



# THE WEST GEORGIAN

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## Swiss-Army Knife Mindset: WOLF Legend Conquering Atlanta



Photo Courtesy of Premier Events

**By Justin Hodges**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

The magic of studying Mass Communications is the embellishment of a creative identity and the fulfillment of creating art fueled by the soul of that identity. A journalist changes countless lives through an addiction for untold stories, a television personality inspires masses with their platform, a cameraman captures the world's majestic secrets and moments, and those in public relations progress the realm of business by thriving in rabbit holes. Whichever one pursues, it is inscribed to their personality.

However, the wacky stables of cultural media spare little room for one-trick ponies. Chris Adamson, the former founding President of UWG's National Broadcast Society (NBS)-AERho Chapter, shows that real work in this industry demands a swiss-army knife approach. "Learn as many skills as you can in this ever-changing media madhouse," said Adamson. "You're gonna wear a lot of different hats out there in the real world, you might as well have a bunch of different facets to do the work." Adamson is Atlanta to his core, lavishing in music festivals, suffering through the city's sports curses, lollygagging at Lake Lanier, and he just so happens to lead the #1 event producer in the city as the Marketing Manager for Premier Events. He arrived at UWG in 2008 thinking chemistry would

be cool to study, and by the time he finished core classes he stepped in as the Remote Coordinator for The WOLF Internet Radio. Adamson eventually served as The WOLF's Program Director from 2011 to his graduation in 2013, and in that frame he and the Mass Communications Department Chair, Dr. Bradford Yates, collaborated on a massive radio breakthrough.

"I was proud to be able to take that experience and learn the ins-and-outs of how the radio station worked," said Adamson. "It was right up at the last year when Yates approached me and was like 'Hey I really wanna get an organization going for broadcasting students to be able to connect to other people. We started NBS, not only as a way for West Georgia to get awards and get the name out there but to connect students with people in the broadcasting industry.'" UWG's NBS-AERho holds legacy as the first college honor society for electronic media students and accumulated tremendous success during and after Adamson's reign, spray-painting the Humanities halls with a mass of awards. The spry seeds of the society's foundation were fertilized by Adamson's experiences interning for iHeart Media in Atlanta, where he'd eventually spend the first seven years of his career as a Promotions Coordinator overseeing six different radio stations. "He was able to go to the internship at iHeart,

in a top-ten market, and bring that programming back here for us to do the same things at this little college radio station," said Yates. "That's the cool thing about what we offer here, we do it at the newspaper and the TV station, that was the whole goal when we put together the radio station, it's gonna run like the stations that people work at." Many Wolves alumni can attest to that notion. Several graduates that have spoken at Media Day over the years assure that the media resources UWG offers teach students advanced aspects of the industry that make them instructors even when they first walk into legitimate media outlets as interns.

"When I went to iHeart and started on their street team, they had one other person that knew how to do a live broadcast," said Adamson. "I walked in fresh, 21 years old like 'I got this' and that turned me into their go-to person for broadcast. "You have to have a certain demographic you wanna hit, and that wasn't something that we had narrowed and tuned into," continued Adamson. "We were running like a radio station but we didn't know who we were going after. So we sat down and figured out 'Who is the person for the Wolf?'" That would officially be crafted into the iconic figure known as Jessica Brooks-Smith. Adamson has been settled at Premier Events since Feb. 2019 operating all the festivals, concerts

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and events, helping the Atlanta market grow into the media empire that it is on pace to become. "Our company calendar has been involved in over 300 events this year.. And it's early February," said Adamson. "For example we're playing for the Taste of Alpharetta, I hired on a graphic designer and I'm facilitating her in the right direction, we gotta get a press release out there and I gotta start putting it out on all these different calendar listings (which is essentially writing a blog post for every single one of them), then there's audio pieces with it and there's ads that go in the newspapers and we have to make sure all of that comes together." Adamson will be one of the guest panel speakers for this year's Media Day. Just like every other professional that will be in attendance, he'll be there for the benefit of us: the students.

