

# Rudd to meet with Student Gov. over rec controversy

SGA cabinet member and President Rudd weigh in on rec center

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THE DAILY HELMSMAN

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Thursday, February 16, 2017

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# THE DAILY HELMSMAN

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Your campus, your voice

# Recreation center face-off

*The delay of the recreation center sparked controversy among University of Memphis students and alumni. Many accuse the university of breaking a promise to students who've paid an increased student fee to fund the new center. U of M President M. David Rudd said the center would be built and will talk to students during Thursday's student government meeting at the University Center.*

*Q and A*

## Rudd: rec is coming

Budget causes minor delay in construction

By Helmsman staff  
news@dailyhelmsman.com

*Helmsman reporter Furnee Taylor interviewed President M. David Rudd about the recreation center delay.*

**Taylor:** What went wrong with the rec center plans?

**Rudd:** "It's a convergence of things as I have mentioned, and really the timing of it. We had a short notice request from the regents to respond to whether not we are going to release a contract with the rec center. In response to that, I had to make a quick decision. We don't actually have to make an immediate decision on whether or not to let the contract [go] forward, and we recognized a convergence of variables primarily around the financial model. The financial model was not generating the dollars needed to build both the recreation center and the land bridge simultaneously [nor] at the level it had been planned. We did not have an adequate financial model [to build] a facility [costing] \$63 million dollars plus the operational costs on the facility."

**Taylor:** Many students are saying that the rec center is not going to be built. Is that true?

**Rudd:** "That's not accurate—we are absolutely building this. It's just been delayed for 18 months. The fund that we established — and are collecting



**University of Memphis president, M. David Rudd**

[for] — obligates us to build the rec center and the land bridge, which we are going to do; but we are going to have to do those within the financial constraints of the fee.

"I have no idea why [some] would come to that conclusion. We are absolutely building the rec center—it is delayed by 18 months, and I have actually no idea why they think we are not going to build an additional facility. When we get the new facility done, we will repurpose parts of the old facility. It is important to remember we build new buildings here all the time, and we repurpose the old ones"

**Taylor:** At the end of the fall semester, we were told construction would begin at the start of Spring 2017. What caused the original delay?

see RUDD on page 3

*Opinion*

## Keep your promises

Students get multi-million dollar Band-Aid

By Drew Gilmore  
cgilmore1@mempshis.edu

The University of Memphis needs to keep its promises to the students.

In 2014, following a unanimous vote of the student senate, the student body voted for a new recreation center and the fee that came with it. This came after assurances were made by the administration that raising fees would guarantee a new center and land bridge.

In an email to the campus community, Interim President Brad Martin promised this monument to health and fitness on our campus and land bridge would be built.

For two years, students paid an additional \$146 a semester on the promise that this money would pay for a brand spanking new, decked out, top-notch recreation center that contained all the key elements they wanted.

The email our student body received on Sunday morning is disappointing, and I, along with many past and present student leaders, feel betrayed.

I stand behind the University of Memphis being financially responsible – there is no reason not to. However, what I do not stand behind is breaking a promise to the student body that has already been well thought out and budgeted for. So far \$15 million has been raised



**Drew Gilmore, Student Government Association cabinet member**

of the nearly \$63 million that would be used for the new center and the land bridge.

President M. David Rudd's email on Sunday said, "we will immediately begin limited improvements that will see the (current recreation) facility through the next decade." That is not what we have been paying for the past two years and that is not what we were promised. Instead of a world-class facility we will instead receive a multi-million dollar Band-Aid.

Rudd has disrespected the students who paid into this promise by not consulting the student senate first. I am thrilled to hear the land bridge will still be built, but what about the climbing wall, the largest indoor

see PROMISE on page 3

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## ►RUDD

Continued from page 2

**Rudd:** "It was issues on cost and planning. The original planning (was) slowed down on all of those facilities. If you look at the Centennial Place building, it was open almost a year later than the plan. It is a normal process of planning a building: making sure that the financial model is good, breaking ground and completing the project's ordinary delays; and in this case, there were some delays associated. Part of that was making sure that we have a sound financial model for the building."

