



# Univ. athletics drop in SEC graduation rates

**By KRISTEN COULTER**  
 THE RED & BLACK

The University's football and men's basketball teams were trounced for the second straight year in graduation rates, as the teams ranked last in the Southeastern Conference for players who entered as freshmen between 1998-2001. The men's basketball team graduated 23 percent of athletes from this group, and the football team graduated 48 percent, according to the NCAA's Graduation Success Rate Report, released Tuesday. Both teams improved from the

NCAA's 2007 report. The men's basketball team's ranking does not include players recruited by head coach Dennis Felton, who came to the University in 2003. The football team's percentage includes recruiting by coach Mark Richt in 2001, his first year. Eleven University sports teams improved from the 2007 report. Men's cross country and track teams improved by 22 percent, volleyball improved by 9 percent and men's tennis improved by 5 percent. Five teams' graduation rates declined. Women's cross country and track dropped 4 per-

cent and men's golf fell 3 percent. The all-athlete graduation rate was up 3 percent, showing that the University is "headed in the right direction in most cases," Tom Jackson, vice president for public affairs, said in a phone interview Tuesday. Athletics Director Damon Evans expressed a similar sentiment. "Certainly we are not where we want to be and I'm disappointed in how we compare to some of the other conference schools ... but I'm encouraged by the continued improvement

of most of our sports in the GSR, including football," he said in a statement. Jackson said that due to "comprehensive" academic support, the graduation rates "will only get better in the coming years." To help athletes, the University offers academic advising, tutoring, proctored study hours and class checkers, said Jere Morehead, the school's vice president for instruction. He said these offerings have been expanded in recent years.

**LAST ... AGAIN.**

SEC football graduation rates	SEC men's basketball graduation rates
1. Florida	1. Vanderbilt
2. Alabama	2. Florida
3. Vanderbilt	3. South Carolina
4. South Carolina	4. Mississippi State
5. Arkansas	5. Ole Miss
6. Ole Miss	6. Auburn
7. Mississippi State	7. Kentucky
8. Auburn	8. Alabama
9. LSU	9. LSU
10. Kentucky	10. Tennessee
11. Tennessee	11. Arkansas
12. Georgia	12. Georgia

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## CELEBRATING TRADITION



RENEE AYLWORTH | THE RED & BLACK

▲ Local singer Allison Weiss belts out a tune during a performance at the Homecoming Block Party held at Legion Field on Tuesday. The event, sponsored by the Homecoming Committee, also featured free food from local restaurants. Today's homecoming events include a T-Pain performance at 8 at Legion Field. Admission is free for students.

**INSIDE**  
 See page 3 for student reactions to the new TV channel.

## Grady on air with WNEG

School runs TV station

**By BRITTANY BINOWSKI**  
 THE RED & BLACK

At 5:01 a.m. today, the University became the third in the nation to acquire a licensed TV station.

The Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication sealed the deal to take over WNEG-TV, Channel 32, in order to provide viewers with local and University programming.



CLARK

The station, based in Toccoa and serving Northeast Georgia counties, was put up for sale for financial reasons by Media General Inc. with a group of other stations.

The University of Georgia Research Foundation decided to purchase the license for WNEG-TV and have the Grady College operate it.

"We're going to reinvent TV and the way the media serve the local community," said Grady College Dean E. Culpepper Clark. The total purchase, including the installation of the

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## Eclectic Cuban duo combines musical styles

**By JOHN BARRETT**  
 THE RED & BLACK

**Editor's Note:** The interview with Gema Corredera and Pavel Urkiza was conducted entirely in Spanish. The quotes in this story have been translated by the reporter.

Here to call attention to the importance of cultural diversity in music, legendary Cuban duo Gema y Pavel is scheduled to perform at the University

Performing Arts Center's Ramsey Hall tonight.

The duo specializes in melding traditional Cuban music with Western popular music and jazz harmonies into a distinctive end result.

Vocalist Gema Corredera and guitarist/vocalist Pavel Urkiza represent an abnormal combination in the music world because of their discrete musical backgrounds: Corredera was classically trained at a conservatory, while Urkiza is self-taught and

**GEMA Y PAVEL**

**When:** 8 tonight  
**Where:** Ramsey Hall at the Performing Arts Center  
**Cost:** Free

"investigated music himself," he said.

But the duo insists that this combination works much to its advantage, as it lends the music a quality that is both technical and spontaneous.

The group's origins trace back

to 1990, when they met via Marta Valdes. Valdes is a principal figure of the "feeling" movement, a Cuban musical style similar to the American singer-songwriter genre where the songs are very closely tied with their respective composers. Urkiza noted that their music is "very permeated by this movement."

"We met in Havana because we're both Habañeros, and we began playing together because

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**POLITICS ON THE WEB**

Do you have an opinion about the presidential election? Let your voice be heard about the debate tonight by joining several Red & Black writers and representatives from College Republicans and Young Democrats on our live blog. Visit [www.redandblack.com](http://www.redandblack.com) at 8:45 tonight to sign in and start talking before the presidential candidates begin debating. Also check online for what Young Democrats and College Republicans said about health care, the economy and foreign policy at a debate hosted by the Phi Kappa Literary Society on Tuesday.

## Head coach defends penalty rate

**By TYLER ESTEP**  
 THE RED & BLACK

At 5-1 and reaching the midway point of the season, head coach Mark Richt was asked during his Tuesday news conference what had disappointed him the most so far.

With the Bulldogs leading the country in penalties, that was the obvious answer.

"We are leading the nation in that category, but this last game we did get a little better," he said. "Three of those penalties were a coaching decision to burn the clock. And two of them that were called actually weren't penalties ... If you take that into account we were down to seven."

Richt was quick to defend the referees and emphasized that it wasn't an indict-

ment on his part, saying that officials are the first to look back at film and acknowledge whether some penalties that were called should have been or not. The Bulldogs had 11 penalties for 76 yards Saturday against Tennessee, and are officially 119 out of 119 Football Bowls Subdivision schools in terms of penalties with 10.67 a game.

He smiled when saying he didn't "want anybody in my business" as far as the goal for how many penalties are "allowable."

"We were close. I set a standard where if you're at this level or less you don't have to do the team up-downs, 10 for every one," he said. "But we are having 70 up-downs today so that can let you guess." Although Richt didn't want the media

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DANIEL SHIREY | THE RED & BLACK

▲ Fullback Brannan Southerland (left) and tailback Knowshon Moreno (right) run to their next drill at football practice on Tuesday.

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**Erin go brag!**  
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Grab a pint Irish-style at the newest pub in downtown Athens. See inside for the scoop on the owner/founder's inspiration.



**Splish, splash**  
 page 6

The swim and diving teams plunge into their season today again North Carolina. Check out which swimmers and divers are set to lead the team in 2008-2009.

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