## Lil Wayne's 'Funeral' Digs Its Own Grave



Image Courtesy of Spotify

**By Joey Walraven**  
Contributing Writer

It seems like 2020 will be a big year for hip-hop. There have been a lot of great albums and singles dropped, on top of artists confirming they will have albums dropping this year. One of the earliest drops occurred on Jan. 31 from one of hip-hop's biggest icons, Lil Wayne. Wayne released his 14th studio album, entitled

Funeral. While not many expected an album from the multi-platinum rapper, fans were ecstatic when he announced his upcoming album and release date. Coming off "The Carter V," which was subject to mediocre reviews, fans were ready to see the rap legend prove all of the doubters wrong. However, he may have fed more fuel to the fire for those that doubted him. Despite an overall dis-

appointing album, one thing was obvious; Wayne can still rap at a very high level. For nearly two decades, we have seen Wayne rap at a level that very few rappers can achieve. On Funeral, he displayed his word-play, unique flow, and most famously, his similes and metaphors. Some of the standout tracks are "Mahogany," "Mama Mia," and "Harden." The tracks listed contain lyrics that are certainly jaw-dropping. Being the standouts, they all had one aspect in common, none of them had any hooks, just elite verses composed by Wayne.

Another high point from the album was the ode to the late Kobe Bryant, who passed only five days before the album's release. The 8th song of the album was "Bing James," which is a play on LeBron James' nickname, "King James." The placement of the track was a tribute to Kobe, being number eight on the album. The song ended with a 24 second moment of silence, which is a reference to his second jersey number, 24. While the album featured high-level lyricism and a touching tribute, those were the only true highlights of the album. The album's most notable downfall is the lack of focus. The album had

24 songs on it, which is entirely too many, especially with hip-hop today.

In an interview on Undisputed with Skip and Shannon on Fox Sports One, Wayne admitted that he turned in 52 songs to be reviewed by his associate, Mack Maine. The massive number of songs suggests that Wayne may have not been in a space to make an album that had replay value, which he has done several times before, especially on his albums Tha Carter II and Tha Carter III. The album overall had several qualities that made it difficult to listen to. Most notably, songs throughout the album were very repetitive and not catchy. They sounded out of touch with today's sound in hip-hop. The album also had a poor beat selection, which is one of the most critical elements of a hip-hop song. This combination made it very difficult to enjoy listening to the album. Both were also not characteristics that we have seen from Wayne in the past, which made it a disappointment. While the album may have not been near the level Wayne has gotten us accustomed to, it still features very good songs that hip-hop fans will enjoy. But if you are looking for a full-length album that has replay value, Funeral is not one that you want to select.

## "Rare" Illness Won't Stop Selena Gomez

**By Haleigh Stone**  
Contributing Writer

After three years of recovery and self-exploration, Selena Gomez released her new album "Rare" on Jan. 20. Gomez put a halt to music and touring after 2015 due to her life threatening battle with Lupus. After receiving a kidney transplant, Gomez was able to begin her musical career again. "Rare" is composed of 13 tracks spanning 42 minutes with collaborations from notable artists such as Kid Cudi and 6LACK. The most successful chart-topping songs of the album are "Lose You to Love Me" followed by "Look at Her Now" and "Rare". The album has been nominated for multi-

ple awards since its debut. "Rare" differs from Gomez's past albums in the sense that the tracks are recounts of her recovery and personal growth during her time away from music. This album allows fans and listeners to see the growth that Gomez has undergone especially in songs such as "Lose You to Love Me" which recounts how Gomez separates herself from her love life which has allowed her to love herself more.