**Taylor:** Do Centennial Place and the music building have an effect on our ability to pay for the new rec center?

**Rudd:** "When we built Centennial Place, it had cost overruns [that] were more significant than anticipated. That increases what's called debt serviced to the university. And so, part of the difficulty is that we can't have a debt service that exceeds our capacity to reasonably pay for it. To add another \$63 million to our debt



PHOTO BY JONATHAN CAPRIEL | STAFF

**U of M President M. David Rudd will talk about the recreation center delay and meet with the Student Government Association during an open meeting tonight at 7 p.m. in the University Center Senate Chambers.**

service for the university as a whole in light of the other buildings that have been built recently, put(s) us in a challenging position in terms of debt service for the university."

**Taylor:** To what extent did the new dorm push us back?

**Rudd:** "It has impact on our ability to pay for other building projects. We have a payment on that facility, and

that payment ended up costing more than the original projected plan, very much like the rec center was escalating the cost. Originally, it was conceptualized in the \$50-55 million range. It recently escalated to over \$60-63 million. We have to be very careful and thoughtful, plan very carefully to the financial model and to break ground on it in 18 months. I understand it is frustrating for students, but I encourage students to see what may be

more frustrating: for us to build a building that exceeds the financial model, our capacity to manage the financial model and have a series of tuition increases because of that. We are doing everything we can to hold tuition and fees down. Had we not made this decision, we would have some tuition increases that were unexpected and unanticipated."

**Taylor:** How will U of M be paying for the current rec center renovations?

**Rudd:** "We are using capital maintenance funds. Those are funds that allow us to improve existing buildings. This year in our budget, we have been allocated \$14 million (to) what is referred to as capital maintenance funds. Those funds go to the air conditioning of some of our older buildings. We will not be using the student fee to do that."

**Taylor:** What about the land bridge and the parking garage?

**Rudd:** "Those are moving forward. The hope is the process would move fast enough to break ground this summer. Those contracts have already been established, so that process is moving forward."

**Taylor:** Students were told they could use the rec center after they graduate once it was built—is that still true?

**Rudd:** "That is something that I can talk to the student government about. I never confirmed that commitment was made. That was not something I was a part of. We will have to look at that from a financial perspective, but that is something I would be willing to consider."

## ►PROMISE

Continued from page 2

collegiate track in the nation, the numerous basketball courts and sprawling intramural fields? Will the parking garage be built with the money set aside for the recreation center when there is a separate fee approved by the student senate for that?

This new recreation center was going to be the next jewel in this campus' crown. This building was going to help put the U of M on the map for prospective students. This is the same building that I could not wait to tell my Frosh Camp kids about this summer at NaCoMe. The same building whose plans have been sitting on the current rec center's welcome desk for six months. The same building that three years' worth of freshman have been told to look forward to. The same building that three years' worth of graduating students are upset they will not have a chance to utilize.

This is not about a building or a bridge—this is about not backing out of a promise. It is about reminding school administrators why we have a Student Government Association. This is about standing up against those who would blatantly disregard the student body's wishes. This is about reminding those in charge that SGA surveys and student voices matter.

Those plans are now in the trash. The new rec center is not the legacy of an SGA party or an Interim President, it is the understanding that Memphis Tigers deserve respect, honesty, and fair bargains. We deserve more.

We are "Driven by Doing" so I'm calling on my fellow students to now make their voices heard. Tweet your opinions about this matter directly to the administration to @UofMemphisPres.

This Thursday at 7 p.m. I will be attending the student senate meeting where Rudd will discuss his plan. Please join me and let our entire school know we are not letting this issue go. Feel free to use the hashtag #BuildOurRec on social media to let your voice be heard – let's get this rec center built!

