Located in the subtropics of the Deep South, The University of Alabama enjoys four distinct seasons including hot summers and mild winters, with some downpours and severe storms making an appearance in between. Join us on a hundred years of journeys across campus, through all kinds of weather—puddles, snowflakes and sunshine.

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Weather facts courtesy of meteorologist James Spann

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“A friend is someone who dances with you in the sunlight, and walks with you in the shadows.”
The hottest temperature ever recorded in Alabama was 112 degrees, Sept. 5, 1925, in Centreville.
“The very shadows seem to listen.”

— Anna Katharine Green
“The sun lay like a friendly arm across her shoulder.”
—Margorie Kinnan Rawlings
AUG. 7–16, 2007, WAS ALABAMA’S LONGEST RECORDED STREAK OF CONSECUTIVE 100-DEGREE DAYS.
“All the statistics in the world can’t measure the warmth of a smile.”

—Chris Hart
Shelter From the Storm
"Anyone who says sunshine brings happiness has never danced in the rain."
AN AVERAGE OF 53.8 INCHES OF RAIN FALLS ANNUALLY IN TUSCALOOSA.
On The Quadrangle

“Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it,” said Mark Twain. Talking about the weather is a well-established American custom—and perhaps in Mark Twain’s day, nobody could do anything about it. The girls below however were not deterred in their trek to classes by the cooling showers Mother Nature thoughtfully provided this summer. The University itself did something about the weather, too; Harris Hall (formerly Colonial Hall) was air conditioned, the first girl’s dormitory to be done.

Altogether summer school 1955 was pleasant. The University symphony band continued their twilight “on the mall” concerts (see page 10 about new band uniforms); enrollment was up; and many visitors came to the campus for conferences and short courses.

The Bermuda shorts that were expected to be the uniform of the day for men on campus were few and far between. The shy males seemed less eager to wear the short pants than was predicted. Hot weather or no, the boys still preferred their khakis and denims, and the “college hots” remained hot.

“I am sure it is a great mistake always to know enough to go in when it rains.”

—Adeline Knapp
“There’s always a period of curious fear between the first sweet-smelling breeze and the time when the rain comes cracking down.”

—Don Delillo
Even the rain can’t stop the Crimson Tide!
"Snowflakes are one of nature’s most fragile things, but just look what they can do when they stick together."

— Vesta M. Kelly
Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look what they can do when they stick together.

—Vesta M. Kelly
“THE FIRST FALL OF SNOW IS NOT ONLY AN EVENT, IT IS A MAGICAL EVENT.”
“May your days be merry and bright, and may all your Christmases be white.”
—Irving Berlin
NOW AT The University of Alabama? No, couldn't be. Snow doesn't come this far South. Well, it does and it did.

Four inches fell on the Capstone Tuesday, January 18, and the University closed for two days because of the unusual snowjob. With so many students involved in the huge snowball battle on the Quad, few people would realize the University was officially closed.

The pictures accompanying the story indicate the exhilaration of University students over the event. On the first day of the snowfall, some students were up as early as 5 a.m. chunking snowballs at one another. Then, the next day, this exhilaration spilled over onto University Boulevard.

Hundreds of students joined en masse in a snowball fight to end all snowball fights. Students stopped cars coming down the boulevard, opened doors, and pelted the drivers with snowballs. Cars even towed students up and down the street on makeshift sleds.

Some Volkswagens traveling down the boulevard were picked up and sent on their merry way back the way they came. And when the police came to break up the gathering, they found themselves involved in the antics.

Amazingly, no one was seriously injured, although the Student Health Center reported several students with sprained ankles or broken bones.

An unusual event for the University, the snow turned into a happening. One reason why students went so snow crazy may be because they have been wishing it would snow for several years, and when it finally came, they made good use of it.

B.N.

Below: After the snow is over, it's time for this girl to get back to class. Right, top: Watch out! Notice the snowball in this picture heading for a policeman. During the two days of the snow, policemen were known to have returned a few of those snowballs. Right, bottom: Any vehicle traveling down University Boulevard was fair game for the snowballers.
To be interested in the changing seasons is a happier state of mind than to be hopelessly in love with spring.”

—George Santayana
“THE SECRET OF LIFE IS TO ENJOY THE PASSAGE OF TIME.”
“It was one of those perfect autumn days that occur more frequently in memory than in life.”

—P.D. James
Clockwise from top right: Bradford pear blossoms grace many areas of the University of Alabama campus in the spring; crimson blossoms of crepe myrtles are a sign that summer has returned to the South. Clark Hall is framed by fall foliage on a sunny day, shadows of ice decorative老大ore leaves near Clinton Hall.

Sunday Morning (Painting by Evan Wilson; www.evawilson.net)

2004

2007

ALMA MATER

1988
“I was born with a love for weather. I love everything from thunderstorms to brilliantly sunny autumn days.”

—James Spann