Other songs such as "Cut You Off" allow listeners a peek inside of Gomez's love life as well. In both songs, Gomez expresses how cutting off and changing her love life has allowed her to regain her mental health and happiness. In the song "Dance Again", listeners can

hear how liberated Gomez is now that she is healthy enough to dance again which has lifted weight off of her. Overall, the album scores a nine out of ten. Gomez does a fantastic job in giving her listeners a variety of songs that range from ballads, dance tracks, and soul music. Gomez makes wise choices in collaborations with artists of different genres such as Kid Cudi. Cudi has not released a collaboration since 2018. "A Sweeter Place" which features Cudi, is a highlight of the album. It is evident that Gomez has not lost her touch but has evolved as an artist and a person. It is safe to say she can contribute a great deal of her album's success to the trials and tribulations that she has endured during

her battle with Lupus. This album could be suggested to anyone who enjoys the pop genre. "Rare" combines both pop and personal experiences to create both a joyful and liberating album for listeners. Gomez's fandom the "Selenators" are sure to enjoy the heartfelt tracks until she releases her next project. It is safe to say that Selena Gomez is back to contribute and conquer the Pop industry.



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# Review: 'A Fall From Grace'

By **Kennae Hunter**

*Contributing Writer*

A Fall From Grace, is a thriller film written and directed by Tyler Perry, released Jan. 17 on Netflix. Grace, played by actress Crystal Fox, is an older woman recovering from a divorce due to her ex-husband having an affair. Her best friend Sarah, played by actress Phylicia Rashad, encouraged her to attend an event where she met Shannon, played by actor Mechad Brooks. The plot conveys a message that is beneficial to

all women, even if they are not in the same age range as Grace. When meeting someone new it is easy for potential negatives to slip one's mind.

So initially, one may think they would not allow themselves to be in a situation like her. After seeing how she was tricked and lied to in the film, women should be reminded to protect themselves against others who will use sensitive situations and feelings to manipulate them for their own benefit. This is the first film Perry has released with the company and he announced the

movie only took five days to film. With a two hour duration, one would expect small details that would enhance the audience's understanding of how some events occurred. A lot of things were left unclear and could be interpreted differently by viewers. If it was going to be displayed this way, it could have been shorter. The dialogue between the main characters is very harsh. The conversations between Grace and Shannon are so disrespectful to the point where one would wonder where Perry even got these ideas. Why would he write in for a man to say such evil things to a woman? But, that is a part of the lesson and the message. That is what holds the audience's attention throughout the film and

makes it worth the watch. Also, there are too many focuses within the movie. The scatteredness takes away from the point of the movie causing the first half to be uninteresting. It is easy to get lost with the drawn out issues that could have been avoided or had less focus. It is a film worth recommending, but the viewer would have to have their own desire to finish. Someone who is not particularly into this genre may not be willing to follow for so long because the message could have been delivered faster. The most important thing about A Fall From Grace is that what Grace went through can actually happen to someone in the real world and everyone should be cautious of people like Shannon and Sarah.

## SPORTS

# Patrick Mahomes Will Be the G.O.A.T.

By **Mason Ayers**

*Contributing Writer*

The Tom Brady era is over. With nine Super Bowl appearances, six Super Bowl rings and three MVP awards, it was Brady's world. During the mighty Patriot empire, everyone else existed as mere mortals. The New England Patriots were the Romans, and Brady was Augustus himself. Wait, does that mean Drew Bledsoe is Julius Caesar? Anyway, hyperbole and cheesy Roman empire jokes aside, Brady truly was the NFL's gold standard.

He may not have a supermodel wife with a net worth of \$400 million, but Patrick Mahomes has something that Brady doesn't. Mahomes has time. While Brady is in an Ali-Frazier level fight with father time, Mahomes has snuck out the backdoor with the championship belt. In just two seasons as the starting

quarterback of the Kansas City Chiefs, Mahomes has already become the youngest player ever to win NFL MVP and Super Bowl MVP. He is also the only black quarterback to win both NFL MVP and the Super Bowl in the history of the league.