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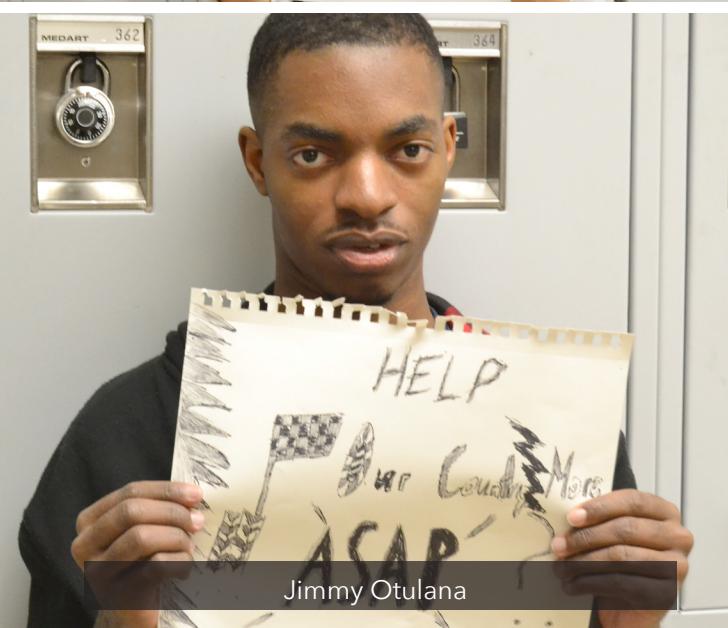
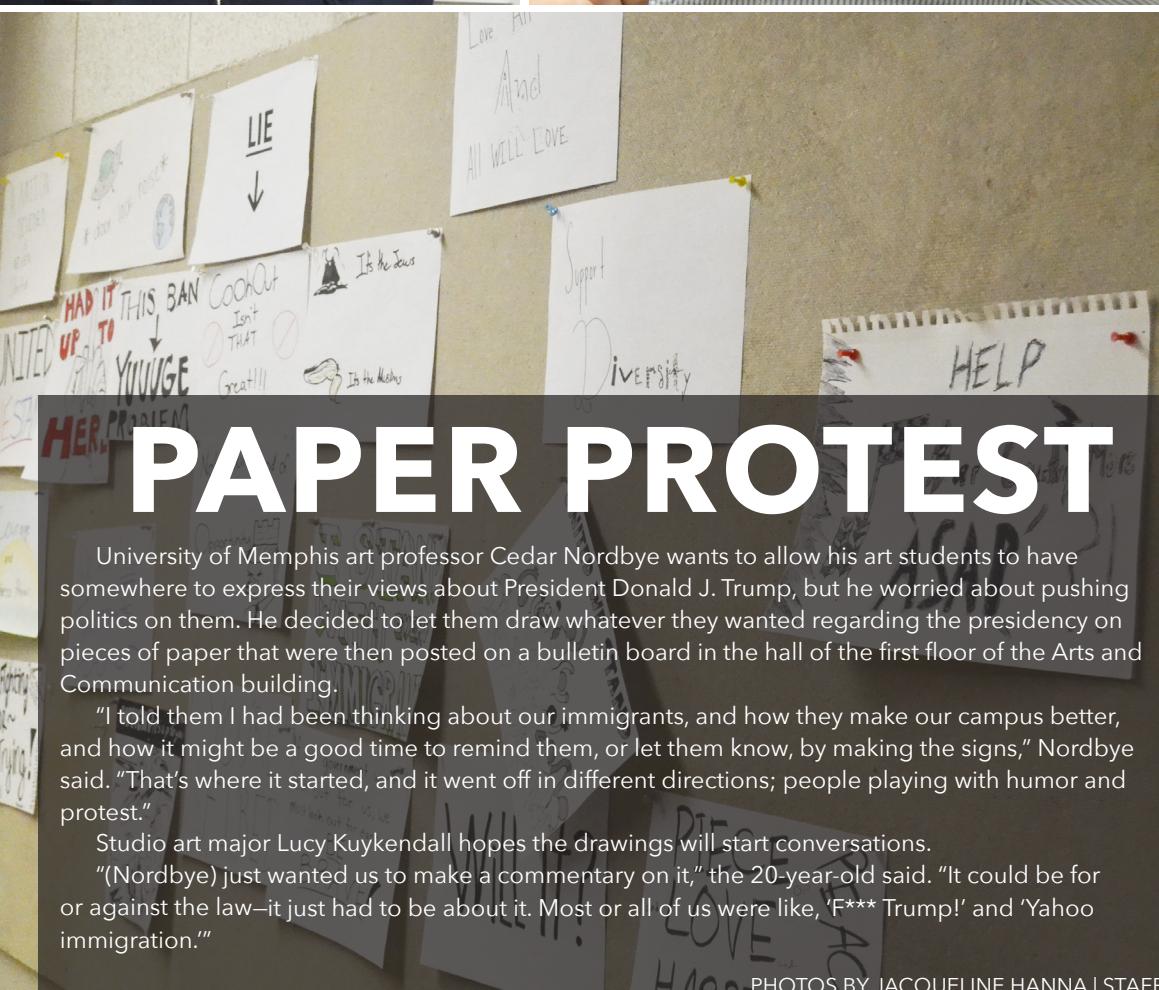
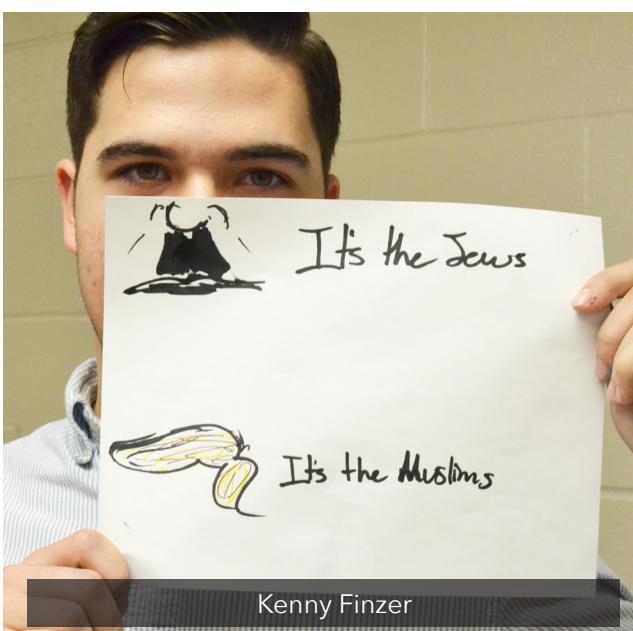
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# Memphis women's tennis coach brings enthusiasm to team

