

MAN OF THE YEAR ISSUE 2015



MI

REVOLUTION MMXV

MILITANT TENDERNESS. SUBVERSIVE SWEETNESS.
RADICAL GENTLENESS. THESE ARE THE TRAITS OF
THE REVOLUTIONARY. THERE IS NO BETTER TIME
THAN NOW TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD AND
TO CELEBRATE THOSE WHO HAVE COMMITTED
THEMSELVES TO THEIR CRAFT. AS THE PAST FEW
MONTHS HAVE SHOWN IN GLARING DETAIL, THE
WORK OF BLACK MILLENNIALS MUST BE
CELEBRATED. AFTER ALL, OUR VOICES AND OUR
LIVES MATTER. THIS MAGAZINE IS NOT MEANT TO
BE THE AUTHORITATIVE VOICE ON THE
BRILLIANCE THAT EXISTS IN THE AUC AND ON
BLACK COLLEGE CAMPUSES IN GENERAL. IT IS
MERELY A SMALL FRACTION OF IT. IN SOME
WAY, SHAPE, OR FORM THE YOUNG MEN AND
WOMEN FEATURED HAVE PROVED THEMSELVES TO
BE WARRIORS ON THEIR OWN FRONT.
REVOLUTIONARIES COME IN MANY FORMS.
ACTIVISTS. MISSIONARIES. PUBLIC SERVANTS.
STUDENTS. HERE WE BRING YOU JUST A FEW OF
THE MANY WHO ARE COMMITTING THEIR LIVES
TO NOBLE CAUSES.





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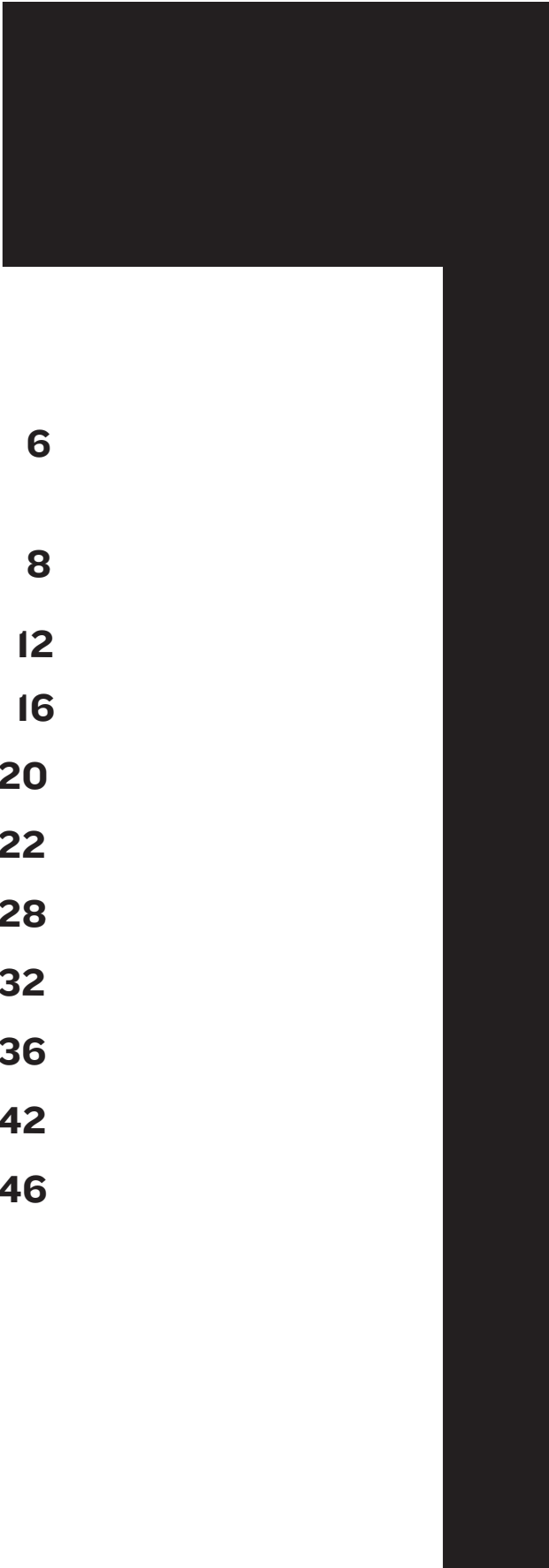
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LOVE

YOUR
CRAFT



JARED | LOVE YOUR CRAFT

MANAGING EDITOR, THE MAROON TIGER STUDENT MEDIA GROUP

Writing this reflection has been the most challenging task I have had to complete in quite some time. Though I am obviously excited to be writing another chapter of life, I am as equally tearful that I am leaving an organization to which I have offered my heart and soul. When I took over the newspaper as Managing Editor two years ago, my plan was to shape dialogue across the broader campus community. In some ways we have been successful: we wrote a number of pieces over the years that brought about administrative policy changes; we pushed for accountability of student government with a number of longform investigative stories; and we remained connected to the pulse of students. In other ways we failed: our digital arm is still in a restructuring phase; we are not as placed into the broader West-End community as we should be; and we have not been nearly as campus-news oriented as we should be. Leaders have to be honest about these sorts of things. I am neither superman nor I am particularly well positioned to do all the things I set out to do. Yet, I love this work. Curating people's narratives and setting the tone of the conversation is a unique responsibility. My love for writing and storytelling brought me to this place.

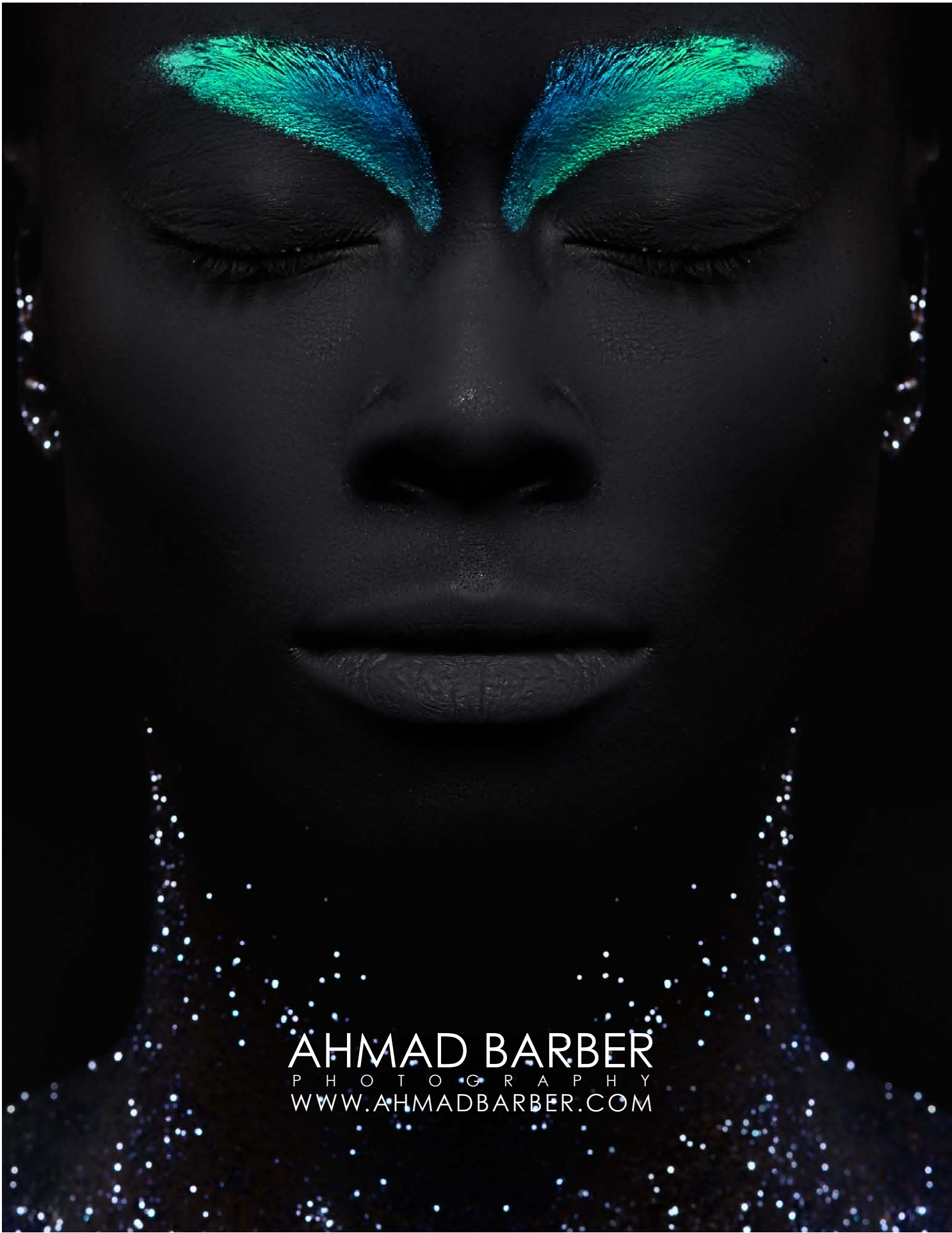
I'll say it once more: one has to love this work. One has to love the people in which he must ultimately reach. Most importantly, one has to be keenly aware of this fact: where we leave off, others must pick up and carry on. The staff that will pick up the mantle is absolutely qualified (and eager) to do the work we will leave behind.

I am absolutely grateful that Morehouse gave me a chance in spite of the seemingly insurmountable odds stacked against me. I am also grateful to be surrounded by scholars, leaders, future business owners, CEOs and all-around great people. I celebrate the near-infinite mass of people who deserve to be featured here. I celebrate the amazing faculty members who push students to do their very best work. I celebrate the college's support staff whose work often goes unrecognized.

One of the reasons I decided to take over this role is because I deeply believe in the power of narrative. We don't always get things right. In fact, I have had far too many "teaching moments" than I would like. But for those who love this work, sharing the story of another is a beautiful thing. I hope you will accept this labor of love. And I hope that anyone who feels inspired by this magazine will aim to define success on their own terms. Be your own man (or woman) and you will never go wrong.

With Love,

JARED LOGINS
ME 2013-2015



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MAN OF THE YEAR
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BACK TO THE BASICS: A REFLECTION ON A TWO YEAR JOURNEY

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, THE MAROON TIGER STUDENT MEDIA GROUP

When I became Editor-in-Chief the Spring semester of my sophomore year here at Morehouse College, I was embattled with a predecessor who, at the time of transition, told me “the newspaper is your only priority.” I wholeheartedly disagreed. Just the semester prior, I was wrapping up a venture used as a self-imposed professional development experience—The Darren Martin Show, or TDMS. This venture taught me loads about brand development, marketing, video production (pre and post), and time/team management. The short-lived show was a passion project that was also used to highlight the disparity of digital media within my beloved organization (The Maroon Tiger) in which I served as an associate opinions editor prior to my selection as EIC.

When I inherited the organization, my mission was clear: expand the organization into an explicit media group, create an umbrella structure of the organization and increase brand recognition which, in return, would increase readership online and in print.

What I found, however, was that our organization needed an overhaul in internal processes, a robust workspace, internal professional development and continuity plans. We were facing stagnancy, or at worse, total disaster and the only preparation we (my senior management at the time, the Dream Team for short) had was numerous hours of conversations and shadowing of our then Managing Editor and Chief Layout Editor.

This turmoil within a college organization is not unfounded; the turmoil within The Maroon Tiger is not unfounded either. In the digital age, many bad decisions have killed newspapers across the country; its even more evident within college media where a budget is literally life or death of a student-run brand. The Maroon Tiger was facing a similar situation in finances, but overall culture as well. MT was a very, very top-down organization that stemmed from lack of access and resources to train and retain staff members.

I vowed that under my leadership, organizational situations like this would never happen again. The Maroon Tiger was better than that, with a national footprint and a following from all three AUC institutions. We were better than disorganized, unwritten processes. We were better than just a newspaper; we were a breeding ground of digital pioneers, broadcast and print journalists, advertising sales executives, media entrepreneurs and much more. We still are.

My first year we fully rebranded to MT (a common acronym used over the years) and with the help of the dream team—some of the hardest workers I know in the field of media—we increased brand recognition by 500%. We introduced digital issues to compliment our print issues, we delved into multimedia stories, we attacked every form of social media to ensure engagement, we crafted brand marketing strategies to attract new, fresh interests to join our organization.

The summer prior, I wrote out an organizational chart that outlined the processes of our three branches and their collaboration within the organization. MT Newspaper, MT Television, and MT Business—with the new media arm serving as the bridge between TigerTV and the Newspaper.

In theory, it worked. But while our first year was met with great success in the newspaper and new media realm, we greatly suffered within internal organization morale, sustained unproductivity within TigerTV and the business side.

This year was a complete difference. With another year, our staff numbers grew from 20 to 60, internal morale increased, productivity in all branches has been steady, we completed the redesign of a 21st century media office space and we are now introducing a new brand to the Media Group, Project Y-Axis, a space for Black millennials to share their stories and their voice by and for each other.

But we are not perfect. Amid our exponential growth, we lost some of our spunk. Things we should have covered slipped behind the cracks. We were figuring out ways to appeal to you as a student and our national audience readers, and while you are reading (as digital readership has increased 1000% and print pick-up rates have skyrocketed—leaving us little archive inventory) we could do better. We could clean up a little more of our internal processes. We could prepare our organization’s members with more trainings and opportunities for professional development—and we will.

MT has always been a practicum for the creative student. It will always hold the record as one of the best student media organizations in the nation, not because of me or Jared Loggins or Tre’ve’ll Anderson, or Gerren Gaynor, or Donovan Ramsey, or George Williams—but because of us as a whole. Us, the students who have taken limited resources and fed hundreds of thousands with our words and content. Us, the students, who have stayed up late writing, or editing, or designing or filming. Us, visionaries under pressure from administration and students. And it’s also because of you: for reading, for supporting, for critiquing, for inspiring, for allowing us into your rooms or your phones or even your television screens.

This relationship has always been, and will always be, symbiotic. And while we grow past my wildest imagination when I leave, I will know what this organization has done for us as a people. So, cheers to greatest two years of my life. Cheers to going back to the basics, to coming back to you with greater conviction and vision. As we expand, we will never, ever forget that our mission will always be to serve as “the organ of Student Expression since 1925.” Never let us forget it, either.

All Love,

DWM, JR.
EIC 2013-2015





ALL ABOUT BUSINESS

ENTREPRENEURS OF THE YEAR 2015

WRITTEN BY: MALCOLM BANKS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY:

In America today, one of the key aspects to continued global dominance are the creative business minded youth seizing any and every opportunity. Jaya Johnson, a sure star in the making has already laid down the foundation for what will surely be a promising career. On the other hand, Laron Rodgers a senior hailing from Detroit Michigan has been through the fire that has strengthened his humble drive and is currently pushing him to another level.

Rodgers has an extraordinary, humbling story that will grow louder the farther and more successful he gets into his career. It all started with a vivid dream for Rodgers "I had recurrent dreams in which I saw images of buildings and structures that I could not identify. In these dreams I also saw groups of young men walking around and heard them using a jargon that was unlike that of the young men of my neighborhood in Taylor, Michigan—much more sophisticated. He continued, I simultaneously saw a tower and heard the melodious chiming of a bell. I saw a statue pointing to the institution, as if it were saying, "This is where you will go to become a man."

It became reality for Rodgers, as the vivid images in his dreams were that of buildings and students at Morehouse College. When surfing through the Internet one day, Rodgers found a link to Morehouse College and instantly knew this was the institution he was dreaming about. Rodgers, who came from tough circumstances growing up, followed his heart and pursued Morehouse as he was positive this was the place he was being called to go.

Packing only personal belongings: clothes, three bologna sandwiches, chips, a big bottle of water, and one-hundred and fifty dollars for gas money, Rodgers began his journey to Morehouse in a 1999 Lincoln Continental that was risky to say the least of making the trip

from Michigan to Atlanta.

Four years later, the young kid from Michigan who came from nothing has an extremely bright future on his hands as his creativity and drive have lead to him starting up his own business. Dulcet Sucré, is a unique candy bouquet business that has been nothing short of a success, created by Rodgers who describes it as an idea that seemed to emerge, uninvited, from the deep depths of his consciousness.

Rodgers has since launched the buzzing business twice, in January 2015 and on Valentines Day. The business has been a proven success making over \$1500 and total margins of \$1100, thanks to a mentor and father figure at Morehouse College believing in the vision Rodgers had.

As for the future high expectations are definitely set in place. "I plan to expand my business. My dream of receiving a diploma and becoming a wealthy candy business owner no longer seems to be as farfetched as it used to be," he continued "I pass on my experience in hopes that I can inspire someone who may be on the brink of giving up. My message is this: It is okay to cry, but, after the crying is done, you get back up and keep trying until something positive happens. Fight through adversity and learn to pray when things don't go your way. Most importantly, if you keep knocking on the door of success, it will eventually open. Given your unflinching tenacity, your success is inevitable.

In the AUC today, you have talkers and you have go-getters. Jaya Johnson, a sophomore at Spelman College is the definition who goes and gets what she wants! Johnson describes an entrepreneur as "Someone who is fearless, someone who takes risks and it isn't for everybody," the definition proves fitting for the young lady who is already developing an impressive

resume that many her age simply aren't.

Links by J. Kiere is an online jewelry company created by Johnson, the owner and designer of the company. "The company is inspired by the women in my life. Stylish and strong women who have all contributed to the young woman that I am today. Each necklace and bracelet is named after one of those women, ranging from my great-grandmothers to my mother." The company is one of Johnson's biggest accomplishments thus far as she noted many people don't go for their dreams, but she went for it.

The idea and creation of this unique business was formed in her high school days. "I took a jewelry class in high school and that is where I learned the craft, Originally I thought this would be something cool for me to do on the side and my original goal was for me to become a doctor but I just fell in love with my business. "

However the company isn't the only major accomplishment thus far for Johnson and certainly won't be the last by any stretch. Johnson briefly spoke on her major accomplishment working with Black Enterprise. "Being in Black Enterprise in March 2014 that was definitely a great opportunity and I learned a lot"

With all the major accomplishment Johnson has received thus far, its no surprise the bar is set high for the future. "My end goal is to become a custom jewelry designer for fashion designers and see my stuff on the runways and nostrum, there aren't a lot of black jewelry designers at big stores like Nordstrom so this is my chance to feel that gap"

Johnson is currently developing her second business, a food business with her friend Morgan and will certainly be something to look out for in the near future.

CHARLIE WILEY

From the moment Charlie Wiley steps into a room, he demands attention with his creative walk and fashion preference that demands nothing but respect. Wise like many other Men of Morehouse is a sharp dresser, but Wiley is taking it a step further, turning his style into a business.

Wiley describes an entrepreneur as "one who has his own business or wants to just succeed in life." Wiley created Cynosure Apparel a men's clothing line that blends eccentric and urban and is looking forward to working with woman soon.

The fashion world can be hit or miss and Wiley understands this as he is taking all the necessary steps to succeed. "My biggest accomplishment is getting it out to celebrities," Wiley said. "I'm a fashion designer so I feel like one of the biggest ways for your material to be seen is to get it broadcasted by celebrities. Having a connection with NeNe Leakes, having her take a look at my sketches and asking her how did she get to where she is has been very helpful."

Wiley has his eyes set on nothing short of success similar to that of his idol Oliver Rousteing in the future. "I'm willing to work the hardest I can. I chose to attend Morehouse and not a fashion school because fashion is something I already know. What people want to wear, how they want to wear it and whatever card I'm going for I can understand based on a person's background how to develop something for them."

For Wiley, his business is not an interest--it is his life--and bridging his passion for fashion with his passion to authentically know others makes him poised for success in and outside of the fashion world

GRANTLEY WHITAKER

Grantley Whitaker, a bright young Man Of Morehouse from Philadelphia has a God driven vision that is all about helping others. Whitaker describes an entrepreneur as "A leader. Someone who can change the game and has an innovative



mind." He continued, "If it's a product, any way you can make that better because it's helping others, that's a real man, that's an entrepreneur."

Whitaker, didn't always have the vision he has now, he states that his earlier years were filled with the assurance that he would work his way up and become a CEO of a company. That is before he created Don't Sleep Incorporated.

"Don't sleep incorporated is a business that helps others.. I started off mentoring at middle schools speaking to 7th and 8th graders talking about the transition and what they need to do for the transition to college. I think talking to students before high school will help them in high school and be better prepared for college." He continued, "I realized I needed help but I couldn't do it alone. I sat down with my brother and decided on a T-shirt company that would create attention and have people

ask, "What is that?"

Whitaker would go on to donating the shirts to his White Hall Stroll team and other brothers that stayed in his freshman hall. Photography and Videography would also be added to the company, further helping to get the name out to the masses.

"I don't want to live by the phrase crab in a bucket. I want to be able to help you because I know you're going to help me. I want to be able to reach out and help as many people as I can"

That's what Don't Sleep is all about.

JUSTIN LEE

Justin Lee, a freshman at Morehouse College describes an entrepreneur as "someone who is a go-getter, someone who has an idea and goes after it not following someone else's"



In Houston Texas, Lee worked as a Cashier where he would put a vacuum machine on his back every night cleaning up. He knew from this experience that he had to create his own business. Lee, created Retro Exchange, A vintage Sneaker & Clothing Shop that buys, sells, & trades apparel. "I hosted my own sneaker conference here at Morehouse College in February. A lot of fashion industry people came out and showcased their talent as well as Morehouse students as well."

Lee has seen much success early as Retro Exchange has been featured in local celebrity blogs. Retro Exchange has been able to promote what Lee believes in and bringing awareness.

"Right now I'm 17 I want to be a millionaire by 21. He continued. "I'm willing to go from here to Canada.. Its important to make 1,000 for myself than for someone else.. so whatever it takes, I'm going to do it."

Lee has bigger plans ahead in the future as he strives to become a real estate guru, owning multiple businesses helping minorities in his hometown of New Orleans.

STUDIO P5

Nate Suarez, Shaq Lewis and Deron Cooper make up the conglomerate that created the brand, The Posh and Poise. The group see's entrepreneurship as "Personally making an opportunity and taking your advantages, using your talents and your hard work to make your own business

and be your own boss"

These young men are certainly their own bosses as they created The Posh and Poise, which can be described as a lifestyle blog that gives the world a look into historical black colleges and universities, which allows people to understand and see the rich culture behind them.

But the group isn't done growing and evolving yet.

"Originally we were The Poshe and Poise, now we are studio P5, we started off as a blog but now were transitioning into branding. He continued. "we take different artist and people who have different business, help them branding their artists work and creative direction and we do events as well," Suarez stated.

As they merge into a marketing, branding and management firm they will use their collective talents within music, fashion, and art, all providing our different talents and build something very successful"

The group uses there own money for funding and don't believe in asking others for a handout. They continue to remain assertive in their approach to being successful each and everyday.

"I live, and breathe this if your trying to do something, be about it one hundred percent, we are already looking into the next venture we want to do it all," Cooper said.





THE UNUSUAL UPROAR

SARTORIAL EXCELLENCE 2015

WRITTEN BY: JAYSON OVERBY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY: AHMAD BARBER

It's not whether you win or lose, it's how hard you've worked—or dressed. Gazing into the wrong side of the two-way mirror, you think being sartorially inclined means knowing how to dress. It's almost every other day that folk are bombarded with standards of what qualifies as being “best dressed” or “fashion killer.” The standard of fashion is different from style considering style is personal and from within.

The only thing she was worried about was her second outfit. Shifting the conversation in fashion and style, Khalia Braxton, an International Studies Major, has never applied for a job in retail but remains on top of the fashion hierarchy creating her own narrative. Always ahead of her peers, Braxton has always been eclectic in her approach to clothing as an enthusiast of color palettes beyond the norm.

An image consultant and influencer, Braxton has laced herself in positions to help others develop their image and

build upon their knowledge of fashion. Being an image consultant means knowing what works, and Braxton has continuously done so even dating back to her days in high school. Described by others as always stepping out of the box and breaking rules, she has been different since the beginning.

