

Gravy

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ABOUT GRAVY

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Editor:
Sara Camp Arnold
gravy.sfa@gmail.com

Designer:
Devin Cox
devincox@gmail.com

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- ▶ PAGE 2
Impossible Fantasies
Chris Jones
- ▶ PAGE 5
Barbecue Goes Global
Andy Staples
- ▶ PAGE 8
Last Call at the Pillow Sled Bar
Spencer Hall
- ▶ PAGE 12
Why We Watch
Wright Thompson
- ▶ PAGE 16
In Memoriam: Furman Bisher
Wright Thompson

PHOTO, OPPOSITE PAGE by
Amy C. Evans, from the 2009
SFA Field Trip.

EDITOR'S NOTE

JUST IN TIME FOR FOOTBALL SEASON, this issue of Gravy was masterminded by Wright Thompson. A native of Clarksdale, Mississippi, who now makes his home in Oxford, Wright has covered every sport from cricket to bullfighting for ESPN.com and ESPN The Magazine. He's eaten pizza with Les Miles, explored Augusta during Masters week with James Brown's daughter, and embedded with a competition barbecue team that won third place at the Memphis in May World Championship. For his turn as Gravy's first-ever guest editor, Wright pulled together a hungry crew of boys to talk about the games they play, and the food and drinks that fuel their exploits.

Because I reached my athletic peak as a high-school tennis player, and because Richard Ford's *The Sportswriters* as close as I come to reading the sports page, I ceded most of the editorial control to Wright. And— I can't resist a topical pun—he knocked it out of the park. I didn't get to assign a feature on the impossibly adorable (and Southern!) Olympic gymnast Gabby Douglas, but I think it all worked out for the best. Thanks, Wright.

—Sara Camp Arnold