By Jeremiah Graham  
jgraham9@memphis.edu

Head coach Hayden Perez has the University of Women's tennis team off to a fast start.

A three-time Intercollegiate Tennis Association Central Region Assistant Coach of the Year and coach of the 2013 Big Ten co-champions Nebraska, he has led the Tigers to a 3-1 record so far this season.

Perez is a native of Abeline, Texas. During his time at Abeline High School, he captured a state tennis title in 1994, but Perez says he did not start off playing tennis as a kid.

"I grew up playing soccer up until around middle school," Perez said. "I didn't start playing tennis until I was around 14. My mom was a recreational tennis player and one day she needed a partner for doubles. I picked up the racket for the first time and fell in love with it right then."

A big part of his coaching style stems from two people — Kim Gidley, his high school assistant coach, and James Helvey, his college head coach at Cameron University. Perez was a graduate assistant for Helvey and later a volunteer coach from 2001 to 2002.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEMPHIS ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

## **Women's tennis head coach Hayden Perez encourages his team during the match. Perez helped head Nebraska to five NCAA tournaments and one Sweet Sixteen.**

"They were very influential in what I became," Perez said. "They both took me under their wings and helped me improve daily in practice."

In 2003, he took his first head coaching position at the University of Wyoming. After associate head coaching positions at Texas Tech and Nebraska, he became head coach at Memphis in 2014.

He took what he learned from Gidley and Helvey and implemented it into his own coaching style, Perez said.

"Details," Perez said. "Generally we want to focus on the small things, good footwork and good effort. We work on how our players approach matches and how they keep focus and stay aggressive during the match."

Perez enjoys coaching and finds joy in interacting with his players.

"I love spending time with the kids," Perez said. "It is a lot of fun to be around this diverse group. They're a hard-working, dedicated bunch."

Josephine Cao, Kansas native and one of only three freshmen on Perez's team, describes her coach as "energetic, loud,

(and) sometimes acts like a child," but that's what she likes about him.