One of the first things Braxton notices with a new client is that helping them develop their own style file is building their character and confidence. Pulling out things that they like, whether in magazines and fashion catalogue, she's invested in building women. Already having interned with Harlem Fashion Row, working with fashion critic Bevy Smith and June Ambrose, Braxton is dedicated to her profession and future.

At first glance, one is inclined to think that this guy doesn't own any clothing besides suits and chinos. On a path to define himself and his future, Shaun Cunningham, a Philosophy and Political Sci-

ence, is major reconstructing the image of what it means to be sartorial. You've seen on campus, probably watched him give a few tours but trying to figure out how he classifies as sartorially inclined. In his scholarly pursuit, Cunningham has allowed himself to be open and embrace what style really and having a working knowledge of what actually works.

Pacing a campus of males wearing suits of all sorts, Cunningham has been able to form his own lane not only for students but also for his son. As a father of a two-year-old, Cunningham is preparing for life after college and also for his child future. Understanding that it's not about him, his son makes him work harder and strive for more. Presenting an authentic image of manhood to his son, he aims to show him how a man should dress and preset himself. Donning suits in materials and patterns that include, seersucker, plaid, wool, he has been able to set a standard.



BRIAR DAVIS: "It was a long road," as noted by Briar Davis, a Junior Journalism Major at Clark Atlanta University. With an exclusive street style, mixing denim and minimal colors Davis has managed to create a lane in a community saturated with fashion. Allowing her style to flow, Davis credits a younger version of herself for always being the young girl willing to break rules and not following trends. An eclectic individual in style and conversation, Davis's unusual approach to style has enabled her to be an influencer. After her undergraduate career, Davis seeks to move back to her hometown of Nashville, Tennessee to a culturally conscious magazine, honing in on the skills and talents of friends from back home. Creating a platform for others enjoy art, fashion, and music through a quality experience. Max Pritchett: Walking the campus in Balmain, Bape, and Raf, he's a walking image of street style.

MAX PRITCHETT, a Freshman Engineering Major, is in the middle of his concentration trying to figure out if everything is working cohesively

to build a visual platform. Making his visions realistic, Pritchett sees everything as an aesthetic block defining style as a code, solving and learning concepts on each level. In order to have style, one possesses confidence and has autonomy over the way one thinks. Aspiring to have his own fashion house, Pritchett is focused on building his own brand titled "Black Alumni." A collection inspired by the sciences, he aims to create a premium experience through fashion by creating one of a kind pieces. Pritchett said, "Raf Simons has so much imagination, he's a prophet in so many ways," referring to his style influence.

JALEN LAW: In 2013, Ralph Lauren discontinued the Rugby Brand but it never put a halt to the style of Jalen Law, Senior English major and CTMS minor. Anyone who meets Law quickly understands that traditional prep and Ivy League heavily influence his style. Although, very few know that Law began his style journey as streetwear but soon shifted to a more professional look. His knowledge in prep aided in his

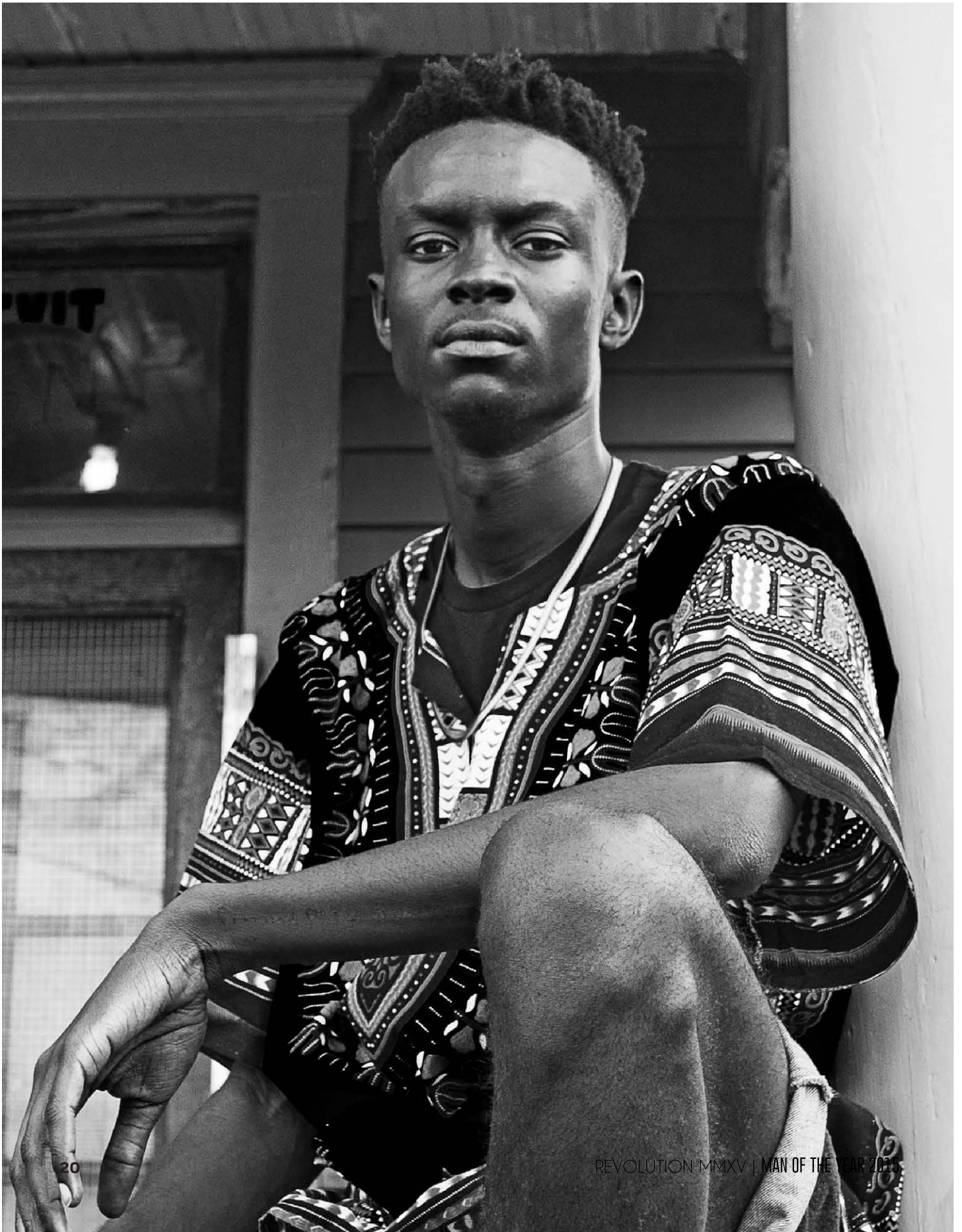


growth not only in style but in his personal life, allowing himself to understand that looking good means feeling good deviating from what everyone was doing. Law credits his influence in style at Morehouse College Alum James Jetter who lifted the standard of traditional prep style whilst at the institution.

MEAGAN ALLEN: Everyone loves to dress up, but Meagan Allen, a senior Psychology major, loves celebrating women who love to dress up. Showcasing a style influenced by Audrey Hepburn and Rihanna, Allen has evolved in fashion and found herself within her personal style, becoming more liberal and open. An aspiring fashion entrepreneur, Allen has already begun with an online boutique called "Monroe" and aims to expand the business to a storefront in Atlanta. Considering her admiration for celebrating women, Allen seeks to have a styling and consulting firm working with larger fashion companies like Bloomingdales, Neimans, and Saks doing

visuals and buying. Although her love for high fashion continues to expand, she credits stores like ASOS, H&M, and Nasty Gal for aiding in her elegant style. "Nothing anyone else is doing can stop you from being you", said Allen in regards to letting brands define one personal style and ideologies.

JORDAN TRIPLETT: It only takes adding a word to a phrase to make it seem more exclusive than what it really is, but Jordan Triplett says different. A Political Science major, Triplett knows how to make an entrance in any space she occupies and frequents. The woman she has become is evident in her personal growth, but also in her style of dressing. There is no shortage in her wardrobe; she's just a tomboy—a chic tomboy. On her opinion of what style is, Triplett said, "It's about being comfortable and being happy, but at the same time it also means taking things that others are doing and making it your own. Reinventing trends and making them personal for you." Often wearing Adidas and distressed denim, Triplett has altered the notion of what clothes really define a woman.



“People get used to anything. The less you think about your oppression, the more your tolerance for it grows. After a while, people just think oppression is the normal state of things. But to become free, you have to be acutely aware of being a slave.” Assata Shakur.



WARRIORS OF JUSTICE

ACTIVISTS
OF THE YEAR 2015

WRITTEN BY: JERREL FLOYD
PHOTOGRAPHY BY: KENNETH GREENWOOD

With all that has been done to defile the potential progression and basic stability of the black community, it is almost innate for some individuals to merge into a state of existence that embodies ignorance and complacency in order to avoid the frustration that comes with challenging a present norm not too far departed from its predecessor. However, complacency is not as appealing to those individuals who seek to alter the present status quo in America.

“I’m not here to be your average respectable human being, especially not your average respectable negro” sophomore Sociology major and African American Studies minor Avery Jackson said. Upon his arrival and present time at Morehouse College, sophomore Avery Jackson and the term activism have almost become synonymous here in the Atlanta University Center. “I’ve always had a drive to challenge things” Jackson said.

Today, though people hear names like Eric Garner and Mike Brown and immediately feel a spark to be more active about speaking out against injustice, Jackson’s relationship with activism reached new heights with the name Martin Luther King Jr.

During his senior year of high school in Des Moines, Iowa, officials attempted to vote away Martin Luther King day as a day off. It was at this point that he truly became passionate about organizing and using direct action to highlight injustice. Jackson was able to get students organized and riled up and as a result

they were able to change the decision.

“I realized that my voice could be used in a way that was more positive” Jackson said. This realization of his voice would follow Jackson all the way to his present matriculation at Morehouse College, thus allowing for his promotion of movements like #URGE in Des Moines and the infamous AUC Shut It Down.

“AUC Shut It Down is a movement” Jackson said. “It’s not a registered student organization and we have no intention of becoming one.” Birthed out of the lack response from the current forces in the AUC centered around social justice work, AUC Shut It Down became an avenue for Jackson to not only channel his voice into something impactful, but to also inspire a group of AUC students to do it with him.

“I had a conversation with a couple of people and I was like ‘I can’t keep sitting here’” Jackson said.

It all began with Jackson establishing a group made up of a collection of people interested in being a part of something actively doing social justice work. In a matter of three days membership went from 20 to 80 people, resulting in around 75 people being in attendance at the first emergency call to action meeting of AUC Shut It Down. Unlike a number of the present student movements, Jackson was not content with just allowing AUC Shut It Down to become solely a meeting based movement. “We are beyond talking about it on panels” Jackson said. “We

are really focused on being the action within the AUC.” Ranging from providing digital support to distant movements, to marching into Atlanta restaurants shouting the names and stories of innocent individuals killed by police officers in an event called Black Brunch ATL, AUC Shut It Down has become a powerhouse when it comes to taking direct action for social justice.

However, this experience has not been a complete fairytale story for Jackson and the AUC Shut It Down movement. Upon conducting events like the Black Brunch ATL, Jackson has received various death threats on social media as well as been in relationship with individuals who have been followed by the police as a result of their actions.

It is during moments like this where Jackson reflects on a piece of literature that has followed him from his high school experiences in Des Moines to today.

“Reading Assata Shakur’s autobiography in high school showed me how much I had to put into this work and how serious it was” Jackson said.

Being a person who is willing to go beyond verbal confrontations and written dialogue is a story Assata Shakur was and still is all too familiar with, and now it is one Avery Jackson is preparing to live and embrace with courage and focus.

“I’m advocating for equality to make someone else’s life easier” Jackson said. “I don’t think anybody can snatch the fire from me.”

It was believed that by today America would finally have it right; that the trials of our forefathers would lead to something increasingly prosperous for the descendants of those individuals who had once experienced something on the opposing end of prosperity. Most importantly, it was believed that the constant battle and struggle with things like racial injustice would be an unfamiliarity to the current and emerging generations.

As most informed individuals can probably detail, those hopes and beliefs are almost completely detached from the reality of today. As a result, it is not surprising to find people today picking up where some of the past advocates against injustice left off and actively attempt to alter the things they deem wrong. These new age advocates for change are referred to as the activists.

For junior English major Ariana Brazier, Stevie Wonder has been one of those individuals who has influenced her to pursue a life of activism.

"I think it's so inspiring that he is able to insight millions of people to change through his music and through something he is passionate about." Brazier said.

Beginning with serving at her community food bank in middle school, Brazier has become one of the most passionate and outspoken individuals in terms of changing the perception people have of the homeless.

"We want to marginalize people that we don't understand and who we don't take the time to get to know" Brazier said.

From handing people the last half of her sandwich, to actively participating in programs that allow people to experience homelessness for a night, Brazier has taken something she is truly passionate about and aligned it with her everyday life and future aspirations. Thus it has become her goal to revolutionize the image people have of homelessness through consistently reminding people of the humanity that resides in people without a home and how it should be everyone's goal to not only respect that humanity, but acknowledge its existence.

Sophomore Biology and Pre-Med major Ronald Comeaux regards Malcom X as one of the key activists who inspire and pull him into actively combating injustice.

"He had a no holds bar mentality in terms of getting equal rights" Comeaux said.

Though he may lack the militant persona, Comeaux applies the same qualities to his focus and drive to speak out against inequalities while maintaining a demeanor that reflects both humility and maturity. However, this does not mean that Comeaux shies away from taking action and directly confronting situations that are

unjust.

During one of the many protests in Atlanta following the results of the trial in Ferguson, MS, Comeaux was arrested after simply questioning an officer on their reasoning behind aggressively pushing a fellow protestor. As a result Comeaux has been confronted with a load of stress that would deter most individuals from this line of work with determination and humility.

"I wouldn't really classify myself as an activist" Comeaux said. "I would classify myself as a good person who is not afraid to step up and speak out when I see wrong things" For sophomore Psychology major Gregory Barber Jr., Marcus Garvey exists as one of the prominent figures in his life who he reveres as shaping his activism.

"Marcus Garvey looked from the outside in and saw what was actually going on with America" Barber said.

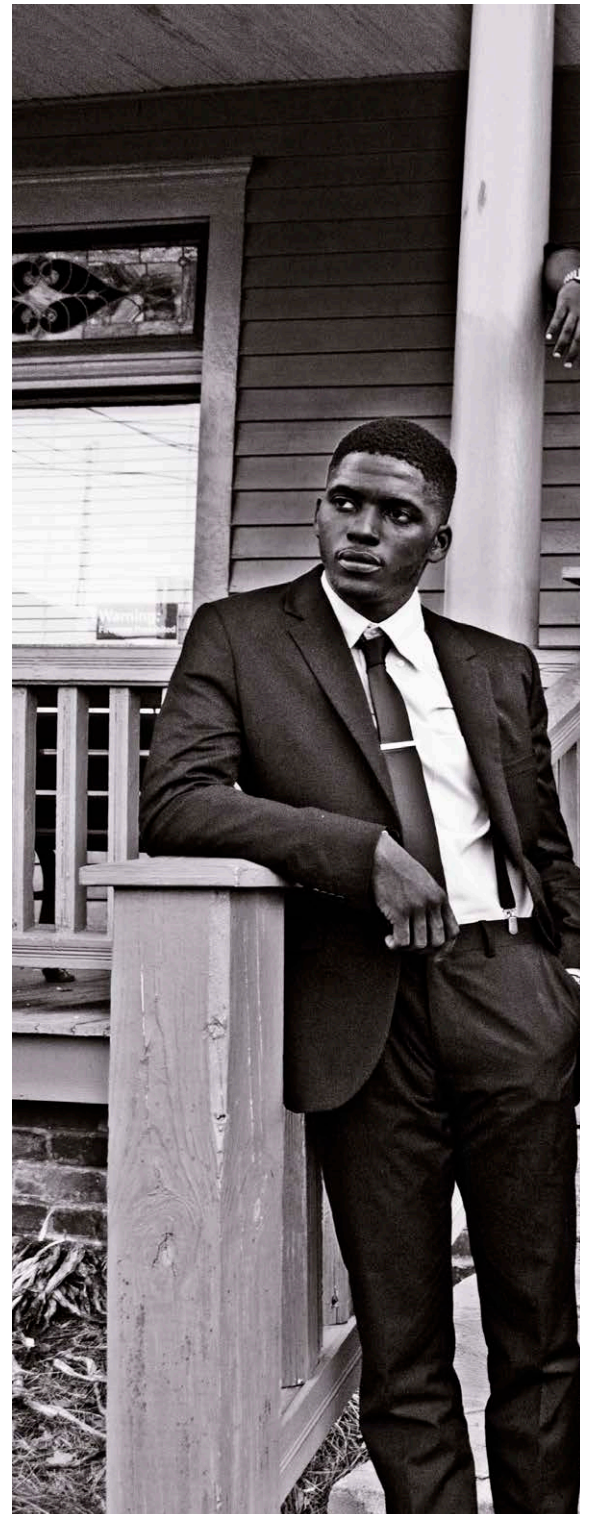
Today Barber looks through that same lens when he observes the present status of hunger and homelessness in America. Participating in and establishing initiatives like the Brown Paper Bag Project and the AUC Sandwich Run, Barber realized that the world is not as clean cut as some people try to believe and has been a key individual tackling hunger.

Sophomore Political Science major Chineo Tyler draws inspiration from Nelson Mandela as a result of a conversation Tyler had with his South African grandfather James Eckert. Upon examining a photo his cousin had taken with the influential figure, Tyler questioned his grandfather on the importance of Mandela and what exactly he stood for. "He was a giant but at the same time he had enough compassion to relate to somebody" Tyler said.

It is this same compassion that Tyler absorbed through his spirituality that he carries in all of the outreach work that includes activities like working with United Way, and serving as president of the Young People's and Children's Division. Though he has a long way to go before he can compare himself to individuals like Mandela, Tyler still hopes that he will have a direct impact on the positive changes in America.

"If I'm not the one to do it, hopefully I'm the one inspires someone else to" Tyler said.

Every time a news article is released detailing the death of an unarmed black person, it can become increasingly discouraging to believe that one day a wave of change will come and alter the inequalities and injustices that plague this generation. However, it is good to know that there are still individuals who will continue the battle that past generations have yet to fully complete.









DEFINING THE NARRATIVE

THE ARTISANS 2015

WRITTEN BY: D'SHONDA BROWN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY: KENNETH GREENWOOD

JEREMIAH THOMPSON:
**An Ounce of Usher and a Bit
of Beyonce!**

Major: Drama
(Dance Concentration)
Origin: Orlando, FL
Classification: Senior

Maroon Tiger: How would you describe your art form?

Jeremiah Thompson: My art form is dance, but it's a little bit different than you would imagine. I draw from a lot of different inspirations and choreographers, stuff like that so it kind of just- those different elements, those different choreographers mold me into the dancer I am, the kind of style that I have now.

MT: Who inspired you to start dancing? Did you start young? Did you just start?

JT: Yea, I was super young when I knew I loved to dance, but I didn't really start training until I came to college, like formal training. I'd danced before but I guess – Usher. I watched Usher a lot. He was like a really, really big inspiration to me as far as dancing and performing goes.

MT: How is dance relevant to what you plan to do post-graduation?

JT: Dance is completely relevant to what I want to do post-graduation because I plan on making a career out of it. After graduation, I want to work for a little bit, then move out to L.A. and audition and see what happens. Hopefully, someone picks me up or that kind of thing.

MT: If you could describe your artist aesthetic in three words, what would it be?

JT: My artistic aesthetic in three words? Let's see...I would say unique, fresh and – Beyonce. I always have to throw in Beyonce.

MT: How would you like to be remembered as a person, as a dancer, as a whole?

JT: Just somebody who was humble, somebody who took their craft seriously and personable and well-rounded.

I don't know how to describe it. I don't know – I just want people to know that I'm a human just like everybody else. Nobody's above anybody, we're all equals and we've got to be kind to each other. I'm a kind person. That's what I want people to know. I'm kind and compassionate.

MT: What advice do you have for dancers who are in college like us, or young dancers, or people that are trying to move to New York or Los Angeles?

JT: I would say to just be diligent, committed to what you want to do, and don't let people's ideas sway you. If you know this is what you want to do, go for it full force. It's gonna be a little scary at first but I think that's what makes it worth it. It's always going to be a bit of a risk to do something that you love, especially if it's in an art form. People feel like you don't have that great of a shot at what you do, especially if you believe in yourself. Just diligence, commitment, having faith in yourself and defying the odds.

LAUREN HAMILTON:
The Good Kinds of F's

Major: Drama
(Dance Concentration)
Origin: St. Petersburg, FL
Classification: Senior

Maroon Tiger: How would you describe your art form as a dancer?

Lauren Hamilton: So, there are different types of dancers. My genre of preference is definitely jazz and hip-hop, and the way that I guess I could describe the way that I move would be fluid, feminine, but still grounded and human...I don't know, vulnerable.

MT: So, who inspired you to become a dancer? How did you get your start?

LH: My mother was a dancer. She was on Broadway and things of that nature so she put me in classes when I was like, you know, a kid and I just kept going with it and I think it was her that made it, you know, me realizing that this is something

you could do for the rest of your life so I never strayed from this path. I've always kind of known that this is something I want to do for the rest of my life.

MT: That definitely explains the jazz part because you were exposed really early.

LH: Yea, I did everything.

MT: Everything including ballet and tap?

LH: Ballet, tap, jazz, hip-hop, acrobatics, etc.

MT: If you could describe your artistic aesthetic in three words, what would they be?

LH: I guess I'll go back to what I said before: fluid, feminine and...forceful.

MT: All three F's!

LH: "Get an F"!

MT: But, the good kind of F –

LH: Yea, yea, good F's!

MT: So, you said you could see yourself doing this for the rest of your life. What exactly do you want to do and how is dance parallel to what you want to do in your future career?

LH: At Spelman, right now, I'm a Drama major with a concentration in Dance, Spanish minor. So, I'll be graduating in May and moving to New York and pursuing dance. The way it just kind of works is you start auditioning and the field that I want to work in is both musical theatre and commercial dance, which is like what you see in music videos or like on tour with dancers dancing behind artists and stuff like that. Those are the two areas that I want to perform in.

MT: How do you want to be remembered in the dance world?

LH: I mean, I think everybody wants to be legendary. I think I want to be remembered for – there's a word called meraki, which means "putting the essence of yourself and your soul into your work" and I think that's what I want to be remembered for: my work and who I was, if that makes

sense, just the union of being a great person and a great performer. I think that's the most legendary people.

MT: What advice do you have for people aspire to be in the dance world as well, as experienced as you are? It can be advice for little girls or advice to college seniors such as yourself who are going to venture off on their own.

LH: I say just stick with it and continue to be passionate. I mean, even though I started super young and I've been training almost all of my life, sometimes it doesn't matter. I know dancers that are very successful in the world and they started three years before so it's all about being passionate and staying connected to the source of all that is, which is God. Those two together make you a very successful person in the dance world.

DIOP SHUMAKE

Major: International Studies
Origin: Detroit, MI
Classification: Junior

Maroon Tiger: How would you describe your art form?

Diop Shumake: My art style I would define as "free". Free : having an idea of what I want to paint, but knowing there are no mistakes when it comes to art. Many times, artists specifically painters focus way too much on the technical side of art. For example filling straight lines in and adding the right amount of paint to each inch of the canvas. By not focusing on these things because those things will come u will begin to flow freely and create a masterpiece .

MT: How is painting relevant to your future career goals?

DS: Art is very relevant In my future I plan on traveling the world and opening up my own galleries across the world.

MT: Where do you see yourself in ten years?

DS: In ten years, by day, I want to start my own international sports marketing firm! And by night open up my own galleries and host luxury art events.

ANDIE JAIRAM

Major: Fine Arts
(Printmaking Concentration)
Origin: Jonesboro, GA
Classification: Senior

Maroon Tiger: If you could describe your artistic aesthetic in three words, what would they be?

Andie Jairam: Research, determination and hardwork.

MT: Who inspires you?