Some players are good, some players are great, and others are transcendental. Mahomes has not just become the face of the league, but he has changed the way the quarterback position is played. Brady was undoubtedly the greatest pocket-passer the game had ever seen, but there's nothing transcendental about being a pocket-passer. Mahomes affects the game in a multitude of ways. Whether he is contorting his arm in an odd way, throwing no-look passes, scrambling around in the pocket, or using his legs to get down the field, Mahomes has an array of weapons that has

never been seen before.

Mike Vick ran, and had a canon for an arm, but couldn't throw with consistent accuracy. Peyton Manning threw with consistent accuracy, and had a stellar football IQ, but couldn't run. Brett Favre was the "gunslinger," but threw to the opposing team as much as he threw to his own. Throughout history, the NFL has seen many great quarterbacks. Brady, Manning, Favre, Montana, Elway, Marino, Rodgers, etc. were all hall of famers. However, none of them possessed the amount of tools that Mahomes does. Mahomes' blend of athleticism, accuracy, arm strength, football IQ, pocket awareness and big play ability has never been seen before. He can make any throw, at any time, and can break a long run if he needs to. At just 24 years old, Mahomes is already more accomplished

than most of his competition. The scary part is that he's only getting better.

Mahomes comes from an athletic pedigree. His father, Patrick Mahomes Sr., was a professional baseball player for 11 years. He played for the Minnesota Twins, New York Mets, Boston Red Sox and Chicago Cubs. With an MLB playing dad, baseball was Mahomes' first love. He played baseball for many years before he decided he wanted to be a football player full-time. Everyone should be thankful he chose football. His historic first season as a starter made him the third quarterback ever to throw for 50 touchdowns, and the seventh to throw for more than 5000 yards. He followed that performance by winning the Super Bowl in his second year as a starter. Yes, the Brady era is over, but the Patrick Mahomes era is just beginning.



Photo Courtesy of Charlie Neibergall



Photo Courtesy of UWG Athletics

# UWG Baseball Sweeps Savannah State

By Amber Bell

Contributing Writer

UWG's Baseball swept the Savannah State Tigers last weekend, winning all three games of their series. The games were shifted to a single game on Saturday with a delayed start, and a double header Sunday due to weather. Savannah State recently dropped down to NCAA Division II after a stint at the Division I level. This posed a competitive weekend for the Wolves, against a strong program. The Tigers scored in the first inning of game one against starter Taylor Bosclair. UWG's Joseph Hill would quickly respond with an RBI double after a lead-off single from John Michael McCrae and a sacrifice bunt from Jason Fointno. A pitching duel proceeded in the second and third innings with no runs being allowed by either team. The Tigers broke that in the fourth with a couple of hits pushing a run over. However, the Wolves answered with three runs in the bottom of the fourth. Fointno had a two run single and Barnes had an RBI as well. The Tigers went

on to score three in the fifth, and another in the sixth, taking the lead (6-4). The rally began for the Wolves during the seventh inning. Relief pitcher Cory Bartholomew came in to retire the first three batters he faced. Offensively, his teammates backed him with RBI singles from Jermond Williams, Lane Griffith, and Dan Oberst. Fointno would later score on a wild pitch, giving the Wolves a comfortable lead. Sawyer Steele closed out the game only allowing one batter to reach base, securing a 9-6 victory for the Wolves.

Robert Coleman got the start for UWG in game two. The junior out of Mobile, AL battled for five innings, shutting out the Tigers in the first two innings completely. Coleman ended his work for the day by allowing six runs, accumulating three strikeouts, and recording his first win of the season. Offensively, the Wolves got off to an early start scoring in the second inning. Griffith singled, pushing Joseph Hill over the plate. Savannah State fired back in the third scoring four runs, including a three run home run. The Wolves rallied once