"Coach Perez's personality, I would say, is one-of-a-kind," Josephine said. "He is a really goofy person. It's easy for us to talk to him about issues. We banter back and forth a lot, and we are basically children when we are around each other. It's just a fun environment. He calls me 'Bang Bang.'"

Perez emphasizes three things that Josephine says he preaches daily.

"During both practices and games his main things to do is: effort, attitude, and sportsmanship," Josephine said. "Always give 100 percent effort. Always have a good attitude even when you're losing. Always have good sportsmanship on and off the court."

Cao's twin sister, Katherine, echoed Josephine's feelings about their coach.

"Hayden's personality is very encouraging, caring, competitive and funny," Katherine said. "The best advice I've received from him so far is that everything will fall into place if I have a good attitude on court and give it my best effort."

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### **Feb. 19:**

University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, Minn.

### **March 12:**

Southern Illinois U.  
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10 a.m.

### **March 18:**

University of Houston  
Houston, Texas

### **Feb. 25:**

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Oxford, Miss.  
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### **March 15:**

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The Racquet Club  
(Memphis)  
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### **March 19:**

Rice University  
Houston, Texas

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# Cremation services transform ashes into art

By Patrick Graziosi  
pgraziois@memphis.edu

The funeral process is often thought of as depressing, cumbersome and even boring.

Select your casket.  
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While there's nothing particularly wrong with that, some people want to go out with a bang.

When famous journalist Hunter S. Thompson passed away in 2005, he had his cremated remains loaded into fireworks shells and shot into the atmosphere from a 153-foot tower he erected specifically for the occasion. The exit was a fitting one for the outside-the-box Thompson, and it started a trend.

All of a sudden, people began brainstorming for creative ways to be remembered. Cremation services specializing in converting ashes into gunpowder, vinyl records, jewelry and tattoos became prevalent.

While some of the options are humorous, the people in charge of these businesses take their work seriously and say it can help with the grieving process.

"I do believe having something beautiful people can reflect on that incorporates the body or spirit of their loved ones does help with the grieving process," said David Blake, founder of Spirit Services.

Spirit Services is a collection of artists, as opposed to a single shop like other cremation companies. They specialize in paperweights, garden orbs, eternal flames and glass flowers ranging from \$80 to \$200.

Blake says that new acrylic jewelry and musical snow globe urns are currently in the early stages of production.

"We're very excited for what the future holds in what we feel is a revisiting of having art be a large part of death," Blake said.

Jason Leach, founder of United Kingdom-based Andvinyl and a fan of art himself, has left his own imprint on the cremation game.

Leach takes cremated ashes and presses them into



PHOTO BY JACQUELINE HANNA | STAFF

**Businesses that specialize in turning cremated ashes into various objects are booming in popularity. Some of the possible cremation creations are vinyl records, jewelry, bullets, fireworks and snowglobes.**

24-minute double-sided vinyl records that can contain music, noises, or even the voice of the deceased.

Prices vary from \$3,500 - \$10,000. The higher end of the pricing scale includes a "FUNeral" ceremony where experienced event organizers create a proper send-off by including jokes, speeches, and dances while your specialized record is played.

The funeral business is a family affair for Leach, who grew up hearing stories from his mother about ashes.

"I grew up with a story about my great-granddad's ashes being released from a boat in the South Sea with the wind blowing and they had to sweep him off the deck," Leach said. "I went to scatter

my granddad's ashes in the same spot and the same thing happened."

Leach saw the story about Hunter S. Thompson and it became the inspiration for Andvinyl.

The popularity of creative cremation services has risen over the past 10 years, but not without detractors.

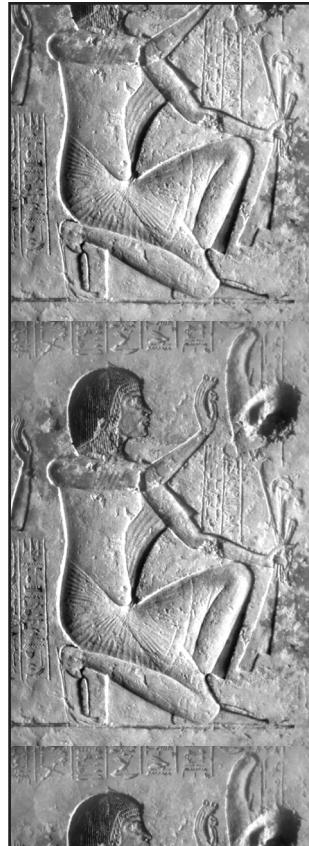
"Occasionally via social

posts, we get 'that's disgusting' or such, but that's maybe 1 percent of the comments," Blake said. "No matter what you do in life, someone isn't going to like it - it's a big world out there."