AJ: Different African American artists such as Sanford Greene, John Jennings, and Sara Golish have influenced my artwork. I also was inspired by African American superheroes such as Static Shock, Icon, Agent Bishop, Storm, Black Panther, and John Stewart the black Green Lantern.

MT: How early did you get your start?

AJ: I first started drawing when i was in middle school I would trace cartoons i saw on television but I knew that would not make me a true artist so I started to freehand my drawing. By free handing I became better and better at drawing and I started to create my own African American superheroes and sci-fi worlds.

JONATHAN MIDDLEBROOKS

Major: Business Marketing
Origin: Bowie, Maryland
Classification: Senior

Maroon Tiger: Where do you draw your inspiration from?

Jonathan Middlebrooks: I draw inspiration from everyone so it varies from experience to experience. Music wise, though, I am inspired by Kenneth Whalum, a saxophonist who actually went to Morehouse, Bob Marley, Jimi Hendrix, and James Fautleroy.

MT: What advice do you have for young individuals who aspire to pursue music, as well?

JM: The biggest piece of advice I have is to be true to you when creating. A lot of people try to imitate what is already being done instead of riding their own wave and vibe. Once I started focusing on what I believe real music to be and not worrying about perception is when things clicked for me.

MT: What type of legacy do you want to leave?

JM: I want to be remembered for creating music that feels, music that gives you some type of emotion whether it be happy or sad. I also want to be remembered as an artist who understood that it's bigger than music. Music has the power to move masses and shape generations. I truly believe that's what God has put me here for.

PARKER WILLIAMS

Major: Computer Science
Origin: Fort Worth, Texas
Classification: Junior

Maroon Tiger: Who, or what, serves as your biggest inspiration?

Parker Williams: My inspiration has always been photographers who have come out of the AUC (Ahmad Barber, Roseography, Spencer Charles). They are some insanely talented men, but



my best friend Tre'veon Hill was the person who first really introduced me to and supported me in my endeavors to pursue this art form.

MT: Describe your artistic aesthetic in three words!

PW: Crispy, clean and facile.

MT: How would you describe your art form in its entirety?

PW: My art form is simple in nature. I capture what life has to offer and present it with very few variations from myself. Preserved moments are their own aesthetic.

EDDIE Z. OLIVER, JR. (Oliver Twist)

Major: English & Music Double
Major Origin: Fort Lauderdale, FL
Classification: Sophomore

Maroon Tiger: Where do you ultimately see yourself in ten years?

Eddie Oliver, Jr.: I see myself naked sipping on fermented



grapes on the beach of private island with my own family and dog trying to get some down time before I have to go on my next world tour. Ha! But I do see myself gathering my own X-Men team of young musicians and giving them a chance in this industry. One chance is all it takes sometimes.

MT: Who inspires you?

EOJ: I inspire me. I am a very animated and candid individual myself and can be very opinionated. So my smart and unfiltered loud mouth just translated into my music where I am talking about my real life experiences and opinions on the world. Within the rap world, I am inspired by Foxy Brown, Notorious B.I.G., Lil' Kim, Tupac, Nicki Minaj, Tyler the Creator, Azealia Banks, and Kanye West. They are all smart and talented rappers with distinct personas and opinions. I use to write stories and poetry when I was little. I would create a whole entire universe with characters where I would spend hours writing and drawing. Then I started singing in elementary school which led me to study Musical Theatre in Middle School and starring in local stage productions. But all throughout, I was this big headed bird chested nerd. So when I got to high school, I wanted the same respect as the other cool kids. And all the cool kids would freestyle and rap battle each other in class. So one day, I joined in on the cypher and blew everyone away. No one expected this erkel to

give a raunchy yet witty verse at different speeds and voices. And at that moment, I knew I wanted to set my stories to music.

MT: What legacy do you wish to leave?

EOJ: I want to be what Hip-Hop called the G.O.A.T. or the greatest of all time. I want to be known for pushing the boundaries of the genre with my content, style, and production. Not only in music, but with art and business on a whole. And with my success, I want to inspire other nerds and geeks around the world to have an attitude of being a relentless, decisive, and motivated tyrant that people will have no choice but to respect and honor your work.

MT: How did you come up with the name, "Oliver Twist"? Was it inspired by the actual epoch?

EOJ: Yes! Oliver Twist is the epitome of my rap style. Just like how I put so many double and triple meanings in my lyrics, my name has so many meanings. On a surface level, my last name is Oliver. The Twist comes from my rap style. But on a deeper level, the book character Oliver Twist was placed in situations where people would mislead and trick him. But turns out, they were trying to keep him from his destiny full of riches and wealth. In my case, I have to fight twice as hard as everyone else to earn what the Lord has in store for me.





CLOCKING OUT

JUGGERNAUTS OF THE YEAR 2015

WRITTEN BY: KRIS COLLEY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY: KENNETH GREENWOOD

KC: What is your favorite part about being a student athlete?

JW: One I get to stay in shape. Keeping my body, weight and everything, while everyone else is worrying their freshman 15 or something like that. It also gives you a clearness of mind when you are doing your sport or activity. Also, being a student athlete gives you your schedule for you. So you don't have to worry about bad prioritizing or anything like that.

KC: Being the coach as well as a swimmer, how do you go about planning meets against other schools?

JW: We don't have as much to do with the NCAA sports departments or athletic department at Morehouse College than say basketball and the actual accredited programs

on campus. We're more in an affiliation with intermural sports in Archer hall. So we work directly with them for pool hours. When it comes to competition it is something that we work out directly with the other team.

KC: What is your least favorite part about being a student athlete?

JW: Sometimes friends want you to come out and enjoy social activities and you got to explain to them why you cannot. Like "I have a swim meet this weekend, so I can't stay out extremely late on a Friday night". And sometimes they won't understand, but best part about it is that you have a team of people that are going through the exact same thing."

KC: Where do you see the

future of the AUC Tiger Sharks going?

JW: I see them getting more competitive as time goes on. The hardest thing that the Tiger Sharks have to deal with right now is that they're in this weird middle point where they aren't new anymore, so students are just interested in joining the new club on campus, but they are also not so old that everything is working like clock work. I see it morphing into something that is a little more excepting of different schedules. So that students can go practice for a couple hours in the afternoon rather than having to attend a 7 o'clock practice.



ANDRE M WILSON
 Senior/ Richmond, VA
 Physics Major
 AUC Tiger Sharks

KC: What is your favorite part about being a student athlete?

AW: My favorite part about being a student athlete is the ability to completely clock out of school and channel all of my stress into swimming.

KC: How important is the team to you?

AW: I've been with the TigerSharks since the team consisted of three people swimming in Read Hall at Spelman. Since then, the team has grown by leaps and bounds, and I am proud to have helped build what exists today.

KC: What is your least favorite part about being a student athlete?

AW: My least favorite part is the amount work involved! Participating in any type of sport is physically draining. After two hours in the pool,

I only want to eat and sleep. **KC:** How do you keep your life in balance? **AW:** Prioritization and sacrifice are key. Work to do in the physics lab or studying for a test always takes priority over swim practice. I often have to skip gatherings because of practice or a meet; it comes with the territory.

KC: Do you consider yourself competitive?

AW: Extremely! I like to win. I'll turn anything into a competition. I've even been known to turn warm-ups into a race.

KC: How do you see your athletic program changing in the future?

AW: The swim team has come a long way since freshman year. I hope that in the years to come the team can continue to grow and draw new swimmers. It has been hard to build and sustain the team. It is time for Coach Jelani Watkins and me to hand over the reigns to the next generation of TigerSharks.

CHRIS "SPEED" JOHNSON
 Junior/ Silver Spring, MD
 Bio Engineer Major
 Track & Field

KC: What is your favorite part about being a student athlete?

CJ: I see being a student athlete as a privilege and honor. You get to participate in a sport that you enjoy while affirming to your school, and more importantly yourself, that even while in this position I understand that my education comes first and I hold responsibility to make sure I will not only do well on the field, but I will also conquer my classes. Developing not only my body but one's mind as well. It also gives me the opportunity to represent my institution in the best way I can.

KC: How important is the team to you?

CJ: Any true athlete knows that you out the team before yourself. For example, I come to practice because I know the team needs me, I work hard in class because if I don't I won't get



to compete with my team and again my team needs me. I make sure to motivate my team to make sure we achieve our highest level of performance.

KC: Do you consider yourself competitive?

CJ: Yes I do consider myself highly competitive, based on my focus and drive to be the best that I can be. During practice I compete with my peers, during a track meet I'm not only in competition with competitors but also with myself. Nothing feels better than seeing your hard work pay off.

KC: How do you keep your life in balance?

CJ: Prayer, meditation, and having a strict schedule based on priorities that must be given full attention. I achieve this by being disciplined and focused and eliminating all distractions that separate me from my goal. I also incorporate strengthen the mind, body, and spirit to reach this plane of balance or equilibrium.

CHRIS HAMBIE
JUNIOR/PRAITVILLE, AL
KINESIOLOGY MAJOR
FOOTBALL

KC: What is your favorite part about being a student athlete?

CH: My favorite part about being a student athlete is that it gives me the opportunity to represent not only myself and my family, but it allows for me to represent my school through the classroom and on the field.

KC: What is your least favorite part about being a student athlete?

CH: My least favorite part about being a student athlete would have to be the fact that I miss out on some social aspects of college. All the grueling hours you have to put on and off the field to be successful at maintaining a good GPA WHILE balling on the field, comes at the sacrifice of all the glitz and glamour one can receive from various social events.

KC: How important is the team to you?

CH: The team is my home away from home, my second family almost. I pride myself on 3 F's - Faith, Family, and Football. The team contributes in every way. We are a Christian based team so we do go to church on occasions, the family aspect is there just because you spend so much time with your teammates, the relationships formed are that of a brother.

KC: How do you keep your life at balance?

CH: I keep my life in balance by praying every day, going to church and paying my tithes. All this would not be possible without Jesus Christ so I wouldn't particularly say its me keeping my life in a balance, it's the man upstairs doing that.

KC: How do you see the future expansion of Morehouse athletics developing?

CH: With the augmentation of President Wilson at the helm of the school and the vision he has portrayed to the student athletes as well as the student body, i feel like Morehouse athletics can be a force to reckon with in the future.

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VISAS



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WONDERS OF THE WORLD

WAYFARERS
OF THE YEAR 2015

WRITTEN BY: TYRA A. SEALS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY: WINSTON CASH

Meet Natazia Johnson and Delonte Egwuatu, respective Spelman and Morehouse students who are well on their way to being our world's next diplomatic leaders and peacemakers. Though the places they have been, experiences throughout and reasons for travel vary, Johnson and Egwuatu alike have a deeply rooted passion for travel that began in childhood and adolescence. It is nothing short of amazing how our Wayfarers have managed to quench their desire to see the world and still be academically excellent students.

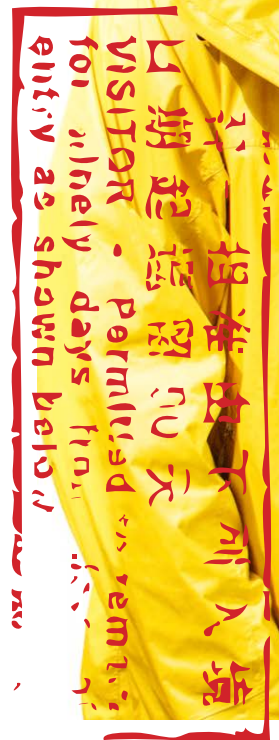
Natazia Johnson is a senior International Studies major from Virginia who will graduate this May from Spelman College. As a child raised in an area with heavy military influence and a father who was once part of the United States Navy, Johnson has always considered it normal to travel the world. In addition to having "flight fever" run in her family, she notes that she was "immersed in different cultures since she was a child and was always curious about how others lived." During her years at Spelman, Johnson has spent a semester in Spain, traveled to Morocco, Italy, Portugal and most recently, South Korea for a model UN competition. She mentioned that Spelman's study abroad office was extremely helpful, especially Dr. Margery Ganz: "Dr. Ganz was so helpful and answered all my questions, especially those in regards to traveling to European nations. Even when I was abroad, she responded to my emails really quickly." When asked about a moment that has stood out from all of her travels, she mentions her

time in Seoul, South Korea in many of the smaller stores: "When I went into the stores, the shop owners would follow me around, but being that I could not communicate in Korean, I wasn't sure if that was the culture in South Korea or because I was Black." Recently, Johnson was awarded the opportunity to be a Charles B. Rangel International Fellow, which is named after Congressman Rangel in honor of his passion for global leadership and partnership. This program is especially amazing because it provides funding for graduate educational paths, in addition to professional development resources and entry into the Foreign Service. Thanks in part to this, Johnson will be pursuing her Masters' degree in International Peace and Conflict Resolution at American University in the fall.

For Delonte Egwuatu, junior Economics major at Morehouse College from Washington D.C., love for travel, language and culture began as a child. While being enrolled in a dual-language program that incorporated English for half of the day and Spanish for the other, Egwuatu had plenty of exposure to the language on a regular basis. After taking a hiatus from Spanish speaking practice, Egwuatu first went abroad as a 6th grader on a service trip to Guatemala where he and his classmates worked in a local orphanage. The next time Egwuatu traveled internationally was to Honduras, where he participated in an exchange program that allowed Honduran students to visit his school for a month and vice versa: "We

actually got to witness their program and graduation, which was a cool experience." Egwuatu thanks the course Pathways to Diplomacy — with US Diplomat Hugh Williams and Mark Powell Dr. Julius Coles, Director of the Andrew Young Center for Global Leadership— for giving him exposure in the field of diplomacy and international affairs. Up to this point, Delonte has traveled to Canada, Guatemala, Honduras, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, and plans visit Cape Town, South Africa and Milan, Italy in the near future. Hands down, he ranks Argentina as his best experience abroad, so much so that he spent a semester in there and went back for winter break just because. Egwuatu would like for there to be a heavier emphasis on studying abroad at Morehouse. For him, Dr. Julius Coles and Dr. Gloria de Cuhna were instrumental in many of his international excursions but not everyone is fortunate enough to have the same influences: "I always knew I would take a semester abroad at Morehouse, but I just didn't know when." When asked what he's learned fundamentally about traveling, he replied, "Being present in the environment and ready to learn about new surroundings can really be life changing."

Despite the differences of their backgrounds and uniqueness of the places they've seen, Natazia Johnson and Delonte Johnson both have a passion for seeing the world that is not easily satisfied. In their careers and lives after Spelman and Morehouse respectively, there is no doubt that they will continue to walk in excellence.



TRAILBLAZING ACROSS NATIONS

WRITTEN BY: TYRA A. SEALS
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY: WINSTON CASH

For these three gentlemen, social justice and the importance of education take on extra meaning when abroad. Deshawn Adams, Bummah Ndeh, and Sulaiman Kenyatta — all Morehouse students — can all agree that the places they've visited hold special meaning in reference to their own personal beliefs. In addition to the significance of their international trips, each of these young men have being an exceptional student first and foremost in common.

Deshawn Adams's story with travel is indeed an encouraging one. As a senior English major at Morehouse College hailing from Greensboro, North Carolina, he has visited 14 countries in total, nine of which include Guatemala, Peru, Nicaragua, Trinidad, the Bahamas, Puerto Rico through the Semester at Sea program. Additionally, his interests have taken him to Abu Dhabi, Columbia, and South Africa. Adams is the first individual in his family to finish high school and college, and will be working with Teach for America following his graduation in May. Even with love for where he is from, Adams understands that people there lacked a mindset that encouraged seeing the world. He credits and thanks Morehouse not only for brotherhood, but also for being the place that has compelled him to become a global citizen and a true Renaissance man: "Over the four years, I have been trying to find out what exactly being a 'Renaissance man' means, and I've found that its allowing your self to travel or find a piece of yourself that you didn't know existed." Through Dustin's Greenhouse, a nonprofit organization out of Greensboro, North Carolina that strives to help students from underserved and unrecognized communities explore the world through traveling, Adams was able to take his first international trip to South Africa in 2009.

In English major and bibliophile fashion, references Juletane by Miriam Veyra as a book that relayed his feelings as an American Black man in South Africa. The main character

from Senegal who travels to the United Kingdom to pursue education and returns only to be made to feel like a stranger in a place that was to be considered home. Though Adams enjoyed his time in South Africa and all that the country had to offer, he made it clear that the feeling of "homecoming" and belonging was not abundant. . As an English major, Adams is visibly passionate about education and uses his travels to relay information to and expand the minds of his pupils at Fickett Elementary through the UPS Scholars Program and hopes to continue doing so through his position with Teach for America.

With a family originally from Cameroon, Bummah Ndeh — junior Economics major at Morehouse from Silver Spring, Maryland — is used to balancing several cultures and had exposure to many at a young age through listening to the Soweto Gospel Choir, for example. As an LGBT advocate, Ndeh is heavily involved in SafeSpace and the Bayard Rustin Scholars program at



Morehouse and takes his experience in South Africa and Zimbabwe — same-sex marriage is legal in South Africa and illegal in Zimbabwe— to fuel that. While visiting several cities in the nation, Ndeh learned the dynamics of the culture firsthand not only as a Black American, but one who identifies as gay. Though he was not the victim of any hate crimes or violence of any sort, Ndeh found it interesting to observe how same-sex relationships were perceived in public. Aside from that, Ndeh recalls one of the most beautiful parts of his trip to Zimbabwe: “Going along the Zambezi River and being so close to the animals was one of the most peaceful moments in my life” Next, Ndeh hopes to travel to countries in Central and South America to observe how African culture is transcribed in Latin America as part of the African Diaspora.

Sulaiman “Suli” Kenyatta, senior International Studies major, Chinese minor at Morehouse College, has a diverse background that takes form the Philippines, Hawaii, Egypt, and right back to the Richmond, Virginia community where he was raised. Heavily influenced by his brother — Morehouse class of 2003— who was a Pickering fellow and eventually worked for the State Department, Kenyatta decided to come to Morehouse because of him. Not wanting to be stagnant in the place he was

raised, Kenyatta decided to take the trip to Morehouse and continue the legacy. As of yet, he has visited Cairo, Egypt, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Bali. Additionally, he participated in the domestic exchange program the spring of his junior year at Stanford University. Kenyatta has also studied abroad mostly in Shanghai, China multiple times: the summer after his freshman year, fall of his sophomore year, and summer after his sophomore year and had amazing experiences each time. As a Chinese minor, his time in Shanghai not only strengthened his Chinese speaking skills, but he notes: “We were at an international school, so there were people from Russia, Brazil, and the UK with us living and studying together.” Kenyatta would like to encourage his younger Morehouse students to explore the possibilities of studying abroad and the opportunities that come with it. Following his graduation, Kenyatta will be traveling Hawaii to visit family.

Though their experiences served distinctive purposes for each of these individuals, it is clear that going abroad was not merely for aesthetic desires but to take from the cultures of others to create a global perspective. For this, they live the lives of Wayfarers who indeed have a knack for seeing the world.





ALL ABOUT BUSINESS

SCIENTISTS
OF THE YEAR 2015

WRITTEN BY: UGO CHUKWU
PHOTOGRAPHY BY: AHMAD BARBER

In this day and age, many of the most interesting and maddening discoveries are being made about the world around us as well as the world within us. This powerful, bright Morehouse College student intends to change his branch of study from the inside out and use his personal narrative to shape the minds and hearts of a generation.

Though Tunde Smith is a man who is passionate about his craft and field, he also is man that reflects a multitude of experience. He represents the man who is well-traveled, well-spoken, a world changer, and who seeks to understand more than be understood. Upon graduation, he desires to study cancer and make grand discoveries in this field. Smith first experienced cancer research his junior year of high school and since then he has fallen deeply in love with the subject. Even in his down time, Smith is looking for the latest and greatest in the field.

“I believe that the impact in the field affects all of our lives” Smith said.

Understanding that it is the study of how things work and that it is always evolving and changing, Smith chose Biology, and specifically cancer research. The study of cancer is a field that is always growing and changing and developing, which is one of the reasons that Smith loves and enjoys the field of study. Thus Smith has had a multiplicity of research experience, including conducting research in suppression of lung cancer at Baylor College of Medicine and research at the National Institute of Health.

As a well-traveled Man of Morehouse, Smith has large respect for other cultures and ways of life. Smith, who lived in Morocco for five months, is bilingual, speaking French fluently. He was one of the 14 students selected, nation-wide, to study abroad in the country of Morocco. That is where he

first started growing his hair. Smith always had a desire for dreadlocks and when he got back to DC, His mother finally consented to let him get dreadlocks.

Smith was first introduced to Morehouse by his mother, who always insisted that he attend the institution. When he came for the college visit, he knew this were he would be nurtured into the man that he was destined to be.

One of his favorite quotes that describes who he is and his philosophy includes “Nothing is without meaning” and “Everything happens for a reason.” Smith is a man of many talents and gifts. After closing the Biology books, he blogs on Tumblr, loves grooming his already damper sense of style at the tailor, and viewing the world from behind the lens of a camera.

Smith is a man of influence, a great leader and a scientist in training.



The mark of someone who is going into the STEM field is the ability to think differently about a variety of subjects. A well-known quote by Albert Einstein states that “Everybody is a genius, but if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that is it stupid.” As people who come from a different cloth, scientists have a knack for viewing things differently.

CHRISTIAN MAYFIELD

Senior Chemistry major from Ohio

Mayfield’s Osteogenesis Imperfecta made him endure of 1200 x-rays, his childhood dreams of playing sports were shattered by his condition but made him study something he’s come to love: science. Mayfield’s experiences have crafted his desire to connect with a wide audience in Pediatric Orthopedics.

AARON HEMPHILL

Senior Biology Major

Hemphill has always been fascinated by science and the way it connects the world’s past and future. As an avid chess and golf player in his free-time, Hemphill uses these acquired analytical skills in the classroom. Aaron is curious about the world, he’s curious about how life works and operates and he encourages any student interested in STEM to match, or exceed that curiosity. For only passion and the love for science can end you up at the National Institute of Health in Maryland, like Mr. Aaron Hemphill.



MATTHEW KELLY

Senior Chemistry Major

Kelly, who is a wanderer at heart, has done research in Germany and first found his spark for science through an Indian professor in his high school. Every day, during lunch, Kelly would go to his teacher's room and have lunch with her. His teacher's huge impact transitioned into Morehouse College, where Kelley has interned for the American Cancer Society and as a Research Assistant at Northwestern University. It seems that no matter where Kelly goes, his genuine spirit, love for science and research and dedication to his community has solidified him as one of the most promising scientist of our time.

JASMINE EATMAN

5 year dual degree program with Morehouse School of Medicine.

Eatman believes that her experience at Spelman has been very pivotal to her development as a woman and professional in the STEM field. Eatman is continuing her work at the Morehouse School of Medicine and encourages everyone to not limit themselves and enjoy life!

JULIAN JONES

Julian Jones is a DC native who loves Chemistry and basketball. He is interested in forensics and has experienced his own set of ups and downs and Morehouse





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SOLDIER

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WRITTEN BY: ANNICK LAURENT
PHOTOGRAPHY BY: AHMAD BARBER

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WOMAN OF THE
YEAR
OF THE YEAR 2015

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Her steps, silent. Her smile, large. Her heart, heavy.

This heaviness is not the product of self-loathing, but rather, of a young woman who has committed her life to a fight that--at times--seems to have no end. And though heavy hearted, she is not broken in the least. This young woman, Imani Johnson, a warrior for social justice and proponent for mental wellness, has been a mover and shaker in the AUC community. Using her position as the president of the AUC NAACP to combat large systemic issues, her conviction for justice led her to possessing a key role in the deal with the Atlanta Police Department to increase campus safety. When police brutality on Black bodies seemed to become the resurgent norm in this country, Johnson helped educate students at Morehouse about issues and steps forward surrounding police brutality. When she found her community yearning for a voice and holistic representation, Johnson attached herself to the emerging Black Lives Matter Movement--locally being an organizing member of the AUC Shut It Down movement. Faith and hope has carried her through the hard work of rebuilding broken communities and families, and this journey has led to her current career plans to become a Clinical Social Worker and Marriage and Family therapist. Imani has soared through statistics with poise, grace and strength. Her life has always been dedicated to fighting for truth and equality, and we see no chances of her slowing down. We sat down with our Woman of the Year to hear more on her life, her inspirations, and her hope for the future.