again in the bottom of the third inning to push three runs across the plate. Oberst singled to pick up a pair of RBIs, and Hill followed up with another. Griffith scored in the fourth after a Brody Wortham double. Barnes picked up another run with a ground-ball RBI which allowed Wortham to score, with UWG taking back the lead. Savannah State tied the game back up in fifth with a single run. UWG took the lead back with another run scored by Wortham, driven in by a Barnes RBI double. C.J. Fehriback took the mound in the sixth for three innings of work, not allowing any earned runs. The Wolves scored one more time in eighth, making the score 9-6. The Wolves came together for a big double play in the eighth to stop a late rally by Savannah State with two on base and one out. Hill connected with Wortham and Oberst, resulting in the inning ending. Sawyer Steele came in again to close the game out, facing four batters, allowing no runs, while picking up his first save of the season. The Wolves took the first two games of the series,

with momentum leading up to the third game. Ryan Parker took the mound for the start of game three to close out the series. The senior threw a seven inning complete game allowing two earned runs. Parker improved his record by picking up his second win of the season. The Wolves got off to another early start scoring three in the first and second innings. An RBI double by Oberst, followed by a hit driving in two contributed in the first. McCrae then doubled in Wortham, and Oberst brought him in with a big homerun in the third. Savannah state scored two in the third shortening the gap to 6-2. The Wolves fired back with a big five run fourth inning with hits by Ethan Brant, McCrae, Moore, Hill, and Wortham making the score 11-2. While Parker continued to throw shutdown innings against Savannah State hitters, the Wolves continued to lengthen their lead. In the fifth, Joe Hill picked up two more RBIs by driving in Oberst and Dylan Johnson. No runs were scored by either team after the fifth. Parker picked up the win with a final score of 13-2.



Photo Courtesy of Colton Lublink

# Interview with Rising NASCAR Star Blake Lothian

By Damani Smith

Contributing Writer

Blake Lothian is a rising star from Wellesley, MA. He is a part of the 2019 NASCAR Drive for Diversity Youth Development Class, and one of many African-Americans trying to break out onto the NASCAR scene. He spent the vast majority of 2019 driving Legends Cars for Rev Racing, competing in Charlotte Motor Speedway's Summer Shootout and also races in multiple exhibition races throughout the year in Charlotte. Lothian has been into racing since he was a kid and has always had a strong, burning desire to go fast.

"I saw NASCAR on TV at a really young age, I was about 5 or 6 years old. Saw it on TV, and I think it was a race at Talladega [Superspeedway]," Lothian recalls. "Me being a kid with ADHD, it just kept me busy for 3 hours out of the week and my

parents were okay with it."

Like many professional NASCAR drivers, Lothian started at a young, ripe age.

"I started locally karting when I was about 11, and I got spotted by the owner of an indoor karting league. He helped me up to the next level, which was outdoor professional karting," Lothian says. "From there, I applied for Rev Racing, and luckily enough I was selected for the Summer Shootout racing season and made the entire season, coming out relatively unscathed, and yeah, we're here today."

He has many great memories behind the wheel from running karts to Legends Cars. "If I had to pick my greatest memory I'd go with this kart race or this race in Wade County. I'll go with the Kart race because I was racing against my mentor who helped me build my kart, and I was able to beat him. That was a huge accomplishment because I

had a bounty on my head since I had won 8 races in a row and me and him were duking it out for the win. I ended up dive-bombing him in the process and that was a crazy day."

Blake wants to be in one of the top three NASCAR divisions within the next few years, which is a fairly high expectation for many aspiring drivers.

"I see myself at least being in the NASCAR Xfinity Series by the time I'm 22-years-old. There is no particular team I want to drive for, but I want to be competitive in anything I drive, no matter who I'm driving for, but I'll take anything I can get in NASCAR, I just want to race on that level," Lothian says confidently.

Lothian's favorite professional racecar driver is NASCAR Cup Series star, Michael McDowell. He looks up to McDowell for good reasons. "He is an outstanding road racer and a devout Christian, and that gives

me a good reason to look up to him," said Lothian. "He's so friendly and always speaks to me in a respectful manner whenever I meet him."