Psychologist Jim Chamberlin doesn't think there is anything wrong with these cremation practices, as long as the deceased and

their family are on the same page.

"Death is a part of life and funerals are meant for celebrating or honoring life," Chamberlin said. "If someone wants to be cremated in an unorthodox fashion then so be it - people are entitled to grieve and remember loved one's in their own way."



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# Sexual assault affects men and women

By Sage Cotton  
news@dailyhelmsman.com

In mid-January, a University of Memphis student reported that he was sexually assaulted after inviting an older woman he met online to his house.

Sexual assault is a problem, which affects both women and men on college campuses across the country.

Some of these crimes go unreported, which could be due to stigmas associated with sexual assault and men.

"One thing that we always need to consider when we are talking about statistics on men's experiences of sexual violence is that in many instances there are barriers to disclosing for any survivor," said Laura Palumbo, communications director for the National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

Data from the Campus Sexual Assault Study by the NSVRC reports one in

16 men are raped or sexually assaulted while in college, but Palumbo said the numbers might not be accurate.

"Often times we can assume that this is a low estimate because there may be many men who were not comfortable or really don't know what they experienced," said Palumbo.

The effects of a sexual assault can be as damaging for men as they are for women.

"The impacts of sexual assault for men are most definitely long-term and short-term," Palumbo said. "Chronic impacts vary from higher rates of smoking, higher use of alcohol or alcoholism and higher rates of drug use."

According to the Rape,

Abuse, and Incest National Network, 11.2 percent of all students experience rape or sexual assault. While

crime for a variety of reasons, but a common theme among victims of both genders is self-blame, U of M

Interim Chief of Police Derek Myers said.

"Sexual assault is probably the most underreported crime," Myers said. "A lot of victims think, 'How did I let this happen? How did this happen to me?'"

Victims are afraid to come forward for a litany of reasons, including thinking their family and friends and the police are not going to believe them, Myers said.

"There's a fear that people are not going to take their complaint seriously or that they'll be shamed or shunned," Myers said.

The United States

Department of Justice discovered just 30 percent of sexual assault cases in the United States are reported to the authorities. Many victims cite embarrassment, a fear of reprisal or a belief the police cannot or will not do anything to help.

Assault can also cause victims to question their sexuality.

"For heterosexual men, along with this idea of masculinity, there might be some confusion," said Timothy Miller, a post-doctoral fellow with the U of M Counseling Center. "Why didn't I like it?" might be a question, and that may cause them to question their sexuality ... It doesn't mean anything about your sexual orientation because it's an assault."

Victims of sexual assault can call the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-4673, and male victims can chat about their sexual assault experience at lin6.org.

## Memphis-area help for survivors

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# New gene editing technology excites some in scientific community, scares others

By Patrick Graziosi  
pgrazios@memphis.edu

Imagine having the power to make disorders and diseases disappear forever.

Next, think about passing down only positive traits – the ability to be athletic, intelligent and attractive – to all of your future descendants.

Wednesday's ruling by the United States Patent and Trademark Office to award Broad Institute the patent to CRISPR, a new gene-editing technique,

has brought all of those fantasies to the precipice of reality.

The decision ended a multi-year squabble with the University of California-Berkeley over the coveted patent, and highly reputable companies such as DuPont and Monsanto are ready to cash in. CRISPR stocks soared once the news spread, and the scientific community celebrated the major breakthrough.

University of Tuskegee Dean of Arts and Sciences and genetics expert

Channapatna Prakash is ecstatic over the CRISPR technology and its game-changing potential.

"We have a cure for many inborn disorders, new therapy for many diseases, a powerful tool for controlling deadly infectious, insect-borne diseases like malaria and Zika," Prakash said. "There are too many positives."