The Maroon Tiger: How would others and how do you describe yourself?
Imani Johnson: I think they would

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describe me as, you know, very light and airy, and full of energy. That's also how I would describe myself because I carry myself with a light and I want people to see the joy and happiness that I carry inside me and not really display anything bad that I may be going through or any struggles that I may be facing. Just exuding a positive light so that people around me, they may be going through something, so they can at least see that I'm happy and I'm joyous and really there's a reason to smile.

MT: Have there been any defining moments in your life that lead to where you are today?

IJ: "I wouldn't say there was one particular moment that led me to be involved in social activism or mental health or really kind of a series of things. The way that I was brought up, like my family. My parents are divorced and I'm the oldest child, so really dealing with that and being in the middle just made aware to so much and exposed me to a lot as an 11-year-old, an 11-year-old who had to take on a lot of responsibility...so from there it just kind of shaped my [interest] in figuring out the psychology of people and behavior."

MT: What responsibilities did you have to take on during your parents' divorce?

IJ: I was the middleman between conversations between me and my parents. Conversation was non-existent. And so I would be the one to relay the messages. I had to be there for my sisters and my mom.

MT: Did your experience during your parents' divorce spark your interest in becoming a Clinical Social Worker and Marriage and Family Therapist?
IJ: "Definitely. I would say yeah. It was a lot just seeing how they interacted or

more lack of interaction...Just being in the background and the forefront of my parents' divorce, even up until middle and high school them not communicating has been an issue. That's always just kinda been in my backseat and [I've] just been using it to propel forward and help to create better for other people.

MT: How did you feel about the overall outcome between Morehouse and the APD?

IJ: "I think that I was a little, I wouldn't say disappointed but I wasn't elated. I wasn't very just such super excited about the outcome, but I also have to acknowledge that great change comes with time. The Atlanta Student Movement and SNCC back in the day and Martin Luther King, none of that came in, you know, after two weeks of work. It was a work in progress, you know, working with it everyday, working with people. What I do know is that if this is something that's going to continue... it doesn't stop with me, you know, graduating, moving on as president. It's making sure that, you know, I continue my fight in my new journey but also making sure that those that are here continue to fight and do the work that was even started before me. So I wouldn't say that I was disappointed because of what's come because again it's something. It's better than nothing, but I want to see more, more change, you know, more enactment within the community.

MT: How do you plan to pass the torch to upcoming activists in the AUC, and inspire them to keep up the fight?

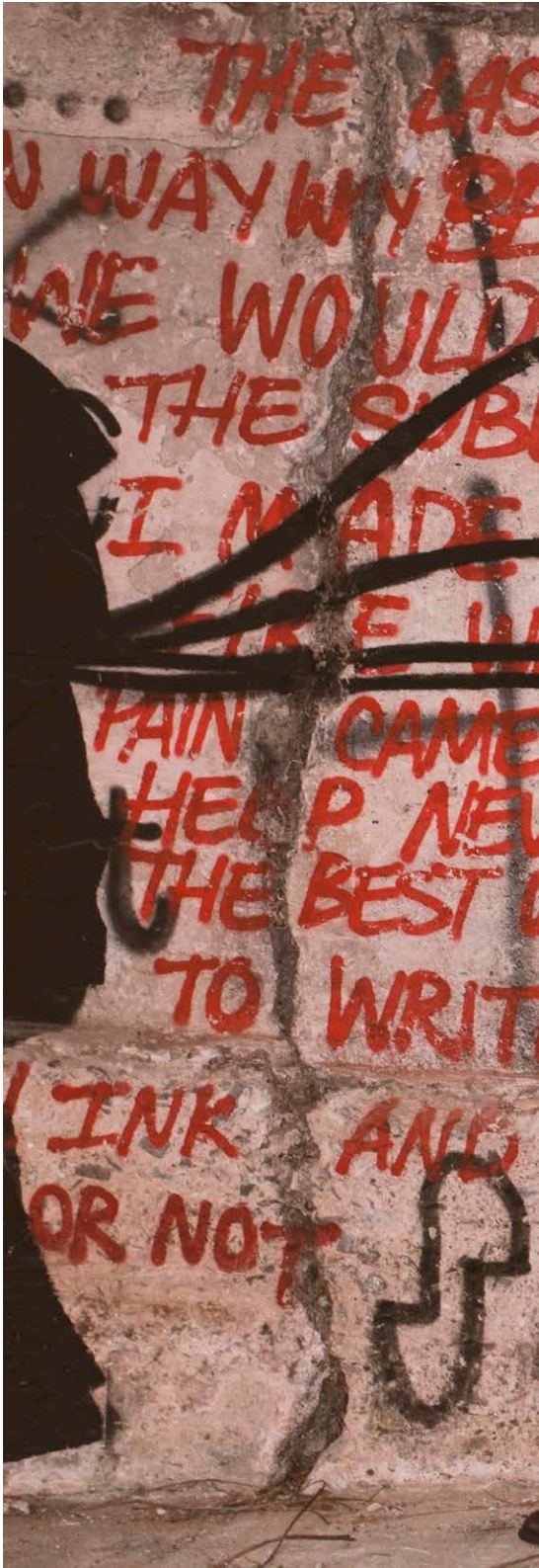
IJ: "I want to inspire by letting them know to be themselves. So use your personal niche, your personality, who you are as a person and what your strengths are to press on to continue

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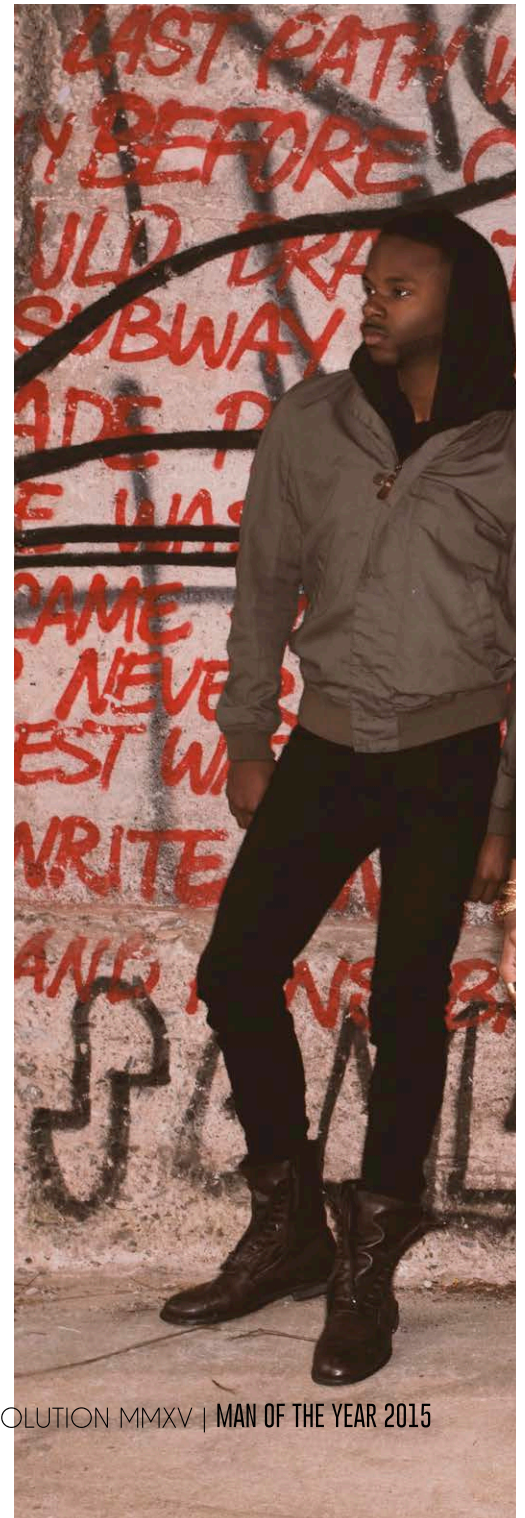
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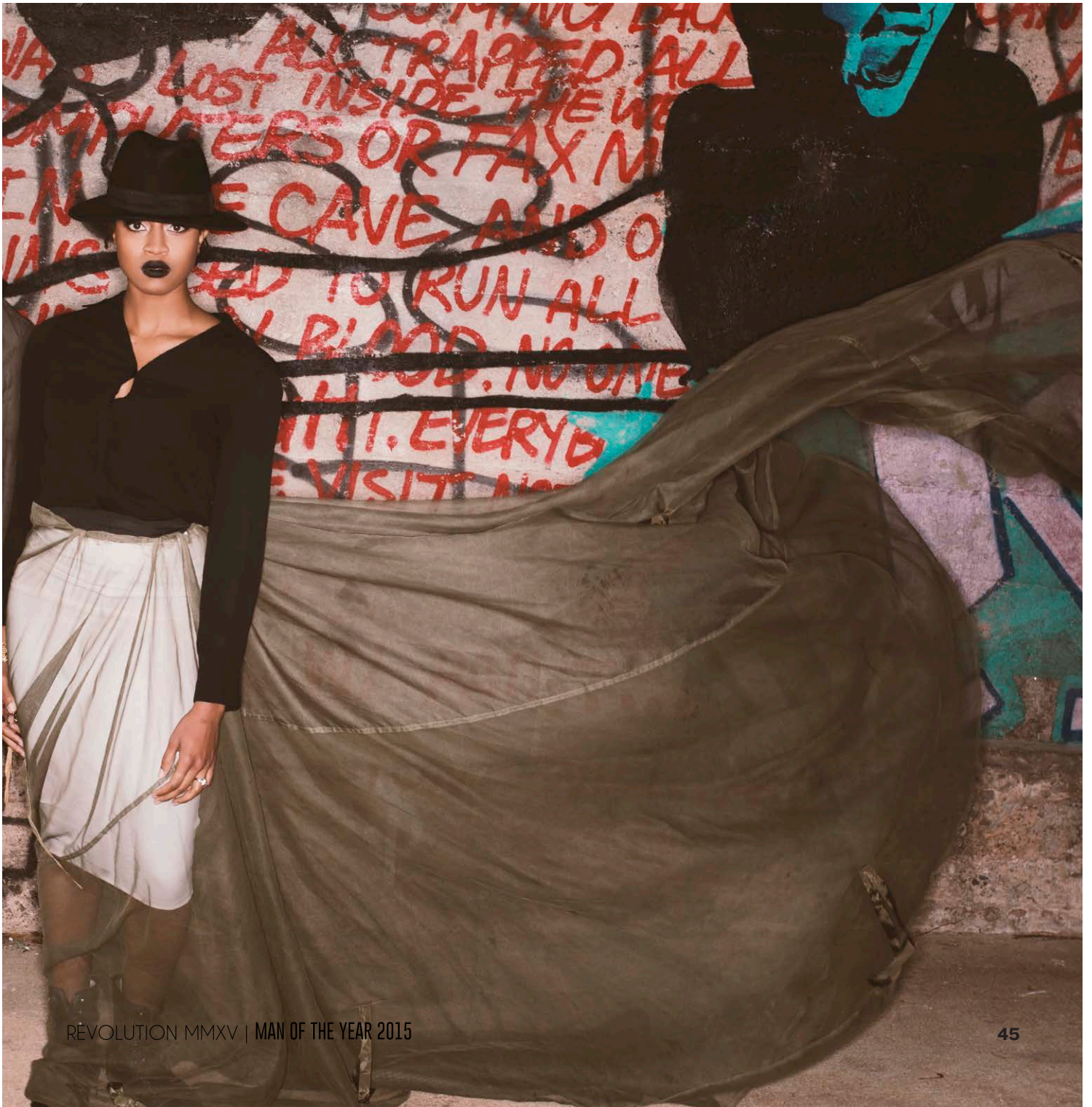


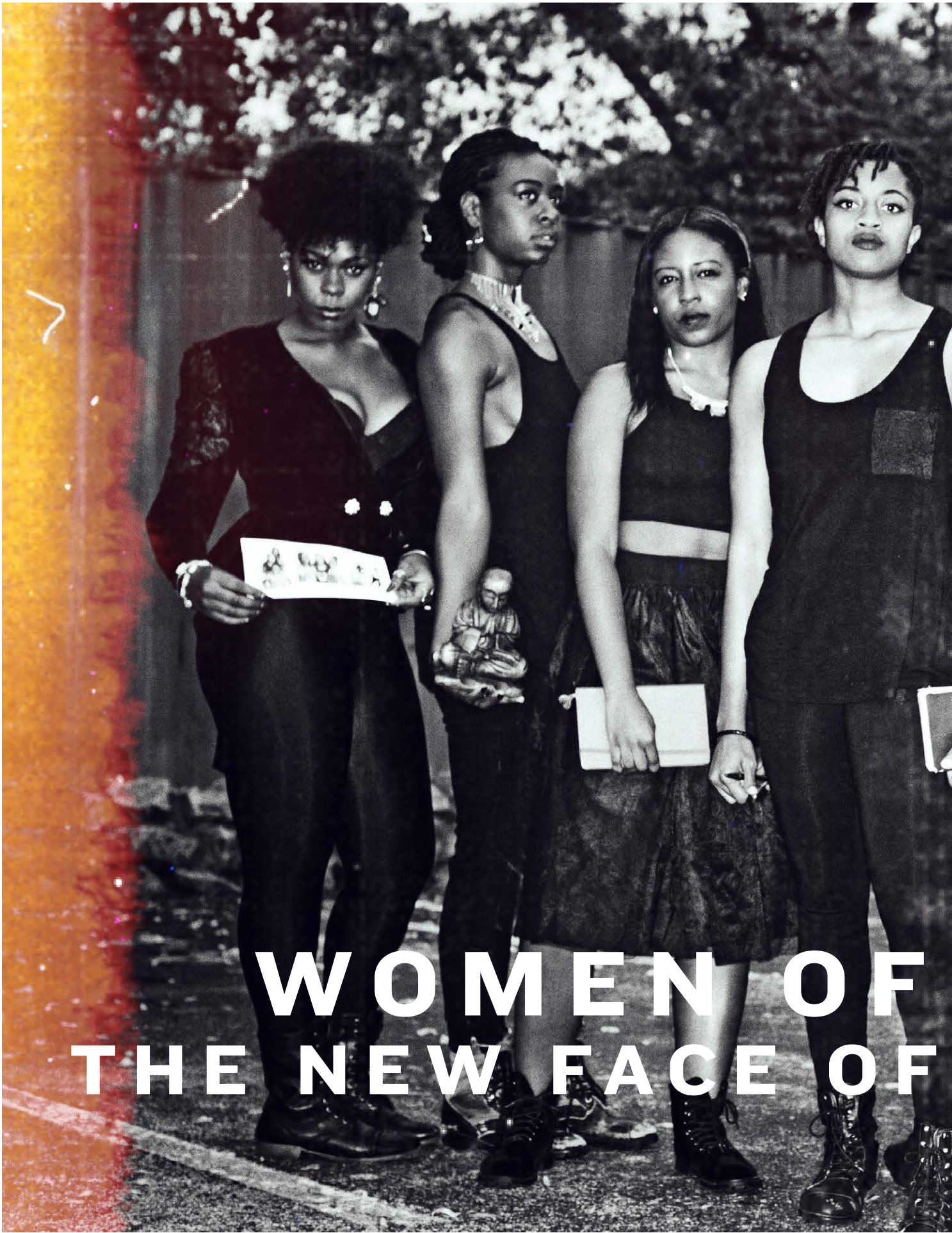
the movement. And be innovative, and be creative and don't settle for doing a die-in and doing a march and doing a blast on Instagram or just wearing all black. You know, anyone can do that and that's fine, I'm not saying not to do it but find that way, find what makes our generation tic, or even what makes the past generation tic and future generations. Be those people that are those game changers and continue to just change with the times in the movement while making sure to embody the heart of the movement...fighting for our people and equality."

Though silently serving her community, this compassionate and empathetic Titan's work does not go unnoticed. From building her self confidence, and simultaneously being a middleman, sibling and guardian during her parents' divorce, Johnson is a caretaker who understands things start at home for families and the overall black community. Whoever follows in her footsteps will have an enormous pair of shoes to fill as she has focused a significant amount of time and dedication to counteract problems with the black community. From being on the forefront of her parent's divorce to local occurrences of police brutality, Johnson stands tall and makes change through service. Instead of being deterred by obstacles, whether communal or personal, Imani uses her experiences to give encouragement and advice to others.

Her main focus has been the Black Lives Matter movement and executing the deal between Morehouse and the APD. However, she plans to rally for the improvement of people of color's mental well being,







**WOMEN OF
THE NEW FACE OF**



THE YEAR: WOMEN LEADERS

WRITTEN BY: TIFFANY PENNAMON & CHRISTINE SLAUGHTER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY: AHMAD BARBER

2015 is the year for empowering women and for redefining what it means to be a woman leader. With Hillary Clinton's recent announcement that she is running for president, a new era for women to take charge has emerged. However, the women in this year's Women of the Year category have already taken charge by being the best of the best in their academic, professional, and social lives. Through adversity, persistence, service, leadership, and even artistic expression, these women have actively and purposefully answered their calling to nurture their passions and make a change.

Spelman Student Government Association President, Mary Pickard, has worked hard consistently throughout her college career. As a Political Science major and Spanish minor, Mary states that her experience at Spelman has been indescribable. Her professors, her parents, Dean Neely, and the institution as a whole have been influential in her success and well-being. After being notified that she received Phi Beta Kappa, Mary states it is one of her biggest accomplishments and that the sleepless and stressful nights in Club Woodi were well worth it. Not only is she a scholar, but she is an activist and a trustworthy leader all around. Mary also serves as a member of SKIRTS, a WEL Scholar, and a 3-year member of the Morehouse Business Association. "In the past, I have been a part of the Residence Hall Association, served as a PAL, Goldman Sachs Spelman Liaison, and the Miss Spelman Advisory Board." In service, Mary volunteers as a literacy tutor for children with Down Syndrome as volunteers with the Georgia Firefighter Burn Foundation. As a burn survivor herself, she says it is vital to give back to those younger and older who have gone through the same emotional and physical hardships and breakthroughs as her. With courage and perseverance, Mary overcame the odds of possibly not being able to walk again, or even graduate on time. She acknowledges that the support of her family, friends, and the ability to serve her Spelman sisters keep her going at her weakest moments. After she graduates, Mary plans to finish law school and become an international transaction attorney. She elaborates saying "Once I become established, I would like to open a school for girls in third world countries. I realized the importance of attending an all-women's institution after my first year at Spelman. In a global society where women are not treated equal there needs to be a space where they feel equal, loved, and have a sense of belonging - I want to provide that space." She reflects saying that "I would tell my younger self to not be afraid to try new things, and don't be scared to step outside of my comfort

zone or go against the status quo. I would also tell students to not follow a direct path in achieving their collegiate goals. There is no one particular way to become president of any organization—so go to RSO meetings even for organizations that might not be the most appealing to you. It's a great way to meet someone you may not usually have."---

Meet Rakhety Livingston, a graduating senior who has found a passion in merging marketing and psychology. Her bubbly spirit and willingness to cater to the needs of others fits the job she will be starting after she graduates this May. "I'll be working for Nielsen starting in July and basically—I'm really excited, I like talking about it—I'm working with different corporations and people that produce consumer goods. If they're having a problem with certain ads or if advertisement campaigns aren't working, they are going to send those to me and I'm going to fix it and try to give them feedback in order to get more revenue and attract more customers." Livingston states that if it weren't for Spelman, she would not be the social and engaging person that she is. She positively affects those around her making her the perfect person to not only work in a market of high customer need, but to also Co-Chair Spelman's "livest" organization, Pulse. From planning events to making sure events are executed effectively, Livingston states that her drive comes as a result of her parents' ideals. "Both my parents have PhDs—they were both professors at one point in time. They instilled in me that 'you have to be better than me' [mentality] and that's kind of a high standard to set, but it's also pushed me to do better and try to do better than them in some aspects." With Ms. Maddox as her mentor and Pulse advisor, Rakhety says that her experience at Spelman has been nothing but amazing. In forging her own path and deciding to merge business with Psychology, Livingston states that she just wants to be known as the reliable and dependable person that she is. In staying true to her motto of never doubting yourself and believing in herself, she plans to eventually own a consulting or marketing firm to help businesses.---

Taylor Polidore is a force to be reckoned with in the Atlanta film market and a social butterfly in the AUC. Her first year, she competed in the Miss Freshman at Morehouse, she joined Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated her first year. Since the young age of 4, she's acted in downtown Houston theater and starred in TV & film commercials. At CAU, she says "I've done just about all there is to do". She says in her household, there was an elevated heir of expectancy to be the best. This is in part on the

accomplishments of her parents, "that's just how I grew up, there's no such thing as mediocre - you have to be better than that." In her field of mass media arts, her greatest asset is versatility, she always wanted act but she sought to learn all aspects of the film industry and subsequently "do it all". Every step is a step towards Hollywood for Polidore. Her eyes are set on Hollywood. "I want break into film and television to change things, it's hard for Black actresses". She has these goals written on a small sheet of paper in her hand. Working on a television show is three to four weeks, 7am-7pm, 7 days a week and tiring work. Currently, she is an actress on Bossip. tv which she describes as a blend of "the Office meets TMZ". As part of the cast, "I've watched it from the ground-up since it's a new show." It's currently being pitched to networks for syndication. Even in midst of adversity, Taylor is a forward thinking woman. Her advice to her younger self, "Unrelentless go after your dreams and everything you want. Trust God, trust yourself and always be happy in the process". To describe herself in one word, she humbly admits "extraordinary". ---

Attending Spelman College has been a "season of continuous growth" for Sa'Tia Warnock - affectionately called Tia by her peers. Socially, she reluctantly participated in the Ms. Senior Pageant considering the never imagined herself being a "pageant girl." But the experience was great, "it feels good to put your all into something, I have no regrets about not winning. I gave my best and the best is all you can give." A future Behavior and Youth counselor, service has been a hallmark of her experience. As a first generation college student attending college isn't just a degree for Tia. "I'm a trailblazer for my family - no one has obtained a degree. I'm the first in my family on both sides attend college. My little brother is in high school and my cousins are younger, I am setting a path for them." But attending college hasn't been easy, while at Spelman, every year she's overcome obstacles with grace and fortitude. "If I could describe myself in one word - it'd be resilient." For Tia, resilience is defined as "recovering from difficult conditions." After it all, Tia says it's an accomplishment "to graduate in 3 and ½ years, battle depression, take time off, and have career plans post-graduation". She candidly says, "I've bounced back when not anyone expected me to." In her first year, her grandmother died. After all, She's most proud of being awarded a prestigious and highly selected CoastGuard scholarship for her junior and senior year but "that wasn't in God's plan for me." Tia didn't finish boot-camp but considers this a blessing to answering her life's purpose of working with youth in counseling. As a recipient

of this scholarship, she says “I chose money over my passion” but is thankful that she ended up where she is now. “There are so many things” she would tell her younger self. She says, “If you don’t have a plan of where you’re going you’ll end up anywhere.” She eventually wants to return for an advanced degree in counseling to open a private practice working with troubled adolescents. She says, “we need more people in the African American community proving that you can do it and empowering others to do so”. Tia aspires to continue to serve as a change-agent in the community.---

Graduating Senior, Political Science major and Asian Studies minor, Rabiah Elisa describes herself as a “vibrant thing”—Her energy is “potent and influential. I try to use that positively though I know I could incite a riot.” Rabiah says she didn’t choose Political Science as her major; it was really given to her. “Anyone who knows me, even remotely, knows how excited I am to analyze and theorize policy, social constructions and the economic and social byproducts of the aforementioned topics. I’ve always considered my spirit animal to be Nancy Drew.” By following her heart and her head, she has a passion for deconstructing problems to better construct new paradigms for solutions. Additionally, she states that she lets herself “love and think and speak fearlessly and unapologetically. I seek advice when I can’t quite figure things out on my own. And I trust that the Universe is conspiring to make me my best self- even when I get it ‘wrong,’ I’m being set up to get it right.” Just in her time as Spelman, she has been able to go abroad to learn Mandarin and Chinese culture in Shanghai China, study at New York University for a semester, meet some great friends and cross some things off her Bucket List—which she says is still being written every day. “I am very proud to have learned Mandarin; procure a job after college; shoot, graduate from Spelman College; work on federal and state campaigns; intern on The Hill for my hometown senator, Edward J. Markey and in Mayor Bill de Blasio’s Office of International Affairs; conceptualize and execute social media strategy for various organizations.” Most importantly, she is proud to have grown into a young woman she is proud to be. Rabiah states that without trial and tribulations, “stiff friends and a good drink...or stiff drinks and a good friend,” there would be no success or happiness and she uses this to overcome obstacles. ---

There is no set way to make a change in this world and best friends doing it together keep each other focused and determined. Meet Bria Henderson and Maya Prentiss, graduating seniors and

drama majors at Spelman College.