Lothian's endeavor to get into Rev Racing can be admired by many. "When I was selected by Rev Racing for Drive for Diversity, the feeling was just surreal," said Lothian. "When you get the call from NASCAR being told you've been selected for the combine, it is such a crazy feeling. I had always wanted to go to Charlotte and had never been until that time. It truly was a dream come true to visit Hendrick Motorsports and see the cars being repaired and worked on."

Lothian expects to be racing in the foreseeable future and hopes to get to the top level of NASCAR within the next five years, breaking barriers and winning more races on his journey to the top of the NASCAR ranks.



Photo Courtesy of Adam Clear Photography

# Carrollton's Very Own Farmer's Market



Photo Courtesy of Carrollton Alive

**By Haleigh Stone**

*Contributing Writer*

The Cotton Mill Farmers Market is celebrating its 19th anniversary in 2020. The market is open every Saturday from 9-11 a.m. during the winter and 8 a.m.-12 p.m. during the summer in Carrollton, GA. The market is comprised of approximately 17 vendors, although many vendors fluctuate throughout the seasons depending on their products. One thing that makes the market stand out from other farmers markets is the variety of vendors and all products are locally grown. There are many types of meat and produce vendors such as Dennis Farms, C & L Farm Grows, and Four Bellies Farm. Many vendors here offer unique products such as tinctures, soaps, jams, local art and tote bags.

"I was the first vendor 19 years ago," said Wendy Crager of Crager-Hager Farms. "The Farmers Market has not changed a lot over the years. It is like a breathing entity. There were three vendors that first day and then it grew to 10-15 vendors. It is always smaller in the winter. "We always seem to have a cheese vendor, a meat vendor, a vegetable vendor, and a bread vendor. It has changed over the years, but it is pretty remarkable."

Crager-Hager Farms is one of the few farms at the market whose products are certifiably organic. Becoming certified organic is a difficult and expensive process. "We grow over 100 varieties of fruits and vegetables, as well as eggs on their 120-year-old farm in northern Carroll County," Crager says.

Married couple Greg and Janie Dennis of Dennis Farms have been vendors for nine years at the market and specialize in grass-fed beef and lamb.

"We raise our cows, sheep, and pigs in a natural pastoral environment, never giving growth-promoting antibiotics, hormones, or steroids. We believe that contented animals produce a superior product, so we strive for a low-stress environment emphasizing the humane treatment of our livestock," Greg Dennis says. "We follow a strict grass-fed protocol with our cows and sheep never feeding grain, animal byproducts or feed supplements. Our pigs graze the pasture along with the cows and sheep receiving supplemental grain as needed." Dennis Farms' most popular products include Prime-

burger, which is whole cow ground beef, hot and mild breakfast sausage, bratwurst, Italian sausage, bacon, and ground lamb. "We do an array of herbal botanicals, so about 95% of all ingredients are grown by us or wildcrafted," Sam Martin of Cradleboard Creations says. "We do everything from tea blends, bath soaks, tinctures, stuff for colds, face masks, oils, and more. We also have essential oil still in North Georgia, so we do hydrosols as well." All the products featured at the market are locally grown or sourced within 50 miles of Carrollton. The market is a great way for the Carrollton community to come together and support a local business that contributes to the abundance of talent that Carrollton has to offer.



Photo Courtesy of Carrollton Alive

# GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES

Image Courtesy of AZTransfer

## Are General Education Requirements Really Required?

By Akachukwu Nwosu

Contributing Writer

The American Higher Educational System has, for a long time, been ranked amongst the best in the world. From rigorous degree programs to flexible and innovative learning environments, colleges across the United States are taking strides to maximize students' college experiences and produce highly qualified workers. Nonetheless, even in all its glory, there still remains some facets of our undergraduate system that critics are starting to question more, one of them being the relevance of General Education requirements. "Gen Ed," as they're often called, make up about 25% of a college student's academic career. This means that people studying in American universities could spend up to one school year taking courses that may be completely unrelated to their major. English composition, basic algebra, U.S history and foreign languages are examples of courses that make up the foundation of most undergraduate degrees. But is offering a diverse course load really worth it in the long run? On one side of the argument, many people see