Not only would genomes in the human body have the ability to be altered, but also the genomes in our crops would as well, yielding more

nutritious, climate-resilient food with fewer toxins, Prakash said.

Scientists say the threat of designer babies would not arise for a while, but the possibilities of what can be done are endless.

When asked about what other new scientific technology and techniques to watch for, Prakash continued his excitement.

"There's too many," Prakash said. "There are many groundbreaking technologies on the horizon."

The way CRISPR works

is fairly simple. The system scans through limitless amounts of DNA code until it finds mutated defects. Then, it deletes the faulty portion of the genome, and scientists can choose to replace it or wait for the body to repair itself instead. By editing sperm cells and eggs, you can eradicate the mutated DNA forever.

HIV, Huntington's Disease and mosquito-transmitted viruses are a few of the biggest ailments remedied by the gene editing.

Prakash said the benefits of CRISPR would be noticed "in a couple of years."

The endless possibilities have some in a fearful state at what could come next. Some scientists are warning people to stay away from making "designer babies" while pushing for CRISPR to only be used to cure the sick.

Senior criminal justice major Hunter Gribble agrees.

"I think we should be careful with this new technology," Gribble said. "If we use it for good, to save lives, that's one thing. If we use it to make everyone look the exact same, then it's going to be a problem."

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# Softball player upgrades from small school to Division I team



By Abigail Warren  
ewarren2@memphis.edu

Volleyball, basketball, softball — Tori Harris was a multi-sport athlete from a small school. Now, she has taken her softball game to the next level.

Harris, a Memphis native, played volleyball, basketball and softball for Macon Road Baptist School. She is the first girl from Macon Road to play a sport in college and the first Division I athlete from the school.

"When I was in middle school and high school, I wanted to play basketball," Harris said. "I had some offers from smaller schools."

Harris decided it was more cost-effective to go to the University of Memphis and stay close to home. She realized in Spring 2014 that she could try out for Memphis' softball team.

"That summer we really focused on developing skills, getting in the best shape I could be," Harris said.

Unlike many college athletes, competitive softball was not Harris' gateway to playing in college. As a freshman, she tried out for a walk-on spot on the U of M softball team. She is now a backup catcher for Memphis.

"My dad said I was wasting my time ... I was

spending too much money (on softball)," Harris said. "My mom and step-dad always told me I could do it. They would prep with me, play with me and play catch with me in the backyard."

Harris' mother, Vicki Cone, was her coach in high school. Having her mother as a coach made her a better athlete, Harris said.

"If I was being lazy in any aspect, my mom would tell me to get my stuff together," Harris said. "Another coach may not have necessarily picked up on that ... Now, mom is my straight support system."

Harris' mother said her daughter's advantage lies in the work ethic she

instilled in her.

"I am incredibly proud and would like to take credit, but it was her who built her talent," Cone said.

When she is not on the field, her role on the team now is to be "motivation" and encourage her teammates, Harris said.

"That group in the dugout is the underestimated part of the team," Harris said. "That's who keeps you focused, keeps you up ... I'm a really loud person. I just start yelling and it all goes from there."

This season the Tigers will face top NCAA teams like No. 18 Kentucky, No. 22 South Florida and No. 24 South Carolina.

"College softball is the top of the list and division one is the best of the best," Harris said. "Texas A&M is coming to our place this year. It's crazy—that's one of the best teams in the nation."

Last weekend, the Tigers began their season 3-2 in the Felsberg Invitational. Harris said the team's attitude heading into this season has been "hype."

"Everyone is excited to go into this year with the seniors leading the way," Harris said. "We brought in a great group of freshmen who are really on board with what we are trying to accomplish, and we are definitely excited to play."

## Upcoming softball schedule

### DeMarini Desert Classic

Feb. 17-19  
Las Vegas, Nevada

### FAU Invitational

Feb. 25-26  
Boca Raton, Fla.

### Blues City Classic

March 3-5  
Tigers Softball Complex

### U of M Softball Tournament

March 10-12  
Tigers Softball Complex

### vs. Texas A&M

March 14 at 5:30 p.m.  
Tigers Softball Complex

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