For Maya Prentiss, being chosen as a Woman of the Year finalist has always been a dream. Finally, her accomplishments and work in her field have allowed her to be the best of the best in the Atlanta University Center. Maya is known for her exceptional acting and poetry and she details that she did not originally come to Spelman as a Drama major. She says, “It wasn’t one particular event that happened, it just grew on me because I know I liked to talk, I discovered my passion for performance when I got here, and I found people who were so much more like me, who share some of the same passions and I just said ‘this is me.’” Maya also has her own international mentorship program called For My Sister. Through workshops and performance activities for young girls, Maya and her friend Bria, empower young girls to be their best confident selves. “It is really cute to see the girls break out of their shells from the beginning of the workshop to the end.” Additionally, Maya has been able to perform herself for the Spelman College Drama department, for Joseph E. Lowery, John Lewis’ birthday, and in poetry slams at Morehouse College. “I’ve done ‘Save the Music’ Benefit concert with Phi Mu Alpha twice, a lot of Peace & Love sponsored events that have been sponsored at Morehouse, and when my peers have their own initiatives, they ask us to come out and perform.” She states that the support of peers and friends ignites her own fire within and has been the source for a lot of her poetry. She also follows the mantra, “to never do anything mediocre” because if you do something mediocre, you may as well not do it at all. In living up to her full potential, Maya proclaims that is excited for graduation from Spelman this may and that she would like to go on and receive her Master of Fine Arts and have a long and successful career in acting, directing, film, and Broadway. Staying true to herself and knowing that anything is possible, will keep her on the right path. Maya says her biggest accomplishment is traveling abroad, making an impact with her mentorship organization, and just realizing her passion and finding her niche. Maya recalls a quote someone said to her saying, “you don’t need permission to be exactly who you are.” If that’s who you are, you can’t be anything else... everything is what you make it, so I would just say ‘to thine own self be true.’”---

Bria Henderson is also a co-founder of the mentorship organization, For My Sister. As a graduating senior and Drama major, she acknowledges that by keeping the faith and following her heart, she has overcome adversity and embraced herself as a strong and confident

performer. She says, “My first production at Spelman College was ‘Real Women Have Curves’ and that was my first strong role. It’s crazy because in this first play I had to strip down to my bra and panties because it’s about raising the awareness about body image, and African American beauty...so it was big leap of faith for all of [the cast].” Since her sophomore year, she has been in several productions as well as Vagina Monologues in which she directed and wrote. As a self-described spiritual being, Bria says that for her, “being spiritual is about being more enlightened on how to treat others and how to walk this Earth.” In order to live in this spirituality, Bria uses her art to be a social activist. “I learned how to use my art as a platform to basically speak on issues that I find problematic in our community like the degradation of women, male superiority...different things, but just specifically in the black community and that’s what I want to use my art for. The poems that I write are about African American people in our society, and that’s what I’m passionate about.” The source for all of her work is complimented by her time in the AUC, especially at Spelman College. Bria considers the diversity within the Black heritage and draws upon the experiences of the community and her work as a Bonner Scholar. It’s one thing to give back to someone who is less fortunate than you, and then also give back because someone implanted something in you to make you become who you are today. If I can take five minutes out of my day to do that, then that’s how you make a difference and that’s how you change the world.” Bria has definitely changed the world by establishing international chapters of For My Sister in Nigeria and in the Bahamas, by interning with BET, and staying true to herself. Her biggest accomplishment is “being who I am and not feeling bad for it.” In the fall, Bria will continue her education and intends to get a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Washington, Seattle. In the future, “I plan to honestly tour the world with my own show and then hit Broadway... When you’re so passionate about something, that’s all you want to do. That’s what you live and breathe, and that’s what gives you air.”

For the women in the Women of the Year category, overcoming adversity and embracing self has truly made them the power cells that they are today. As they go on to graduate, the world will be forever changed by their beauty, passion, and commitment to their respective aspirations. The change starts from the individual self, and these women’s impact on their surrounding community have become the true epitome of making a choice to change the world.



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**EXHALING
FORWARD**

THE FUTURE 2015
PHOTOGRAPHY BY: KENNETH GREENWOOD



A VOICE FOR HER GENERATION

SOMALIA
RA-MIA

WRITTEN BY: BEST UCHEHARA

Somalia Ra-min has always been different. While her peers were running around on the playground and making origami fortunetellers in the 3rd grade, she was rehearsing for her talent show performances, where she graced crowds with her melodic vocals. With her frequent success in talent competitions, she decided that her future would be in music. Over the years, she has added songwriting, acting, dancing, and youth activism to her abilities. She is also a co-host for Fusion Teen Talk Show, which focuses on bridging lines of communication between teens and their parents.

Somalia's voice, it seems, is multidimensional in its ability to astonish, inspire, and create. Transitioning into the public school system helped Somalia to find her voice. "I began to learn who I was and really stayed faithful to myself because it's so easy to get caught up in the crowd," said Ra-min.

Her genuine and free-spirited nature is even transparent in her music. She also does not confine herself to a particular category of music. "I can see

myself working with many different artists in Pop, Hip-Hop, Neo Soul, Country, Folk, and R&B," said Ra-min. Despite her modern sound that draws comparisons to artists such as Monica and Jill Scott, she admits, "I have a really old soul. That's where I get my inspiration."

Recently, she released her first EP and anticipates many more in the future. "I've written a lot of my songs about relationships, family, and random feelings." She describes her sound as "Urban, sassy, soul".

In the midst of what many call a voiceless generation, Ra-min has emerged as an activist. Using her journalistic craft, she has embraced her platform as a host on her youth talk show. Discussing her involvement with the show, she said, "We go and visit a lot of Boys and Girls Clubs and other places, where we engage with the youth and give advice." She is often surprised to see teens hearken to what she says.

Some may wonder how Ra-min remains grounded despite her busy schedule. However, she

credits her mom: "I am in love with my mom's ambitious drive. She always encourages me to do better than what she did. I don't know where I would be without my mother."

As we anticipate her next release, she looks pledges to continue producing genuine quality music inspired by her experiences and the experiences of others.

Perhaps, the boldest aspect of her appearance is her locks. She does not call them dreadlocks because of the negative connotations associated with the word 'dread'. "'Dread' means I hate to do something," said Ra-min, "but, 'locks' means that I'm intertwined with something and rooted in it." She has embraced a natural hairstyle for as long as she can remember and does not foresee any changes in the future. Whether you listen to her album, watch her talk show, view a play she is leading, watch her dance recital, or run into her during her community service ventures, you will be amazed by the unique talent Ra-min possesses and her humble spirit which guides her simple lifestyle.

Ian Jackson is a visionary. When he saw the need to unify his class, he ran for president—and won. He is selfless in his thinking as he is constantly brainstorming new ways to create stronger bonds among the Men of Morehouse while also increasing the engagement with the neighboring communities of Morehouse.

In his freshman year alone, Jackson has handled more leadership positions than many of his peers. He is the president of LLC Hall Council, a protégé for MBA, a student ambassador, and stroll team member. He has not always been as bold, however. "Coming out of high school, I hadn't had big leadership positions. I wasn't the smartest guy; I wasn't the most social. I wasn't the coolest kid at the school." His experience with "branching out", or leaving his comfort zone, is something he hopes will inspire others to follow suit.

As a Business Administration major, Jackson hopes to pursue investment banking on Wall Street and eventually luxury marketing overseas. He is no stranger to monetary policy. "I've

always been fascinated with money and trying to figure out where it goes," said Jackson.

As the Sophomore Class President-Elect, Jackson plans to unify the class by hosting more gatherings such as picnics, academic tutoring, and community service events. He recognizes that the brotherhood at Morehouse is what separates it from every other place, and is determined to encourage everyone to partake in it. "My goal is that my class will be the class that excelled in academics and service," said Jackson.

One might assume he is quiet and shy; however, he is quite the opposite, as he is often socializing and trying to meet new people. That mindset of getting to know strangers and sharing his vision with others has won him the respect and support of his freshman class.

Jackson is also forward thinking, in that he is already thoughtful about the legacy he desires to leave at Morehouse. "I want to be remembered as someone who was diverse, multidimensional, intelligent, social, and

unifying. I also want to be remembered as a leader who gave back a lot."

In the upcoming school year, he plans to spearhead efforts to unite Morehouse with its neighboring communities by hosting food drives, clothing drives, school fundraisers for school supplies, and mentoring programs. "These types of things will remind the local community that we're serious about making an impact," said Jackson.

His freshman year has been a successful one by far, as it has marked the beginning of his self-development. "I've become more matured and selfless—mostly because of my RD Mr. Croft, who is like a father-figure to me."

The class of 2018 is already making its presence felt on campus, and will continue to do so with the leadership of Jackson. His persistence, creativity, and boldness will allow the class to continue to be impactful both on Morehouse's campus and in the neighboring community.

THE MISSING LINK

IAN JACKSON
FEATURE

WRITTEN BY: BEST UCHEHARA

Freshman year is arguably the most critical year of the transformative 'Morehouse experience'. Students from various experiences, accomplishments, and aspirations enter an arena of Black excellence that promises both a loving embrace as well as rigorous academics. First-year students must endure the pressure, temptations, and challenges of college. Undoubtedly, our selected The Future recipients are chartering new terrain and laying the foundation for a successful collegiate career.

DERRICK PARKER
Political Science
Kansas City, MO

MT: As a freshman, you came in with over \$500,000 in scholarship money. Can you describe what it was like to be awarded so many scholarships?

DP: It was a blessing receiving the Gates Millennium Scholarship, the Coca-Cola Scholarship, the G.E. Ronald Reagan Scholarship, the Anne Frank & ING Award among others. It was very exciting and rewarding to know that all my hard work had paid off and that I achieved my dream of going to college and not having my parents worry about paying for anything.

MT: Can you describe your first year experience at Morehouse?

DP: Coming to Morehouse was a very difficult and scary experience. Coming from a high school where I took on many leadership roles in different organizations, I was scared to see how that would translate at Morehouse. I think I struggled a little at the beginning, but I'm catching on now. I think I made the right choice.

MT: Where do you see yourself in the next three years?

DP: I see myself graduating from Morehouse College at the top of my class and heading to law school. Ideally, I would prefer Harvard.

KAMREN ROLLINS
English & Psychology
Washington, D.C.

MT: Could you describe your Morehouse experience thus far?

KR: Thus far, my experience has been great! Right now, I'm the president of Brazeal Hall. I'm also the deputy secretary of student development in the SGA. I sit on the Residential Advisory Board, and I'm also a member in the Student Advisory Board.

MT: You seem to have quite a busy

schedule. What do you do with your free time?

KR: I party here and there. I like reading and debate; those are some things I'm big on.

MT: What are your future aspirations?

KR: I want to do a lot. I want to become a lawyer, judge, and then I'm trying to become a Supreme Court Justice member. I'm also thinking about going into education reform, then teaching later on.

MONTE PRILLAMAN
Business Administration (Finance)
Washington, D.C.

MT: What are your career aspirations?

MP: When I was young music was my second love. My mother was my first. When she died it was my interest in music, and passion to learn the guitar that helped me cope with her death and the absence of a father. Playing the guitar wasn't just a dream of mine. It was a dream of hers. A dream of us both learning together. Although her death stopped that from happening her soul inspired me to go harder. It helped me realize my affinity for music and although studying business here at Morehouse, after 2 years of interning at the world bank, I plan to pursue a career in both fields. My hope is that after making enough money, I can start an organization to help kids become successful that face some of my same struggles and worse.

MT: What's your biggest fear?

MP: Failure. For me, every move touches me because I've seen to many of my brothers, sisters, aunties and uncles fall. They left remnants of what should have been a family so the pressure is on me to stitch that together. So I don't just do it for me I do it for them and every mistake hurts But, going through life, I realized that, "The only true failure is to give up on your ability to succeed."

MT: How have you grown in the last year?

MP: My growth in the last year? I went from coming here knowing barely anyone to becoming Spelhouse's Mr. Freshman, performing in delta pageants, being featured in this Man of The Year, nominated in the MCLA's as freshman of the year, hosting shows, being selected in cocoa fab's 50 shades of chocolate, modeling for MT's spring collection, modeling for T.I.'s hustle gang, helping to raise hundreds for charity by being bought in multiple man auction events and most importantly, seeing my grandmother turn 95. I went from being the boy she struggled to raise, to a man of morehouse. The only gift she ever wanted.

DARIUS JOHNSON
English
Mobile, AL

MT: Why did you choose Morehouse?

DJ: I chose Morehouse because of the history, the rich culture, the opportunity, the experience, and the people. I take those things very seriously, as well as the overall growth that I know one experiences here.

MT: What's a memorable experience you have had here thus far?

DJ: For me, travelling has been great! When the band went to Chicago, I got to see a different part of the United States and how people live. It was a really fun trip, and I got to know a lot of people.

MT: What are your career aspirations?

DJ: I would like to become an attorney and to get involved with education reform. I would also like to become a professor and to come back here or to another HBCU.

MT: What keeps you motivated?

DJ: My mom. I feel like I'm almost obligated to succeed at this point for her because she's got me this far. Also, being from Mobile, there are few opportunities there,





and I see a lot of kids that don't finish school there. So, me becoming successful will inspire and encourage other students coming up.

MALAKAI MILLER
Biology
Elizabeth, NJ

MT: What are your career aspirations? **MM:** My goal is to become an ER doctor and work in a city that's underserved in terms of healthcare. My goal is to inspire younger kids to aspire to have careers in Medicine, since the field is not as diverse as most people think.

MT: What keeps you motivated?

MM: Coming from a predominantly Black high school, a lot of people did not have plans to go to college. As time went on, that has changed. I want to continue the legacy that I brought to my high school of students graduating and aspiring to go to college.

MT: What is your proudest accomplishment over the last two years? **MM:** Coming out of my shell has been a major accomplishment. There was a point when I realized that I can't let my life go by and I not live it. Ever since that moment, I have expanded my horizon by joining various organizations and stepping out of my comfort zone.

BROOKLEN MCCARTHY
Business Administration (Marketing)
Murrieta, CA

MT: Who do you admire and why?

BM: I admire my father primarily. He is very intelligent, and his creative mind and his ability to execute have been characteristics I admire. Each day, I find myself speaking, learning and networking the way he does.

MT: Describe your involvement on campus thus far.

BT: Since my first semester I have been involved with 6 organizations; L.I.V.E. (Leaders Inspiring Volunteering and Education), MBA, MMA, ONE, LLC Hall Council, and the LLC Stroll team. I also have my own company, BCM Productions where I do flyers for organizations on campus, Photography, Videography as well as graphic design. Lastly, I intern for CAU graduate Joycelyn Dawson, Owner of Pink Me Perfect, a Brand Management Firm for Emerging Artists and Emerging business.

MT: How have you grown in the last year?

BT: In the last year I have grown spiritually, academically, and personally. Spiritually, my relationship with God has grown because I call his name in a deeper form than what I use to. I try my best to make Him proud each day. I've discovered flaws in my academic life that I'm working to improve. Personal I've also found that there are times when your happiness must come first despite how others may react or feel.





TRANQUIL TRANSITIONS: THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM

THE NEW GUARD 2015

WRITTEN BY: BRIANNA GAULDING
PHOTOGRAPHY BY: JAYSON OVERBY

The second year is the easily regarded as the honeymoon phase of the collegiate experience. The woes and challenges of the first-year are now through and the most important agenda item is securing the best view at Hump Wednesday and/or Market Friday. The energy of repping the first year hall or region is, hopefully, done and students entertain deeper topics of discussion. Most sophomores are beginning to enter their major, seeking the perfect internship for the summer, and serving as leaders in on-campus organizations. Essentially, sophomores enjoy a unique liberty in their educational experience and poised at the forefront of their collegiate experience to make a difference.

Today, sophomores Synclaire Butler and Anthony J. Stewart utilize this year of transition to establish themselves as outspoken campus activists and trailblazing athletes. Amidst the calm of the sophomore year, both Butler and Stewart view this year as a continuation of their first-year grind. While the honeymoon of sophomore year is similar to a day at the beach, it's no coincidence that these sophomores aren't just playing in the sand but building sand castles.

Synclaire, a comparative women's studies and Sociology/Anthropology double major from Anchorage, Alaska seeks to uplift her community through changing and inspiring others to break down taboos around sexual assault. Synclaire bravely speaks of demystifying false narratives in sexual assault and increasing the inclusivity of who's sexually affected. "We can't marginalize men and handicap women", she says. "Women aren't only seen as victims, we should not uphold the idea of masculinity" that doesn't acknowledge that men are also assaulted. In the AUC, she desires to shift the conversation of sexual assault so that people are comfortable about speaking on it in an inclusive manner. Self-care is essential for her continued advocacy on sexual assault awareness on HBCU campuses and society at large. "I had to hang around people with lights similar to mine so we could glow together," Butler claims. Also, she writes love notes to herself and centers health and fitness regiments into her daily routines. Ridding herself of toxic relationships and involving with people that "protect her spirit" allows her to radiate love and light across the AUC. Among her purposeful methods of self protection are carefree tactics to relax - "pistachio ice cream is heaven to me. Or I go to blow bubbles in the park...because I'm such a big kid inside!" According to Synclaire, this has allowed her purpose to discover her.

For Synclaire, the policies surrounding sexual assault

are barbaric and archaic. This year, she's worked alongside Spelman administrators, students, and even the Atlanta mayor in advocating for increased awareness to the topic. "Before I leave Spelman's campus, policy changes will be in writing. The taboos surrounding sexual violence are no barrier for Synclaire. As a sexual assault survivor, she courageously advocates for black women to "break the silence". "Most of our lives, black women have been silenced, our voices have not been heard since the era of colonialism. We are taught to protect Black men and silence ourselves, "our voices must be heard".

As a student athlete hailing from Boston, Massachusetts, Anthony J. Stewart first came to build with Morehouse's rugby team, the first HBCU collegiate rugby team, and now serves as captain of the squad. "They were my first group of friends," Anthony proudly claims. In addition, he recently co-founded a film production company, Westview Pictures, with fellow sophomore and Bostonian, Elijah Brewer. However, he remains humble in his accomplishments and playfully admits to signing classic New Edition tunes in the shower. As a strong believer in relationship building, he values dialogue and exchange between individuals. "Everyone can benefit everyone", he confidently says. "I'm a people person, I love meeting new people and I want to reach out to everyone - there's something to learn from everyone and value added from meeting every person" he adds. It's hard to meet every individual in the AUC, but ambitiously, that's one of his goals before graduation. He also wants to push the barriers of independence of college life. Attending Morehouse has existentially revealed his capacity to be independent, mature and self-reliant among so many talented individuals.

His interests in film stems from a desire to share stories from the margins and being heard as current media outlets fail to incorporate the nar-

ratives and perspectives of African American people. "The HBCU is an empowering environment," he says. The diversity of the HBCU campus serves as a springboard for his creative ideas. According to Stewart, the diversity "was surprising." For him, part of sharing narratives in creative outlets humanizes a people who are often unheard and overlooked. He hopes that Westview Pictures increases the visibility and reach of Morehouse to prospective students as well as reworking the conversation on Blackness in the current climate of racial injustices. Despite attending HBCUs, Stewart feels students are passive to enact social change and reluctant to act in times of crisis. He believes that films serve as an outlet to alter the paradigm and encourage resistance among the youth to racially oppressive systems.

Anthony and Synclaire, coincidentally, both have interest in law. Stewart desires to be on the legal side of artistic production as an intellectual property lawyer. In this capacity, he seeks to understand "how ideas are formed" and hopes to protect the integrity of intellectual production by people of color. Synclaire wants to be an advocate in the courtroom for marginalized people, including women, minorities, the LGBTQ+ community, among many others. "I want people call on me when there's an issue, that's the impact I hope to have, I want to be the voice for the voiceless, they can call on me", says Butler. What Synclaire and Anthony have in common as well is a love for music. Stewart touts To Pimp a Butterfly by Kendrick Lamar as his album of the year and Butler has made sure her entire residence hall knows Hozier's self titled album by heart. Both of these standout sophomores have put their time in the calm before the storm to good use by enjoying their present and gearing up for the future. They are undoubtedly destined to make changes that will benefit the AUC, Black community, and world at large.



IBRAHIIM J. EL-AMIIN is a math and economics double major from Buffalo, New York. On campus, he's active in Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., he serves as a resident advisor in Dubois hall, and is the president elect for the Muslim Student Association.

BG: What problems have you noticed in the AUC that you're trying to tackle?

IE: Unity. I feel like all 3 schools in the AUC aren't as united as we should be and as we can be. Simple interactions with people from all three schools can fix that. I'm a really friendly person so I think that helps. Something as simple as friendliness can fix it.

BG: How have you defined yourself?

IE: I try to be as genuine as possible. My friends call me "the nice guy" and that really attracts people and makes them comfortable. A friend mentioned how comfortable she is just talking to me and I took that as a good sign that helped me see myself as a person who brings something out of people that they wouldn't show on a regular basis.

BG: What do you indulge in to relax and stay present?

IE: Music. In the morning, when I'm having a really hard time trying to get to class, I'll listen to "i" or "King Kunta by Kendrick Lamar. They're my favorite because the upbeat tempo really boosts my mood. I don't know how I still do it but they're always on repeat. "i" is my song of the year because it really helped me when I felt down and depressed. It helps me recover.

BG: What final thought do you want to leave with the readers?

IE: I've been thinking a lot about failure. I've had a few times that I've failed but in the back of my mind, I think, "it's not over". I think a lot of people get stuck on the fact that they failed and

not on the fact that they can recover.

ZEPHYRINUS ZJ OKONKWO is an economics major from Albany, Georgia. ZJ is involved in SGA and serves as the Junior Board Trustee and will be the Senior Board Trustee in the next academic year. He is also the parliamentarian for the MBA and will be facilitating elections. Next year, he hopes to be the Protégé Director as he was a protégé himself during his freshman year.

BG: How have you defined yourself?

ZO: In my executive board positions, there's not much day-to-day work, so I try to offer as much input during executive board meetings as I can and help out with other people's duties as well. As a friend, I try to be honest but I maintain a level of tact. You don't ever want to say the wrong thing and you should be cognizant of how people might feel about what you say.

BG: What's an issue in the AUC or within your community that you're tackling?

ZO: The biggest problem I've noticed in the AUC is that it's extremely superficial. Not enough people realize how hard it is for us regardless of your socioeconomic background. Studies show that for African Americans from a higher socioeconomic background, their kid falls into a lower socioeconomic class. Because the system is so against us, we have to work harder. This relates to the biggest issue facing the Black community. I don't think the system being against is going to change because white people don't maintain any empathy when it comes to our problems. The level of income disparity between African Americans and whites is through the roof. It's unfortunate and it's not fair or right, but money changes everything in this world. Without attaining a level of wealth across the race, I don't feel like things will change. I want to fight income inequality. I want to start my own business and

attain wealth but I want to die poor and give my wealth away to restructure systems with that power.

BG: What do you do to stay present and relax?

ZO: The AUC isn't as live as I thought it was so I honestly just chill, read business and finance articles or watch YouTube videos. I don't go out nearly as much, a lot of the moves are just sweatboxes. Since I'll be working with Citigroup this summer, I read Wall Street books. I'm about to start Liar's Poker by Michael Lewis. For me, the album of the year has to go to Kendrick, but my song of the year – I listen to ignorant trap music – has to be Peacoat by Future.

