant professor at the University's department of special education and multiple abilities, strives to develop the special needs students of CrossingPoints, the University's transition program, into independent individuals upon graduation.

Even though Hank was not able to walk or talk, Myrick noticed the smile that never left Hank's face. From then on, Myrick said his perspective of life was never the same. The students of CrossingPoints are consistently joyful, which he said fuels his inspiration to help them achieve life at its fullest.

"I used to be a brooder. I don't brood anymore," he said. "When you see somebody like Hank, who can't talk, can't walk, but is smiling all the time, it's hard for me to get down on myself."

Seeing the transition of the students before and after the CrossingPoints program is the most rewarding aspect of the job, Myrick said. Throughout the program, the



John Myrick
UA College of Education

students are taught self-determination, communication etiquette and how to create opportunities for themselves. CrossingPoints offers vocational training and employment at the University's on-campus job sites.

To help the program's progression, Myrick created research on how the students responded to a self-analysis study. In this study, he recorded the students in a separate room for a conversation session, live-streamed them onto his computer and communicated with them through earpieces. The students were able to listen to his comments during the session and watch the video after for self-analysis. Myrick said he would always focus on their strengths,

not their weaknesses.

"They've always been told what they can't do, not what they can do," Myrick said. "The joy of seeing people do something that they've never done before, and to think I had a small part in that, is pretty rewarding."

This study proved to be a success, as seen in Myrick's student Demetree, who had a problem of constantly interrupting others. Demetree went from interrupting someone 64 times in a 30 minute session to seven times in a 30 minute session solely through the process of self-analysis and Myrick's communication tactic.

"[Myrick] has done everything from being on the job sites, to being their coach, documenting, doing activities outside CrossingPoints with the students and is always involved in the golf tournaments," said Renee Dickey, a para-educator for Tuscaloosa City Schools who has worked with Myrick for seven years.

After meeting Hank, Myrick made the decision to pursue a career that helps students with special needs live life to the fullest. Nine years later, Myrick ran into Hank, now 13 years old. After not seeing him for nine years, Myrick was skeptical of his memory.

"He was smiling away," Myrick said of the encounter. "That's when I knew. I knew he remembered me. I thought to myself, 'Hank, you are the exact reason why I'm doing what I do now.'"

Students have conflicted feelings on smoking ban

SMOKING FROM PAGE 1

more than 1,400 colleges and universities across the country that have become smoke-free.

Students have mixed opinions on the smoking ban.

"I have mixed emotions on it because, yes it will prevent people from being exposed to secondhand smoke, but at the same time, the University is supposed to be public property, and people pay tuition to go here, and so those people may be having their rights infringed on," said Abigail Ratliff, a non-smoking sophomore majoring in marketing. "I think it is very progressive, which is great, but as far as the students and the faculty that do smoke, where are they supposed to smoke?"

Anderson Turner, a non-smoking freshman majoring in elementary education said she thinks a majority of people will not like the new smoking ban.

"I don't think people will like this, because I think some people feel they have the right to smoke wherever they want to," Turner said.

Kathleen Giddens, a non-smoking freshman majoring in business, said she feels the smoking ban will not be effective.

"I feel that this makes people want to do it more," Giddens said. "When you're told not to do something, it kind of triggers your desire to do it. People shouldn't be told not to smoke if it's legal."

Zac McMillian, a senior majoring in management information systems, led the smoking initiative on behalf of students.

"I led the initiative from the student side, ensuring that the student body's will and opinion were properly represented at all levels of the decision making process," McMillian said. "I coordinated efforts with health professionals of the Student Health Center, deans of the colleges and leaders of the Faculty Senate, Professional Staff Assembly, Office, Technical, and Clerical Staff Assembly and the Student Government to ensure that all parties of campus were fairly represented and able to express their concerns with the proposal."

McMillian served as a liaison between the smoking ban and the students.

"This move is meant to provide a safe, healthy environment for all those who walk onto our campus. Everyone deserves an equal shot at academic success every time they step foot on the grounds, and a clean environment is a necessary step in achieving that goal," McMillian said. "Throughout the process, I made sure that the student voice was heard in every single meeting, be it among faculty, staff, medical professionals or even the SGA."

McMillian said he hopes this move will help place students' health at the top of a priority list.

The statement goes on to report, "The University is confident that both smokers and non-smokers will be cooperative, responsible and understanding during this time of transition as the campus-wide policy takes effect."