BG: What final thought do you want to leave with readers?

ZO: Don't live a superficial life where you're not producing anything for this world. Give something back; live a pro bono type of life. We don't live in this world mutually exclusively. It's not for you to look back on what you did, it's to contribute to the world and give to people who have less than you. Yes, there are people who have more, but there will always be people who have less than you, so give back.

RYAN C. GEORGE is a political science major from Houston, Texas. He's a student ambassador, was recently appointed to SGA Senator at Large and is a member of Pre Law Society. He also serves as an New Student Orientation Leader.

BG: How have you been balancing the time you have now with being engaged in preparing for being an upperclassman?

RG: It's funny that the theme is "Chill Year" because this year has been the total opposite for me. I got an internship with the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus and I've also got a really cool job with Apple so balancing that with



15 credit hours has been tough but I've been staying focused. I'm trying not to get too lazy because I know I'll have to get back in that grind mode soon.

BG: What do you do to relax and have fun?
RG: I always make sure to hang out with my friends and not lose that connection with my brothers at Morehouse and sisters at Spelman. We may go to the movies or a party or go out to eat on the weekends. Some of my personal guilty pleasures are the Real Housewives of Atlanta and Chipotle.

BG: What is the biggest problem in the AUC or your community that you want to address?

RG: I hate when African Americans don't value the fact that they're African American. We're the most beautiful, talented, intelligent people that God has ever created so when people feel like they have to live up to a white standard, I don't like that. We have to remember who we are and whose we are. God took His time with African Americans so we should value who we are and never forget where we come from. I make sure I know my history and have confidence. Being connected is always important as well.

BG: What final thought do you want to leave with the readers?

RG: I look up to a lot of people here at Morehouse and they don't even know that I look up to them; they're Donnell Williamson and Maalik Nickerson. Those guys are just amazing in their fields and I was thinking about how I was going to be a big fish in this big pond. I remember reading Man of the Year last year and thinking about how I was going to make a lasting impression here. When I was nominated, I was really surprised and humbled, so don't come into the AUC with a mindset that says you can't make it or you can't be the "big fish". You can even be a small fish and still make a difference, I believe. So, just because you may

not be in the issue or mentioned in the MCLAs or anything, that doesn't mean you're not making a difference here.

DAQUAN MAY is sociology major from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. May serves as the student coordinator for the Student Ambassador Team and the chair of the Admitted Students Weekend Program. He's the Vice President of the Morehouse Sociological Association and the co-chair of the Sophomore Class Council Community Service Committee. As a freshman, he was the stroll coach for Graves Hall.

BG: What have you done to enjoy your "chill year" but still prepare for the rest of your college career?

DM: Sophomore year for me was more for defining myself and realizing my purpose and what I want to get out of my experience here. Freshman year, you're hearing all about the experience but sophomore year, you get to make it your own and developing a plan on how to transition throughout Morehouse or Spelman or Clark and then go out in the world and succeed.

BG: How have you defined yourself in this time?

DM: I joined organizations and got positions on boards because it's important to get your feet wet and build yourself up along with getting internships. I've also restructured my whole social life and who I consider a friend versus an associate and who's your brother. I needed to formulate that for myself.

BG: What problem have you noticed in the AUC or your community in general that you're trying to tackle?

DM: In the AUC community, I'd say the biggest issue is giving back to the West End community. We do some things but it's for one spurt of the semester and then it stops. It's not a

continuous idea of going out into the community and doing something. I think we make an impact, but it could be so much greater. Back home, most people are focused on getting away from home, which is fine, but when you do go home, it's important to represent your institution and make an impact in the community. Last summer I went to speak at my middle school's graduation. It's important to go back and encourage students who are where you came from to come to college. I've been tutoring at FL Stanton Elementary School and encouraging my friends to come with me. I've also been asking Project House to assist in getting the whole AUC involved.

BG: What have you done to relax?

DM: Sophomore year is when you stop going to promo parties and go to more kickbacks and spend time with your friends in a small setting to enjoy your time here. This year I've been enjoying Atlanta by going to the aquarium or the World of Coca Cola and going skating at Cascade. My guilty pleasures are Chipotle and Prickly Pear – they get me away from this campus.

BG: What's something that few people know about you?

DM: I studied abroad in Costa Rica and Spain in high school. Costa Rica was more of an adventurous trip, I went zip lining and horseback riding. In Spain, we studied Spanish culture and history and spent a lot of time in Madrid, Barcelona, Toledo, and Seville.

BG: What final thought do you want to leave with the readers?

DM: Going into junior year, you need to have a purpose. Make sure to remember to have a drive to reach out into the community





KEEPING THE COUNTER- BALANCE

THE ESTABLISHMENT
2015

WRITTEN BY: JAMES PARKER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY: DARREN MARTIN

The third year in undergrad is a balancing act. Students must both overcome current issues while also preparing for future aspirations; maintain previous connections yet expand professional and personal networks; progress into leadership roles but commit to new positions as well. As their junior year ends, six Spelhouse leaders look back at the stretch of the tight rope they have already crossed while continuing their journey forward.

Reflecting on his life, Morehouse junior Brian Camp said, "There were a lot of times that I over-extended and over-committed myself, but I'm glad I did." He added, "I won't do it again next year, but everything I went through was essential for me to become the person I was born to be."

Reflecting on his life, junior Brian Camp said, "There were a lot of times that I over-extended and over-committed myself, but I'm glad I did." He added, "I won't do it again next year, but everything I went through was essential for me to learn from and grow from for me to be a better person, student, and leader."

At the end of his freshmen year, Camp was selected to be the lead resident advisor (RA) in Kilgore Hall having never been an RA before. He was the only student on campus to receive that honor. This was not the last testament to the respected reputation Camp garnered for himself beginning freshmen year. Besides serving on several executive boards, including the Student Government Association, Economics Club, and AUC

Circle K, a community service organization, Camp has also become known as a Mathematics tutor. Over the years he has spent countless hours helping friends, residents, and students develop their "toolkit" to draw from and be successful on their mathematics final exams.

Spelman junior, Ariana Brazier, had an equally successful and busy year as well. She was recently elected as Miss Spelman College, is the president of Spelman's National Council of Negro Women, is also a board member of the Beat the Street non-profit organization, and works independently to end homelessness.

Last semester, Brazier hosted an AUC week against homelessness which included two simulation events when she and other students slept on the streets of Atlanta. The event also included panhandling in 30 degree weather and having police officers repeatedly remove them from warmer places for loitering.

When she isn't exposing students to life-altering experiences, Brazier is volunteering at shelters and food banks, spreading awareness of alopecia, and presenting research on topics such as "The Lack of Home and the Invisible Homeless in Love & Hip Hop Atlanta."

After graduation she plans to pursue a doctorate degree in English, develop policies that prevent homelessness, become a professor, and continue to destigmatize homelessness.

Similarly, Brendon Fountaine is working to better himself for the benefit of others. He now serves as the co-chair of Element and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. Prior to his arrival on campus, Fountaine was already used to balancing a hectic life.

After being evicted from his senior in high school, Fountaine moved in with his father whom he met while in the 4th grade. Eventually, his father refused to allow Fountaine to continue to live there and he moved in with a close friend as his mother battled crohn's disease. Through it all, he finished in the top of high school class and arrived at Morehouse as a Gates Millennium Scholar and a man on a mission.

"I work hard and persevere for my family," Fountaine said. "I had to set the standard for myself and now that standard just continues to move up."

As the youngest of five brothers and sisters, Fountaine is the first of siblings to attend college and one of his brothers was a member of a gang. With the support of his family, he now has earned a 3.8 GPA as a math major and plans to work in the financial sector after graduation and someday open his own charter school. He is interning for Wells Fargo this summer.

"I have experienced a lot but I move forward, and whenever I feel my slipping I just reflect and correct the problem," Fountaine said.

Spelman junior, Aiyana Crews, Crews has also been trans-

formed by her college experience. She is currently the publicity chair of the Morehouse-James residence hall, a member of ACTS community service organizations, a Morehouse Business Association (MBA) member, and also has two part-time jobs at Macy's and Target stores.

When she's not at work, class, or meetings, she's usually abroad. In preparation for her life as a United States diplomat or ambassador, Crews has travelled to ten countries including Spain, France, the Netherlands, Portugal, England, Germany, Italy, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and Haiti. This summer she will intern at the Foreign Service Institute for the U.S. Department of State.

"Traveling forces you to leave your comfort zone and question your identity more than any other experience could," said Crews. "You don't know what it's like to be a foreigner until you're in someone else's home country not knowing the language or norms or people."

Junior Michael Curry's college experience also led him abroad. Last may he attended the Cannes Film festival, in the south of France. Throughout his journey through Morehouse and beyond, Curry has relied on his family and friends to motivate him and keep him focused. He said that his Morehouse brothers were his life-line especially during production for performances and tough times academically. He serves on the executive board for the Spriggs-Burroughs dance ensemble and co-director of the "Art after Dark," show.

Curry also attributed his personal progress to his advisors in Spelman's theatre department and Professor Jamila Lyn's World Literature class at Morehouse.

"That class shattered my perception of who I thought I was and led me to a journey of self-exploration that refocused my purpose in life," Curry said.

His week day often includes work at Chipotle, classes beginning around nine o'clock, and some sort of rehearsal or performance ending between around 11pm - 1am. Despite many long days filled with varying obligations, Curry said he is motivated by the brothers in his graduating class who are no longer at Morehouse. They are a constant reminder that his time here is valuable and not guaranteed, while his family remains a remains his example of hard work and love.

Camp's journey of balancing on life's tight rope led him from Charlotte, North Carolina to the AUC, Brazier's began in Bessemer, Alabama, Crews' in the Bronx, New York, Fountaine in Portland, Oregon, Curry's in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, but each of their paths crossed here and were inevitably altered by the experience. For this reason, going forward they will be more equipped to balance and conquer life beyond the AUC.









REMEMBER THE TITANS

THE TITANS 2015

WRITTEN BY: MICHAEL A. MARTIN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY: AHMAD BARBER

"In Greek mythology, the Titans were greater even than the gods. They ruled their universe with absolute power." – Coach Boone, Remember The Titans (2000)

The music begins to fade as the lights come on and the DJ makes the last call for alcohol. You take one last shot before waking up to blinding light, roaring sound, and a pulsing headache. It's senior year, the party has come to an end, and we're faced with the hangover-like reality of the real world.

"Senior year has taught me one thing; you have all the fun you want, as long as you have your business in order. The theme [of the photo shoot] reminded me that I could not be one of those people [who] partied all year, and wake up May 17th with a bad hangover and no degree," said Malcolm Sinkfield.

The Titans represent some of the AUC's finest graduating seniors. They recently sat down to chat about their experiences in the Atlanta University Center. When asked what it means to be a Titan, the group responded with words like "leader," "trailblazer," "advocate," "tenacity," "honor."

"When I think of the word 'titan,' I think of the unconquerable, the greats; Kronos and Atlas. They are the titans of Greek mythology who ruled their universe with unparalleled force, wisdom, and pride. They did whatever was necessary to stay on top. However, their pride was their fatal flaw," said Daniel West.

And it is our own flaws that will ultimately either destroy us or

push us harder to achieve our goals. But what exactly is a Titan's fatal flaw?

"[...] Halfway through my matriculation at Morehouse, I was constantly getting interrupted with bad news. It seemed like every time I turned around, a family member or close friend I grew up with was losing their life to violence or prison. This took a toll on me, mentally, to a point where I thought about giving up. But I persevered, and now I'm about to graduate," said Artesse Conley.

But, with the downs come plenty of ups.

"Somewhere around sophomore year, I felt as though I didn't belong at Spelman. I didn't have the money to stay, my best friends were at home taking different routes, and with guilt, I questioned why I was chosen to be here. [...] I began saying, 'What God has for me is for me.' That phrase carried me through the rest of my journey at Spelman. I am so proud that I realized that because it gave me the opportunity to teach others and to finish strong and do my best so I can leave a path for others to follow, and carry others when they need help," said Jasmine Payne.

With the title and recognition of being a Titan, it's also their duty to give back and help others to achieve the success that has so fortunately been bestowed upon them. Underclassmen, listen up.

Freshmen: "Study; get into the habit of studying early. Embrace; just embrace the culture at Morehouse. Embrace being around other intelligent,

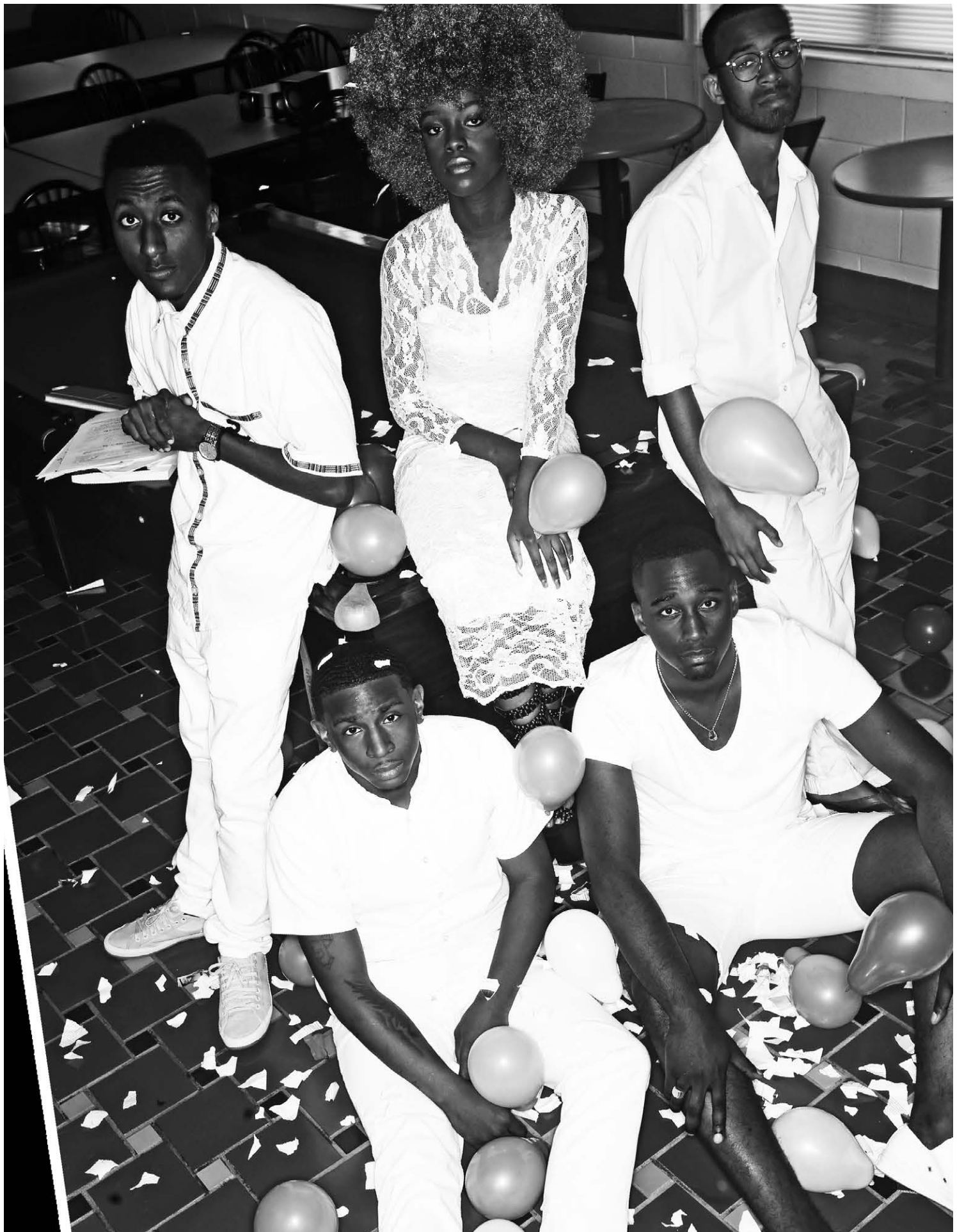
diverse guys. Explore; get familiar...get comfortable with being uncomfortable and just see what's out there," said Brandon Anderson.

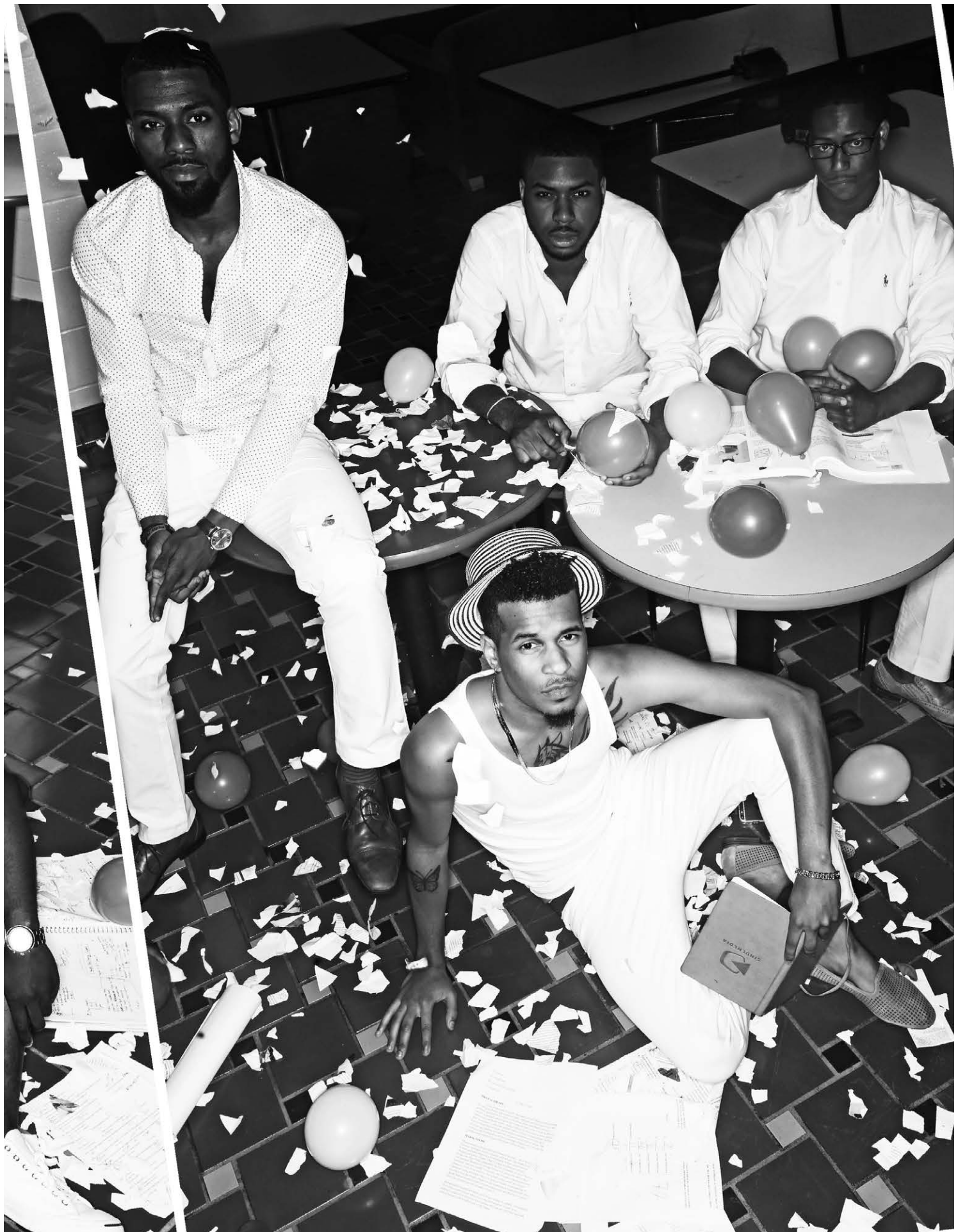
Sophomores: "Go to class! Don't misuse or misunderstand the dynamic powers that are corresponding with you during this moment in life. You'll be given every reason to quit and/or procrastinate, but the person who learns how to properly conquer this time will succeed," said Donnell Williamson.

Juniors: "Know that the race is not given to the swift or to the strong, but to the one who perseveres to the end. Junior year is crazy because you just want to be done, but you have one more year. Know that it will happen and you will make it if you just keep swimming," said Payne.

As the Titans make the transition from the illusion of college parties to the harsh reality of the working world, they are prepared with their plans for the future. Grad school, various programs, and full-time employment are amongst the opportunities waiting for our Titans as they leave the Atlanta University Center.

"After graduation, I plan on going to grad school. I just recently got accepted into a Master's program at UNC Chapel Hill and am still waiting to hear back from Teacher's College at Columbia. During the summer, I will be returning to ETS to work under the NAEP Grad researching solutions to educational policy issues," said West.









PRESERVING THE POWERHOUSE

HALL OF FAME 2015

WRITTEN BY: UGOCHUKWU UNIGWE
PHOTOGRAPHY BY: KENNETH GREENWOOD

TAYLER ULMER
Hometown: Chicago, IL
Major: International Studies/Anthropology and Sociology

DONTE MILLER
Hometown: Greenville, SC
Major: Business Administration Concentration in Accounting

She is a world traveling International Studies major and he is a Business Administration major with an entrepreneurial spirit. Despite these two different majors and focuses in life, both Tayler and Donte have something special in common. They are both dedicated to uplifting their black brothers and sisters across America, and across the world. Tayler strives to uplift the black race and help liberate them from mental and psychological slavery, while Donte aims to help end the cycle of poverty and help liberate his people from financial slavery.

Since her Freshman year, Tayler has sought to make a difference on campus and in the black community at large. She cites her trip to Haiti as one of the biggest influences on her love for social justice. Tayler says, "When I went to Haiti it was my first trip abroad in college and it changed my perspective on the world, on global inequalities, on blackness, and on the diaspora – also, it was my first time in an all black country. The power that you get from seeing a country full of other individuals that look like you is amazing."

As Ms. Graves Hall 2011-2012, Tayler started a program called "My Brother's Keeper" that paired 20 7th graders from Kipp Strive Academy with 20 freshmen from Graves Hall. The Morehouse students served as mentors to the 7th graders, and they participated

in events like college tours, environmental awareness activities, and professionalism programs. As of today, My Brother's Keeper is still thriving with a new president, Hali Larkins, who served as Ms. Graves Hall 2012-2013. Tayler is proud of the program's growth and states that the new president Hali is doing an "amazing job."

After visiting South Africa, Tayler started another program called *Crafting Change Agents*, which receives funding from the US Embassy in Pretoria. The program aims to bridge the gap between Black Americans and Black people from other countries. "When I got back to the United States I got asked on about five different occasions if Ghana was in South Africa – from college students by the way," Taylor says. "This opened my eyes and let me know that there needs to be some type of dialogue that discusses these issues. There's so much history between Africa and African-Americans, there needs to be a place where students from both backgrounds can meet and talk. With Mike Brown, Trayvon Martin, all these things happening, it's imperative that we talk about race issues and social justice issues."

Crafting Change Agents holds weekly interactive Skype dialogues on issues like colorism, hair, political activism, racial identifiers, and much more. The AUC students involved with the program will be traveling to South Africa in May to meet the South African students they have been paired with.

Taylor's list of campus involvement and accolades is an extensive one that includes winning the title of 1st Attendant to Ms. Spelman, receiving the highly competitive Marshall scholarship, which will fund her Master's

degree from the University of London School of Oriental and African Studies, and being inducted into Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. As her time at Spelman comes to an end, she believes she is leaving with her college experience pretty fulfilled. Tayler says, "When I got to college I said I'm not going to leave with any 'shoulda woulda couldas.' As a senior today I can't say there's anything left I wanted to do. If I wanted to do it, I tried it!"

While Tayler is working to strengthen the minds of the Black community, Donte Miller is working to strengthen their pockets. It is no secret that Black Americans often face financial hardships and struggle to earn and save their own money. Donte hopes to help eradicate these problems in the Black community, starting right here in the West End.

Business and finance was not always something Donte found particularly interesting. He admits that he spent a lot of his time in college unsure of his direction, trying to find himself, and trying to find his profession. "If I were to describe to you step by step my college experience, it was not a straight line. It was not easy...At times it seemed like it was going to be disastrous, but I was still able to come back from everything at the end of the day."

After his first internship with the Federal Reserve in San Francisco, Donte knew the financial world was for him. "When I got the internship I was actually a Chemistry major. The internship allowed me to float around the bank and observe people in different sections and doing different jobs and it set me on the path of finance."

Today, Donte's business resume includes membership with both the Morehouse

Business Association and the National Association of Black Accountants and internships with both Google and Goldman Sachs.

Currently, Donte is working with his own hybrid business that he started with three others about a year ago, the Village Micro Fund. "We find entrepreneurs in the West End who have business ideas but don't have the formal education or the credit to get bank loans. We teach these people what they need to know and introduce them to the necessary people for their business, and we give them a loan of up to \$10,000 and stay with them as consultants as they grow," Donte said.

It was not easy starting this business, but Donte has taken advantage of the skills he learned through top tier internships to start it from the ground up. "Given the skills I received from all these internships and pairing with the people that I met during the internships allowed me to be able to start the business," Donte said.

Donte expressed the need for more black financing companies. He said, "We believe this is going to be the game changer...It's a fact that a white person can go into a bank with an idea and come out with a loan, and a black person can go into the same bank, with the exact same idea, and the same qualifications, asking for half the loan amount, and leave with double the interest. There is a black tax. That's going to continue for as long as we keep going to institutions that we have no say in. I feel like we need to create our own institutions, which is where the idea came from."

As a part of its recruiting process, the Village Micro Fund holds business workshops for small business owners in the West End where topics like online advertising, general and financial consulting, and many more are covered. Previous workshops have featured Google representatives, Twitter representatives, and other high profile speakers teaching and giving business advice to these local entrepreneurs.

After graduation, Donte plans to stay in Atlanta where he will continue to work with small businesses. The Village Micro Fund recently began working with their first local client, The Westview Pizza Café.

RICHARD "SCOOTER" TAYLOR
Hometown: Memphis, Tennessee
Major: Marketing

He brought awareness to the importance of bringing clean water to developing nations in Africa through his non-profit Water Wars in Spring 2013 by introducing us all to the infamous jerry can. "It was cool to see everyone supporting something that we worked hard on... I will never forget those moments," Scooter said. As of today, Water Wars has raised over \$5,000 and has helped 3,000 people in Sub-Saharan Africa get access to clean water.

What advice do you have for any Freshmen who may be reading this? I would remind them to run their own race. While they're here, people are going to accomplish things and experience things that they wish they were experiencing and accomplishing. You just have to remember that if you run your race, you'll get to those places.

What is your biggest trophy from Morehouse College? I think my biggest trophy is landing an internship at Yik Yak. I think that's one of the coolest things because it's a small startup - which I like. It's technology - which I like. I'm doing marketing - which I love, and it's Yik Yak so it has millions of people that use the app but only like 33 people work there - and I'm their first intern ever!

MIKAL DRIVER
Hometown: Atlanta, Georgia
Major: Sociology

For Mikal Driver, Morehouse has been an upward climb since day one. From the first day he arrived on campus, he faced financial problems that threatened his chance at enrollment. Through constant communication, heavy networking, and endless fighting, Mikal was able to enroll as a freshman. Mikal said that from this moment on he knew he had to be driven to truly get anything done. This tenacity and drive would come

into play again when Mikal worked tirelessly to become a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. - a journey he will never forget. "I had to keep my mind set on the goal and stop worrying about what was around me, what was said about me, and just keep pushing forward," Mikal said.

What will you be doing after graduation?

After graduation I'll be working for Uncommon Schools full time as a 7th grade science teacher. I'm also starting my Master's in July.

What is your biggest trophy from Morehouse College? My biggest trophy would be how driven I was throughout these years. My GPA wasn't always the highest but I had to fight to get it where I wanted it to be. I was always worried about internships and having opportunities like everybody else, but I had to fight to get those as well. So my biggest trophy would be my tenacity, my spirit, my heart - my drive to not quit.

JONATHAN TIBEAUX
Hometown: Lafayette, Louisiana
Major: Biology

Jonathan describes himself as a Renaissance Man, and as an accomplished Biology major with plans of entering the media and television world, it isn't hard to be convinced that this is an appropriate title. "JT" is a Gates Scholar, and he also serves as the Senior Co-Chair of CASA (Campus Alliance for Student Activities). Though he will be walking with the class of 2015 at graduation, JT has made the unique decision of deferring his degree for a year, so he can remain a Morehouse student until May 2016 as he travels abroad to Shanghai, China and Cape Town, South Africa, while his scholarship pays for the experience. JT says he will use this time to solidify his career transition to media television and work on building his brand and his photography and editing skills.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WISH YOU WOULD HAVE DONE? The one thing I definitely say I wish I would have done in college would be change my major. Sophomore year I took one of the most difficult classes of my life, cell biology. At that moment I really questioned myself and my path, but for some reason perseverance kept coming back in my head. I honestly wish someone would have said - or I would have said to myself - 'JT just change your major. Just try something else.'

What is your biggest trophy from Morehouse College? My biggest trophy is that I'm leaving Morehouse one step closer to being a Renaissance Man. My goal in life has always been to truly be a Renaissance Man - to know something a little about everything, to be well equipped, to be well-balanced, to be mentally stable, to be not just one track minded but to try different things and be cultured - to be humble enough to say 'I'm not the best at everything, but I'm willing to learn, I'm willing to try.'

DEMARCUS CREWS
Hometown: Albany, Georgia
Major: Chemistry

A dedicated and hard-working Chemistry major, Demarcus has always advocated for brotherhood while actively pursuing his love for STEM. Branching these two ventures together, he seeks a future working with other college STEM majors. Upon graduating, he plans to work in a medium where he can bridge academic affairs and student development at an institution. "I'm interested in designing programs to help students be more successful in college - specifically students interested in careers in STEM," Demarcus said. Demarcus is hoping to receive a position at Morehouse, where he can dedicate himself to helping his STEM brothers achieve.

What was your most memorable experience at Morehouse? My most memorable experience was being an RA in Brazeal. My residents taught me a lot about myself, and I grew a lot. I was able to impact so many people's lives, and that experience keeps paying off even to this day.

What is your biggest trophy from Morehouse College? My biggest trophy was being a part of SGA this year. I've had the opportunity to really impact Morehouse moving forward. The Residential College Task Force is really going to change the system of residential life at More-

house...The opportunity to make the Morehouse experience a significantly better experience for future students is my biggest trophy.

BRANDON RAVENALL
Hometown: Nashville, Tennessee
Major: Economics

A future businessman, Brandon has been a part of both the Morehouse Marketing Association and the Morehouse Business Association for all four years. He cites working hard and being dedicated as the main reasons he became the president of the MMA. After leaving Morehouse, he will continue his work in the marketing department, working for Delta Airlines.

What advice do you have for any Freshmen that may be reading this?Keep your head focused on your academics, but also don't be afraid to chase any ambitions or dreams you have. If you want to see something, make it happen. Don't rely on someone to do for you what you can do for yourself.

What is your biggest trophy from Morehouse College?My biggest trophy would be working my way up through the Morehouse Marketing Association.

O'SHEA JOHNSON
Hometown: Washington, D.C.
Major: Sociology
Minor: Public Health

After originally being waitlisted for admission, O'Shea Johnson's acceptance to Morehouse initially came as a surprise. But after being accepted, the proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. learned that with hard work and commitment, it is possible to set and accomplish goals beyond the scope of your belief. O'Shea served in the SGA senate, held the positions of Junior and Senior Board Trustee, and became a member of Alpha Kappa Delta International Honor Society of Sociology. Post-graduation, he will be interning with NIH (The National Institute of Health) and weighing his options for employment either consulting at Deloitte US or working with Baxter International in their Quality Affairs program.

What's the best thing Morehouse has taught you?They don't explicitly teach you this, but I would say knowing code-switching...Knowing how to act in certain situations, knowing what's appropriate, what's not appropriate, what to wear, what not to wear...And knowing that you can be yourself in certain environments, but also knowing that in other environments you have to present yourself a certain way in order to accomplish goals.

What is your biggest trophy from Morehouse College?Honestly... crossing. I was the ace of 24 other guys...I was a first generation college student, I didn't know about Greek life when I got here, so for me to accomplish all I did and become the leader amongst leaders is something astronomical. It was life changing. Now I have brothers – real life brothers.

Michael Gatewood
Hometown: Memphis, Tennessee
Major: Political Science

Prior to becoming the ___th SGA President, Michael Gatewood served as JBT and SBT, and as such, he played a big role in the selection of the 11th president of Morehouse College, Dr. John Wilson Jr. Michael cites this as his most memorable experience. "Selecting President Wilson was something that was significant and something that I will remember forever." After Morehouse, Michael will be relocating to New York City where he will work in JP Morgan's strategy operation department.

Is there anything you wish you would have done in college?I wish I would've studied abroad. It could never fit into my schedule, but that's one experience I wish I would have had...I would liked to have gone to somewhere in Africa. I think having that experience while being at Morehouse, I would have been able to connect a lot of those dots. I think

it would've been great for my experience.

What's your biggest trophy from Morehouse College?I can't say any one accomplishment or trophy was the most.. I think one of the most important things that Morehouse has instilled in me is that I can never become complacent in what I'm doing and that there is always going to be something I can do to be greater...That crown is going to forever be over my head after I graduate and for the rest of my life, and I'm always striving to wear that crown. That's probably one of the most trophy worthy things Morehouse has given me.

JERMAINE BLAKELY
Hometown: Butler, Alabama
Major: Biology
Minor: Public Health

From working as an RA in LLC, to co-founding Project House with D'boyja Abney – all while maintaining a 4.0 – Jermaine, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. has always put his academics first while simultaneously acting as a mentor and big brother to waves of freshmen and other Morehouse students. After graduation he will pack up his things and move to New York City to attend graduate school at either Columbia University or New York University.

What advice do you have for any Freshmen that may be reading this?Morehouse College will take you on a journey where you learn so much about who you are and your place in the world. On your pursuit to finding your purpose in life, remain humble, remain grateful, and make sure you follow your heart. Be courageous and never doubt the things you can do.

What is your biggest trophy from Morehouse College?I would say being able to maintain a 4.0 for two years while being very involved on campus and off campus.

JEREK BROWN
Hometown: Jackson, Mississippi
Major: Political Science
Minor: Educational Studies

An all-around scholar, Jerek is a member of several organizations including Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law International Society, Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society, Phi Beta Kappa Society, and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. In addition, he has been named the Highest Ranking Scholar in the class of 2015 consistently since 2012, and he currently serves as the Morehouse College Glee Club president.

What will you be doing after graduation?I'll be attending Harvard Graduate School of Education. I'll be getting a Master's of Education in teaching and curriculum. I plan to teach for a few years, go into administration, and then get my terminal degree in Education Policy.

What is your biggest trophy from Morehouse College?My biggest trophy is leaving here having a sense of self...Knowing exactly who I am and what I stand for – What I like and what I dislike. That's definitely my biggest accomplishment. Deshaun BennettHometown: Little Rock, ArkansasMajor: SociologyComing from an inner-city neighborhood in Little Rock with barely any positive role models, Deshaun feels like Morehouse has changed his life. Here, he has constantly been pushed to achieve more and more due to the hard work of those around him. Deshaun said, "Morehouse taught me to push past my limits and gave me a sense of Brotherhood...Somebody to lean on, somebody to count on."

Is there anything you wish you would have done in college?I wish I would have performed in an opening dance for MMW or something like that. I used to have a passion for dance back in high school but when I got to the AUC I got involved in other things and lost that passion.

What is your biggest trophy from Morehouse College?My biggest trophy from Morehouse is impacting peoples' lives. Through mentoring and student organizations like strolling, stepping, SGA, being able to say I've given back to Morehouse and to my brothers is my biggest trophy.







ON THE LEEDGE

WRITTEN BY: JERREL FLOYD
PHOTOGRAPHY BY: AHMAD BARBER



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He thought he was at the end of the world. It was only the beginning. Born as Jerrel Lamar Brandywine, Baker's life changed when his mother Sheila Holden handed him a photo of his biological father Quran Sarante Baker. From that point on, his journey consisted of first-hand experiences with mass incarceration, drug dealing, poverty and other harsh realities growing up in Detroit and Atlanta.

On paper Jerrel Baker is a Bonner Scholar, Teaching assistant, a community organizer, a dean list student, and presently a Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellow. However, these various achievements do not properly depict the battles and chaos that have run their course throughout the duration of his childhood and adulthood.

Being pushed to the ground by a police officer during a drug bust at his home, having to constantly relocate, and having a false perception of his father all while maintaining success academically are just a snippet of the harsh yet life changing circumstances Baker had to face in order to get to the position he is at presently.

Without question Baker has experienced enough to have individuals look beyond his resume and accolades to uncover his fight of struggle, focus, drive, and most importantly self-identity. It is only through examining the various externalities and internalities in his life that one can observe how they actively pulled him in the direction toward his discovery of his identity and humanity.

THE EXTERNAL

In life there are always things that out of our control. For some it might be as simple as growing up in a tough

environment, for others it may be as complicated as them not realizing their true last name until they were eight years old. For Baker both sides of the spectrum were his reality.

"We were always in very small places moving around a lot" Baker said reflecting on his childhood.

Growing up Baker's mother was extremely altruistic when it came to opening up her doors to family members and friends in need. From his sisters', Ilishia and ShawnTeka Holden, friends to close relatives needing a place to stay, his mother was willing to support.

"We were always taking people in" Baker said.

Unfortunately though Baker appreciates his mother altruism today, at the time when he had to share a bed with his grandmother it was difficult for that appreciation to blossom. On top of being in a crowded and low-income living situation, it was difficult for Baker to establish a sense of home and security due to the different readjustments in their living situation. "I spent a lot of time actually moving back and forth between Detroit and Atlanta" Baker said.

Specifically spending kindergarten through third grade in Atlanta, first through seventh grade in Detroit, and eighth grade through twelfth grade was spent in Atlanta, in conjunction with low-income living circumstances; it is not surprising to discover the difficulties Baker experienced with embracing a sense of home and stability.

Though his living circumstances were an impactful factor that shaped the direction of his life, the discovery of

his true last name, Baker, was by far the most impactful circumstance that was out of his control.

"There was a man whose house I visited on the weekend, at the time I thought he was my father" Baker said discussing his adolescence. The youngest of two sisters and a brother, Baker or at the time Jerrel Brandywine, grew up with the false knowledge of not only who his father was, but also that the four boys that he had spent eight years growing up with were in fact not his true brothers. It was not until his mother slid him a photo across the table of a man that favored himself that the transition from Jerrel Brandywine to Jerrel Baker truly began.

His father, Quran Sarante Baker, at the time was incarcerated and the only way Jerrel was going to be able to see him was if he changed his name from Brandywine to Baker.

"I believe that there was a rule that at my age you were only allowed to visit the prisoners if you were kin or at least had his name as father on my birth certificate" Baker said.

Thus setting the stage for a journey that would lead to his successes at Morehouse College.

Though it is difficult to discover through observation alone, the drive that Baker has at Morehouse College comes as result of the difficult, overwhelming, and uncontrolled extraneous circumstances shaping and molding him into the man he was meant to be.

"I have this fear that if I stop at any point, I might miss something" Baker said.

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With his siblings not even finishing high school, there was always an abundance of pressure on Baker to be the one who overcame his familial circumstances and thus attained success.

"They weren't strong enough" Baker said. "They fell victim to the pressure. I didn't."

THE INTERNAL

As he graces the cover of this year's Man of the Year edition, Baker hopes his peers won't look at his image and say "I want to be him." His desire is for people to want to get to know him. Notable for his extensive resume, dedication to service and high GPA, Baker feels others compare him to a textbook. Though outsiders may deem his behavior as robotic, his relentless diligence is driven by a strong desire to better his and others lives.

"Coming from my family, it's not that I felt like I had anything to prove but after all the work that I put in, after everything, I just wanted my next step to be worthy of all the work I had [done]" Baker said. "I wanted it to reflect that."

He's found his humanity through endless reflection and self-discovery before and during his time at Morehouse College. Fully intending not to follow suit and continue his family's pattern of imprisonment and drug dealing, Baker freed himself from the grasp of socioeconomic pressures by focusing on his academic performance. However, he's still burdened by his family's complacency in solely his moving forward. Living Life Unplanned

Though it can be argued that their struggles were extensive, Baker does not have any resentment towards his family. After all that he faced, his mother still provided as much resources as she could in order to potentially mold him into the man he stands as right now.

"She made things happened" Baker said. "She always found a way."

Today that man has overcome some of the most impossible circumstances and is able to dream of a better future not only for himself and his family, but the many lives he hopes to impact through his work in education and International Development. "I try to be as explicit as possible about the possibilities," Baker said.

Using his narrative, Jerrel Baker intends to inspire those he serves to go beyond their circumstances and to work with a future-oriented mindset.

There are a multitude of things that are beyond our control be it a house fire, a rollover car accident or being born roughly 2 months premature. This could be anyone's story but, to Baker, no obstacle is insurmountable. "My reality can very much be yours and yours mine."

Annick Laurent contributed to part of this story.







Mohandas Karamchand "Mahatma" Gandhi Kasturba Kapadia Gandhi
1869 – 1944 1869 – 1944

"Courage, endurance, fearlessness, and above all, sacrifice are the qualities
required of our leaders."
M.K.G.
A girl from the "people's" India

April 2, 2000

A DREAM ACTUALIZED: A Candid Conversation with John S. Wilson, President of Morehouse College

FACULTY
OF THE YEAR 2015

PHOTOGRAPHY BY: AHMAD BARBER

If you can remember – what room or floor did you stay on when you were in Howard Thurman Hall, now Living Learning Center?

I spent my freshman year in Thurman Hall, room 206. I spent my remaining three years in DuBois Hall, room 215. Symbolically, I saw my stay at Thurman as laying the spiritual foundation for my life first, and then over the three intensive years in DuBois, I was laying the intellectual foundation for my life. It was like a foreshadowing of how Thurman would later entitle his autobiography, *With Head and Heart*.

What are some drastic differences that you see in campus culture now than when you were a freshman? If you check out what I wrote in the *Maroon Tiger* in 1978, you will see that I complained about the campus culture I saw back then. I thought and wrote that too many guys on campus were insufficiently serious about being enrolled at Morehouse College. I wondered why the administration didn't do more to either turn those guys around, or get them gone from Morehouse.

If I see any drastic differences in that context, I think the percentages are different. When I was a freshman, the coolest guys on campus were the smart guys. The more frivolous or aimless guys were largely marginalized. Both what I have observed and the complaints I now get would suggest to me that today's smartest guys are far less visible than before. That is a drastic difference that shall not survive on my watch.

A related drastic difference has to do with what seems to be a much smaller number of guys actually "leaning into the Morehouse experience." What do I mean by that? Well, it's both intellectual and social. Intellectually, when I was a student here, and the faculty and administration brought significant people to campus, a small turnout was simply not possible. That's because many, if not most of us were hungry to engage such visitors. But I was very disappointed by the turnout of today's Morehouse students when we recently held three separate events, with two featuring Isabel Wilkerson and Julie Dash. The third event was an unprecedented military Crown Forum, featuring three Generals and one Admiral from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps. Again, it was embarrassing both because more students were not there to benefit, and because so many of the students who were there, walked out early. We will seek input from students on how best to change

that, but it will have to change.

Socially, leaning in means having a great turnout of enthusiastic students at basketball, football and other sports competitions. I don't think I missed a single basketball or football game as a student, and only highly important travel would make me miss a basketball or football game now. How is it that I can lean in and invest this way as president, and students can't or won't? That is a drastic difference that we are also looking to change.

What are some traditions that you have seen continue from your freshman year at Morehouse College to your third year as the College's president? We have a very special faculty. I thought so then, and I think so now, even as we try to improve and enrich the faculty. The traditions of Morehouse being both faculty-driven and student-centered are traditions that should never change. We should update them and keep them fresh, but it should always be well understood that the key to having a great institutional reputation is having a great faculty. And the central role of any great faculty is to produce students who will continue to go out and do noteworthy things in the world. When our graduates exhibit the kind of greatness that derives from having been well taught at Morehouse College, then our brand and future are brighter. In addition, for a lot more guys, it will be as great to be at Morehouse, as it is to be from Morehouse!

While a student at Morehouse, you wrote an amazing opinion article entitled "Disturbed About Morehouse;" a piece that allowed you to envision a greater Morehouse as a student, and the article also played a role in you now building "The World of Our Dreams." What are the greatest differences you see in your perspective as a student vs. your mission as its top administrator (re: administrative critiques, student engagement and overall competitiveness)? Rather than a single article, it was actually a series of articles, all illustrating the ways I thought Morehouse could be better. And much of my perspective is the same, in the sense that I saw important gaps between Morehouse and the best liberal arts colleges back then, and I see those important gaps now. In some ways, we are ahead of the pack and in some ways we are woefully behind. So, it's a mixed bag. Of course, my current job, and the role of my senior team is to lead the effort to close the important gaps where we are behind, especially

with respect to capital preeminence. We also have to widen the important gaps where we are ahead, especially with respect to character preeminence. And it is by both actualizing operational excellence and improving our student embrace that we will trump the competition.

Three years into your presidency, what are the two greatest lessons you have learned thus far? That's hard. This is going to sound contradictory and grainy, but it's true. First, I have learned that I cannot underestimate the power and determination of haters. There are people who really do not care that we have assembled a great team that is on a mission to make Morehouse College world-class in every way. They just hate the idea of change, or the notion that they are not the primary drivers of that change. So they spend significant time being a headwind for us. My team and I have to take those counterforces seriously, lest they blindsides, disrupt and cripple us.

But the second lesson I have repeatedly learned is almost the opposite of the first. That is, I have learned that if we handle our business right, the haters shall not prevail. They just can't. And it helps that we believe our work here is about fulfilling Morehouse's institutional destiny.

Let me give you two analogies. First, when Howard Thurman talked about "the sound of the genuine," he was referring to individuals figuring out what it truly means for them to live a "call-answered life." But that is true for institutions, too. And my team and I believe that the sound of the genuine for Morehouse College – that which would fulfill the destiny associated with our institutional DNA -- is the world of our dreams. So, we are focused on realizing that in a way that ultimately converts headwinds into tailwinds!

The second analogy derives from my wife's research. She is an electrical engineer, focused on signal-to-noise ratio. Whereas many in her field tended to focus on noise reduction, her emphasis has been on signal extraction and amplification. That's a huge difference, and there are rich lessons in it. The key lesson for us is simple -- if we focus far more on signal (world of our dreams, featuring capital and character preeminence) rather than noise (haters), we will prevail. The light of our signal-driven supporters and investors is more powerful than the darkness of our hate-driven critics and saboteurs. And I indeed realize that this is both logical and theological!

Three years into your presidency, what have been some challenges that you have faced while president of Morehouse College? How did you overcome them?

Well, I just completed my second year at the end of January 2015. I could talk about our progress toward realizing optimal financial stability, demonstrable operational excellence, greater academic stature, and new philanthropic results, but I have not really begun to meet any of these or other challenges by myself. I have a great team and we are already realizing many noteworthy results. And we are just getting started, so buckle your seat belts!

There has been a critique that the administration has been too silent and invisible to the student body, whereas some others have praised the administration's multiple new strides into a "New Morehouse." If there were one thing that you want to tell the student body and alumni about your new plans, what would it be?

Well, let me first say that I have come to understand that there are many, many people (some in important positions) who have absolutely no idea of what an effective president does day-to-day. And some are so old-school in their thinking, it's downright scary. So, many people view my Morehouse presidency with a leadership lens or an executive framework that is very different from my own, and very different from what institutional success in the 21st Century requires. I observed from my White House position that many African Americans see a college or university president as a pastor. In my view, that is lethal. That model went away well over a century ago in the most enlightened colleges and universities.

Today, a college president who is highly visible to students on campus is probably also highly

invisible to both our important partners and our real and potential stakeholders around the world. As president, it is essential that I get significant face-time with the key donors, volunteers and allies whose commitment and investment are essential to our success. So, spending significant time with students might create a warm feeling on campus, but it will likely do little to measurably advance the institution, which is my charge.

With that said, I don't think I am "too silent and invisible," at all. In fact, I am far more present and visible on the Morehouse campus than the successful presidents with whom I have worked have been on their respective campuses – and that includes Harvard, MIT, and GW. And as we gradually realize the world of our dreams here, I will become even more visible to Morehouse students. Nonetheless, when students do not see me, they simply need to know that I am working very hard to make a better Morehouse. I also want students to know that it is the outcomes derived from my time away that should be loudest and most visible, rather than me. My presidency is not about me. It's about Morehouse!

You have a team of great leaders ready to continue to move Morehouse forward, who are they (if you can name them all) and how have they helped us transition into "The World of Our Dreams?"

I am more than convinced that we not only have the best convergence of administrative talent in the history of Morehouse College, but our talent surpasses that of the best liberal arts colleges in the country. And I am also convinced that we have a very high signal-to-noise ratio – that is, we are all pointed in the same "world of our dreams" direction with our sights set on strengthening the value proposition of Morehouse in the

21st century. A complete listing with names and titles of my senior leadership team is on the President's Office Website, and many of these folks are new, bringing a fresh perspective to Morehouse. Yet, those of us who are new have joined a seasoned set of Morehouse professionals who have been here for years, sometimes decades. Together, we are surging toward preeminence with transformative ideas and the heft needed to bring those ideas into reality.

If you were to tell your freshman self one thing that you know for sure now, what would you tell him? You can start off with "what I know for sure..."

I will state it as a quote: "What I know for sure, young man, is that your dreams of a world-class Morehouse will indeed come true and you will live to see it because you will serve in a pivotal role to fulfill it! ...And by the way, you may find this hard to imagine right now, but you will marry the one and only woman in the universe who is better for you than a Spelman woman!"

To the freshman living in this hall, or any other hall on this beloved campus—the freshman that is dreaming of one day occupying your space in Gloster Hall—what are your words of advice?

It is a mistake to dream about occupying a position. Instead, dream first about having an impact and realizing important, unselfish outcomes. My dream was and is about actualizing a world-class Morehouse. It just so happens that the Narrator of my life decided that I had to become the Morehouse president to make that happen. So, don't get it twisted. My dream was not at all fulfilled when I stepped into this presidency. But I am determined that it will indeed be fulfilled when I step down from it.

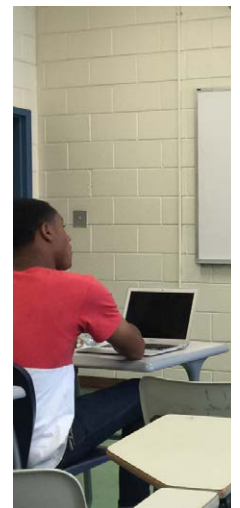
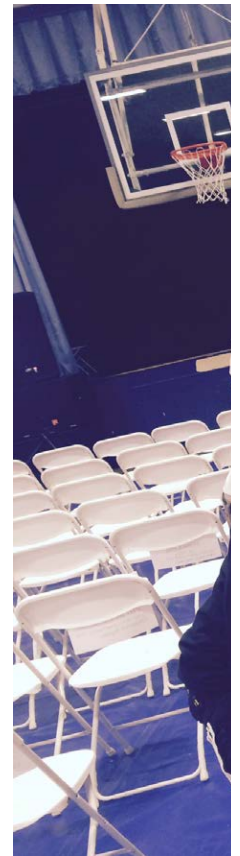




CAUGHT IN ACTION: Spelhouse Faculty and Staff Who Change the World

It takes a special type of person to train a Morehouse Man and Spelman Woman. Someone who understands, who challenges and does the necessary--but hard--work of molding a holistically matured and socially conscious student. Students are nothing without the faculty and staff who impart wisdom, and are patient with the process of awakening young minds. The perfect faculty/staff member is someone who understands, and enjoys, the importance of a symbiotic relationship between a mentor and a mentee; they are willing to teach, and they are willing to learn.

Dr. Marc Lamont Hill, Professor Jamila Lyn, Dr. Linda Zatlín, Mr. Michael Gary, Professor Rubina Malik, and Professor Omelika Kuumba exemplify those traits and more and have been nominated by students of Morehouse and Spelman College as the 2015 Faculty and Staff of the Year.







DARREN MARTIN

EDITOR IN CHIEF 2014–2015

When you took the position as Editor-in-Chief what was your original idea behind expanding the organization?

The original, and lasting, vision behind expanding the newspaper into a media group was simply necessity. In this new media age, we cannot only be beholden to print media. We have to interact in digital, in print and in person. We have to appeal to all senses of our readership while telling the stories of an extraordinary race of individuals and the historic significances of the Spelhouse community, especially Morehouse College.

What advice would you offer to others seeking to one day be in your position?

Do the necessary work. If done right, this position is not simply a badge of honor—it is a mandate. The historic advances made by The Maroon Tiger during my administration, and much before my administration, have always come from those committed to telling the best story and impacting the best audience. That's the mandate, if anything else. Be clear. Be understanding. Be strong. And make great business decisions for the greater good, and not self-advances. But learn from this journey as well, use it to grow and to develop professionally.

Why The Maroon Tiger?

I have believed this even before I became Editor-in-Chief of MT; The Maroon Tiger is a breeding ground for budding creatives and journalists to find themselves, and practice in the public with real time experience and real time reach. I cannot express how much of a necessity it is for us to have this space to create and tell our story, unadulterated.

In your time at organization, how have you seen it grow?

We started as a newspaper with a broadcast arm. We're now a running media group with 5

branches including: MT Newspaper, MT Magazine, MTTV (or TigerTV), MT Business and Project Y-Axis. We're much more business and product focused and the organization has now stepped into, and excelled in, the competitive media space—both in collegiate and national arenas. But more than ever, from less than 20 students to a running estimate of 60-80 members who have worked—in and out—with The Maroon Tiger. That's my proudest accomplishment. Giving access and making it fun!

Is there anything that surprised you about the position when you officially took it on?

Absolutely! None of which I can type right now. (Laughs).

What has made The Maroon Tiger Different From Others?

We practice in the public, and we do it well. All of our successes, and our mistakes, are seen and so we have to be sharp and smart. This makes us run as a hybrid student organization-business. Hard decisions have to be made to publish a newspaper, magazine or even a one-minute video. I think making the hard work look easy is also something that sets us a part.

What factors have defined you as a great Editor-in-Chief, and was the job easy?

I loved what I was doing, and h*** no it was not easy. Nothing worth having ever is easy; I wouldn't have taken the job if it were.

Awarded Best Student Newspaper by HBCU Digest, how have you aided in this recognition?

I supported my team and made the necessary internal calls and hard decisions to keep us afloat. I took the beatings that helped my team prosper. The rest is the amazing team and their dedication to excellence. That is what makes them great.

JAYSON OVERBY

EDITOR IN CHIEF 2015–2016

Everyone's going to tell you that you have a big position to fill, are you sure you're ready?

Although I may be a little nervous, I'd say I'm honored above all. Coming into Morehouse I proclaimed that I would one day be the Editor-in-Chief and a lot of people looked at me as if I was crazy. It's been a long time coming, but I am ready to take the throne and lead the student body just as Darren Martin and Jared Loggins did during their time here. Studying under those two has shown me that nothing comes easy; they're always working and growing The Maroon Tiger. I know, and firmly believe that I am in a position to lead The Maroon Tiger after the long conversations with both Darren and Jared. I have been eager to take initiative thus far, and I will always accept criticism to help me grow as a better leader.

In your previous role in the organization, how do you think the things you've learned will aid in the upcoming academic year?

If I've learned anything, I've learned to always be ready. Anything can happen at any moment, but as long as you're ahead of the game and quick on your feet it won't stop you. As an editor I've had the authority to lead a team of people and aid in their growth as writers and thinkers, but they've made me realize and understand that I must continue to be that driving force on a larger scale.

What ideas do you have in store for next year?

As much as I want to go on a soapbox about all the things I, along with the team, have planned for next year I'll just leave it here: my wonderful upcoming senior managers and I are all creatively driven and we will continue to work together as a team to produce some great products.

Considering The Maroon Tiger isn't your average student media group, how will you continue to aid in its expansion?

We're in the age of new media, and I think the one thing we must

continue to do is continue to expand our reach in social media. In an era that is technologically driven, one of our main goals is to make sure our productions and news are obtainable for the masses. Rather than limiting our content for a specific audience, we'll produce for others to understand the dynamics of our institutions. Our niche is creating a space for dialogue about cultural discourse, race, politics, arts, and black culture. I am dedicated to helping others understand that these conversations are important for our growth in academia and life holistically. As a student media group, we are in a position of power to contribute to popular culture and make stories relevant and understandable to those who do not identify or understand.

What do you have to say about the person who's currently in the position you'll be assuming next year? Does he really have to leave?

I don't think anyone understands the hard work and time he's put into The Maroon Tiger, and that's what I can't leave unknown. On the outside looking in, there's a façade that we're putting together these issues and magazines with ease—and that's not the truth. When you're dedicated to something, it doesn't stop - there is no clock; you're always working your hardest to present a quality product to your audience. For the last year I've worked alongside Darren understanding how he works and gets it all done. His passion and drive keeps him going and he never gives up. It's an honor to be in his position next year, but he is a powerhouse and will never be forgotten as long I'm around (and for future MT generations to come). His ability to build a team of creatives and writers has allowed me to aspire to continuously grow The Maroon Tiger. Also, I cannot forget Jared and Ahmad Barber, the two guys working alongside Darren who make everything possible. Two of the most creative and smart guys I know, they are visionaries and will truly be missed next year!



JERREL FLOYD

MANAGING EDITOR 2015–2016

Everyone is going to tell you that you have a big position to fill, are you sure you're ready?

That is a question that had literally plagued me when I first signed on to be Managing Editor next year. I looked at all that Jared and Darren have accomplished with the media group and all I thought about was how in the world am I supposed to live up to that. Before them MT was just a paper and now it's something much more impactful and dynamic. Thus I can honestly say that I am more than ready, I'm excited. I'm excited to see the personal touches I will leave on this media group and excited to see the influence it will have on me. Jared and Darren started with something simple and made it complex. All they did for me was just give me good head start.

In your previous role in the organization, how do you think things you've learned will aid in the upcoming academic year?

That question is funny because I actually went from a staff writer, to a senior staff writer, to Features Editor over the course of one summer. If anything I learned that at the end of the day a job has to get done and articles have to be written.

What ideas do you have in store for next year?

I want to build upon the relationship between alumni and present MT editors. Thanks to project y-axis I hope the relationship reaches a point in which alumni are able to contribute at least one article per issue. I also want more alternative story formats so that the paper is more informative and appealing. Essentially I would partner a writer of a story with a free staff member who will be able to apply an alternative story that supplements the actual story. My dream goal would be for every editor to be trained in layout so that the overall publication

process is more efficient.

Considering The Maroon Tiger isn't your average student organization, how will you continue to aid in its expansion?

By making sure that the organization does not become complacent. Efficiently pushing out publications is a fantastic goal, but stopping there only hurts the potential of the media group. This means that more partnerships with Tiger TV are a must. This means that expanding readership is a must. This also means that being open to anything that expands our ability to be the voice of student expression on campus is a must.

Will the media group still foster a space where ideas and thoughts matter?

No not really, I would love to be a part of a media group that fosters ignorance...of course it will still be a space for ideas and thoughts. It would not be MT if it did not.

What do you have to say about the person who's currently in the position you'll be assuming next year?

I met Jared my freshmen year at Morehouse College. I was a resident of White hall and he was one of my RAs. I have always known him to be one of the most intelligent and philosophically thinking individuals. On top of that, he managed the crap out of this publication. I can recall both him and Darren discovering my freshmen year that were going to be the next Managing Editor and Editor-In-Chief. There was so much enthusiasm and hope being transferred between the two of them and little did I know that some of the enthusiasm would be transferred to me and I would eventually step into the role of Managing Editor. So to Jared all I can say is thank you for trusting me with your baby and I look forward to living up to your expectations.

JARED LOGGINS

MANAGING EDITOR 2013–2015

What advice would you offer to others seeking to one day be in your position?

Make the absolute most out of this experience. You will be placed in a position to really influence conversations on campus and in the community. Be wise and remember that you should be attuned to the voice of students. Most importantly, BE OPEN!

Why The Maroon Tiger?

The Maroon Tiger is a space through which students engage in progressive dialogue about any number of issues. There are few spaces on campus with as wide a reach that allows students such a freedom. The Maroon Tiger gave me a platform to not only push for conversation but to also train the next generation of campus writers and editors.

Is there anything that surprised you about the position when you officially took it on?

I have always been critical of my own commentary. This kind of self-criticism helped me to tremendously grow. But I was very surprised by how much one's work is scrutinized by the public at large. This, of course, is not always a bad thing. But I must say that it pushed me to improve my writing and management of my team of writers.

What has made The Maroon Tiger Different From Others?

It's definitely the mix of creative commentary combined with AUC news coverage. We have been able to also reach a wide digital office (at least for a college publication). And obviously, it's the mere fact that we have taken home top news awards at the state level for the last 3 years. I'm hoping the award-winning status will continue!



KRISTEN HARRIS

INTERNAL RELATIONS DIRECTOR
2014-2015

What advice would you offer to others seeking to one day be in your position?

Networking is key. Humility is even better. Humility will take you places or put you in positions that networking can't. Just keep on working, meet new people, be yourself, and in time, you'll be in places that you never imagined.

Why The Maroon Tiger?

Why not? This organization is the heartbeat of student expression and of Morehouse College.

In your time at organization, how have you seen it grow?

I've seen us go from not only being a student newspaper, but a media group with a Business/PR team along with TigerTV that has been such a huge success! We are multifaceted! I think that the misconception on campus is that we are "just a newspaper" and that's good because our writers consistently and effortlessly deliver the news, but what's even better is that we bring that news to life by way of TigerTV, our very own interactive website, and engaging with our peers on a day to day basis. Our members enjoy what they do and that is what makes being apart of The Maroon Tiger incredible! We're a huge family.

Is there anything that surprised you about the position when you officially took it on?

YES! Being The Maroon Tiger's first ever Internal Relations Director, was surprising and humbling alone. I was surprised at how Darren entrusted me with managing the staff (that means through the good and bad! LOL!). I just came in ready to work, be of support to the team, and make sure that communication was seamless throughout all branches of MT.

What has made The Maroon Tiger Different From Others?

We do not require an application process. You don't have to sit through an interview. We welcome you in, recommend which branch of MT you'd fit best in, and watch you work. I would also consider The Maroon Tiger to be different from others in how we train our staff members post undergrad. Since 1925, The Maroon Tiger has been producing members that have gone on to work for major news outlets, land timeless internships and attend prestigious graduate institutions. We have professional training classes that help nurture the staff's creative skills. We host and interview celebrities. We serve our community and challenge them intellectually. We all bring different ideas and personality to our roles so it allows everything to fall in place as it should.

What factors have defined you as a great "Internal Relations Director", and was the job easy?

Separating business and personal were major factors that truly helped mold me in my position. As the Internal Relations Director, everyone looked to me for unanswered questions, remaining professional, and just being someone they could come to when things were hard for them. I had already known to separate business and personal, but this position tested that. It was not easy, but oh so worth it.

Awarded Best Student Newspaper by HBCU Digest, how have you aided in this recognition?

My focus was more on the well-being and morale of each member so I was attentive to that! I've been everyone's biggest cheerleader in pushing them to be excellent. Excellence is the standard. Nothing less.

ANNICK LAURENT

DEPUTY MANAGING EDITOR,
DIGITAL AND INTERNAL OPERATIONS
2015-2016

Considering The Maroon Tiger isn't your average student organization, how will you continue to aid in its expansion?

The Maroon Tiger is far from ordinary so it requires extraordinary care, attention and investment. In the coming year, I'll facilitate The Maroon Tiger's expansion by paying attention to the evolution in information transference and the changing needs of our readers.

Will the newspaper still foster a space where ideas and thoughts matter?

No doubt! That's one thing I can guarantee that won't change.

What do you have to say about the person who's currently in the position you'll be assuming next year?

Jared Loggins is going to be greatly missed! He's absolutely brilliant, sharp, witty, unique and inspirational. And his talent, mind and charm are completely irreplaceable. He doesn't mince words or sugarcoat, always keeps it real, and has a gift for getting to the root of any matter. Jared's one of the key people who fostered my growth as a writer and has given me the necessary tools to dig deeper. There's definitely tough love from him in our newsroom, but it's ALL love. He's a caring, encouraging and giving leader who always has your best interest at heart. And, man, can he write! Jerrel and I have huge shoes to fill! Thank you for everything, Jared!



BRYAN BURKE

EDITOR-AT-LARGE 2015-2016

As Executive Producer, TigerTV:

What advice would you offer to others seeking to one day be in your position?

Be diligent. Be a visionary. In whatever position you seek, always aim for expansion and growth.

In your time at organization, how have you seen it grow?

When I joined Tiger TV, it was stagnant and nearly non-existent. When I took over as Executive Producer, I made it my goal to change that. Though much harder than expected, I was fortunate enough to have a strong team and together we made it a recognized entity of the media group.

What factors have defined you as a great Executive Producer, and was the job easy?

I'd like to think that I'm a team player. When you're building a branch from the ground up, you can't expect it to be easy. I had to develop a strong team and work with my team in a group effort to build something from nothing. There was no room for egos or superior thinking. I am so very proud of my team's work.

Awarded Best Student Newspaper by HBCU Digest, how have you aided in this recognition?

I think everyone on the entire team aided in this recognition. We work hard in our respective fields to bring it all together. We all do our part in making the Maroon Tiger one of the many great things this institution has to offer.

What do you have to say about the person who will be assuming your position in the upcoming year?

Shortly after meeting Jason and getting to work with him, I knew he would be my successor. He's creative and very good at what he does. He reminds me a lot myself in the sense that he is a visionary who is always thinking outside the box. I have no doubt that he will raise Tiger TV to even greater

heights. I'm super excited to see him work in this new capacity. He's going to do great.

As Incoming Editor-At-Large, MT Magazine

In your previous role in the organization, how do you think the things you've learned will aid in the upcoming academic year?

I'll be the only person from this year's senior management staff to serve on next year's senior management staff. There's a certain pressure and responsibility that comes with being a veteran. I almost feel as though I carry the heaviest load in maintaining the group's reputation. Nonetheless, my role as Executive Producer taught me so much in regards to leadership, teamwork, business, etc. Also, my fellow senior management staff for next semester is exceptional and I have no doubt that we'll continue the brand's legacy.

What ideas do you have in store for next year?

Well of course I'd want to keep that a surprise, but I will say that I have intentions on advancing MT Magazine to unexpected levels. We have projects coming up for the new semester that I think will not only be award-winning, but life-changing.

Considering The Maroon Tiger isn't your average student organization, how will you continue to aid in its expansion? Continue to be groundbreaking. Continue to be bold.

Continue to take risks. Working for MT has made me creatively fearless, and I feel that those are the attributes that make us more than "average." We're going to continue to think outside of the box and give our viewers great work. I look forward to the reactions.

Will the newspaper still foster a space where ideas and thoughts matter?

Is that even a question? Absolutely!

JASON PERRY

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER,
TIGER TV 2015-2016

Everyone's going to tell you that you have a big position to fill, are you sure you're ready?

Yes I am sure I am ready. I've had great mentoring over the past two semester and I'm ready to lead.

In your previous role in the organization, how do you think the things you've learned will aid in the upcoming academic year?

Last semester was about rebooting life into our brand. We did a lot of projects on the fly with no script, just an idea. Next semester will be about building foundations for those ideas.

What ideas do you have in store for next year?

I plan to reconstruct Tiger TV into a structure that can work with its small numbers. I plan to train our new cameraman and reporters in their crafts--I feel like training in the fundamentals will help us push more high-quality content. Lastly, I want to make us the center of culture and entertainment in the AUC.

Considering The Maroon Tiger isn't your average student organization, how will you continue to aid in its expansion?

By building a healthy foundation that will allow us to grow in the right direction.

Will the newspaper still foster a space where ideas and thoughts matter?

Yes that is where our roots are, MT has grown into a brand that people trust, and be entertained with. I don't see that changing anytime soon.

What do you have to say about the person who's currently in the position you'll be assuming next year?

Bryan's exuberant energy and creativity taught me a lot this year, not just media related stuff but how to lead and still be cool with your team. He's not going far so I will still be sliding to you for advice. #Proud



AMBER JOHNSON

BUSINESS MANAGER 2015-2016

Everyone's going to tell you that you have a big position to fill, are you sure you're ready?

I was born ready. As the Public Relations Director of the Maroon Tiger Student Media Group I found out exactly what I was ready for and I could not be more prepared to take on the position as Business Manager.

In your previous role in the organization, how do you think the things you've learned will aid in the upcoming academic year?

My main goal is to collaborate with more organizations and identify local businesses who need advertisement and are willing to pay the pretty penny to get it. We don't just write and at the end of the day it's not about us. It's about making sure that the faculty/staff to the incoming freshman know who we are, what we do for them & the pivotal role that they play in this legacy.

Will the newspaper still foster a space where ideas and thoughts matter?

While working with the staff of this organization I realized that there are absolutely no limits to our tenacity and benevolence as human beings. Since 1925, MT has served as a vessel for the unheard and will only get better with time. This media group is a force to be reckoned with and I'll never miss an opportunity to make sure you never forget it

MATTHEW GUTHRIE

BUSINESS MANAGER,
MT STUDENT MEDIA GROUP
2014-2015

What advice would you offer to others seeking to one day be in your position?

Get involved!! The only way to get the leadership positions that you really desire is by having experience and background. Get involved on campus now and gain experience in the specific field that desire. The Maroon Tiger is a gateway organization. It is here that you prepare for your future and career.

Why the Maroon Tiger?

Why not the Maroon Tiger? That should be the real question. My background entering the Maroon Tiger Student Media Group is definitely different than most of my colleagues. I had never been involved with MT other than of course picking up the paper and communicating with the twitter account, but I was always a witness to the greatness and potential of the organization. After Darren's first year as EIC I knew that was only the beginning and this organization was about to improve even more. This organization fosters growth and that is why it is the best organization on Morehouse's campus.

In your time at the Maroon Tiger, how have you seen it grow?

The Maroon Tiger has grown tremendously during this year. From the size of the organizations to the actual positions within this organization keeps getting bigger and bigger. I would have to say that without this tremendous growth in size that the material and products being produced would be nonexistent. The Maroon Tiger is an award winning publication and organization and I believe they will continue to do so in the years to come with new senior management taking the lead.

Is there anything that surprised you about the position when

you took it on?

Well as the Business Manager I was aware of my responsibilities and who would report to me. I guess what surprised me the most was the actual amount of work that could be done with my branch. I agree that without the writers, editors, photographers, and producers this organization would be nothing; however, without advertisements to fund the paper, students to promote material, and methods to increase the brand, the Maroon Tiger would not be as great as it is. The importance of the business branch is often overlooked because it is fairly new but it actually cares much weight for the organization. The surprise for me came with learning how much of an impact I could have in the sustaining and development of the organization as a whole.

What has made the Maroon Tiger different from others?

The Maroon Tiger is a fearless organization with no limits. The creative minds within this organization is what stands out from everyone else on campus. The students who join have endless ideas and are almost always willing to learn or do what is necessary in order to see their ideas become a reality.

What factors have defined you as a great business manager, and was it easy?

I think the quality that is needed most in this position is being outgoing and able to not only talk to others but being liked by others. There is a lot of discussion, planning, and negotiation done in this position and if you cannot talk to people or am afraid to speak up it can be very hard to succeed. I don't think any job is easy and this one is no different. With patience, determination, and overall action any and every task can be completed.



THANK YOU

Each year, our campus queens serve Morehouse students by offering a variety of different service initiatives and programs that bring awareness to an array of issues. That tradition continued this year with the selection of Brittany 'Reeci' Botts, Corey Edwards and Fallon Clarke as the 2014-2015 Miss Maroon and White Court. The Maroon Tiger Staff would like to take the time to wish them the best of luck as the move to life's next journey.





MT

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