general education requirements as an opportunity to expand a student's skill set and gain a basic understanding of modern society. While it is not necessary for an engineering major to take courses in theatre or music, for example, there are benefits to doing so that most people don't consider. In an interview with one of UWG's highly-revered Academic Advisors, Mrs. Tamija Tucker, she describes general education courses as a building base for which students can, "Develop their creativity, critical thinking, enhance their skills and discover their true passion. These qualities allow students to adapt quickly in a fast paced setting, and work effectively in today's job market."

For many people, general education courses also allow for a healthy and less strenuous workload balance throughout college. When interviewed about her stance on general education requirements, Chimela Irokanulo, a biology major and certified nursing assistant, revealed that Gen Ed. courses are "far from irrelevant." "Throughout my time at UWG, I've thoroughly enjoyed taking classes in human communica-

tions, philosophy, and theatre appreciation even if these courses do not necessarily correlate with my major, I believe I may end up using those skills sometime in the future," Chimela continues. But not everyone shares the same viewpoint. Another student argues that Gen Ed. courses are simply a rehash of everything he has already learned in high school.

"I shouldn't have to take math in elementary school, middle school, high school and now college" one UWG student, who pleaded anonymity, complains. "My passion lies in film. I've known this since I was a kid, so I don't see the point in taking courses that don't align with my interests." Indeed, college should be a place where students choose their niche and specialize in it. Besides, since it is amongst the last means of formal education some people receive before entering into the workforce, it is imperative that college students obtain as much relevant training as they can before graduating. The growing need for job specialization in various industries has also called for university students to avoid being generalists, and instead, chan-

nel their time towards courses that will prepare them for a future in their chosen fields. There is also the narrative that general education requirements pose as a financial burden for low-income students and their families. The average graduate of a four-year college spends the equivalent of an extra year taking courses that are unrelated to their major, if not more. This results in them paying thousands of extra dollars on tuition, and possibly incurring debt while they're at it. The burden is far more amplified for community college students, who typically have to take a whopping 22 extra credits, according to a July 2017 report by Complete College America. So, is there any hope in making general education courses voluntary? The chances are very slim. While removing mandatory GenEd requirements would be one tangible way for college students to save time and money, professors and faculty members whose jobs rely on the GenEd system will be heavily affected. Ultimately, time will tell which method is most effective for the future of undergraduate education in America



Image Courtesy of Plexuss

# Taking a Step Up

By **Kennae Hunter**

*Contributing Writer*

Growing up in a religious family, UWG junior Kamari Kennedy was heavily involved in church throughout her childhood and learned at a young age that she would be committed to practicing her Christianity. She has been a member of First Missionary Baptist Church (FMBC) in College Park, GA, since she was nine months old and in October 2019, Kamari was appointed to be the adviser of the Nu Vision young adult ministry. She has always been an active member of the church by singing in the choir, being apart of the Sunday program, and just giving a helping hand to the ministries throughout the

church and being a member of the youth group which she now leads. "I would describe Kamari as an outgoing and mature person for her age. Kamari is one of the most understanding people that I know," Elder Evelyn Roberts said. "She is always laughing and tends to make me laugh."

Roberts is a member of FMBC and has known Kamari for almost her entire life. Since she lives in the Arbor View Apartments on campus, she has to commute home every week. She also has to maintain her religious goals while being away from home. In FMBC there is a youth group for the younger kids and the main church congregation that is mostly older adults. She

is responsible for hosting meetings, planning events and carrying them out, motivating her group members and influencing them to have a consistent relationship with God.

This responsibility requires Kamari to be present in the church on Fridays for meetings, and Sundays for service. Some Saturdays are also necessary for any additional meetings and rehearsals. "As a college student there are things that you want to do. Stuff that's fun or go out and maybe have drinks and sometimes it conflicts with my religious goals because I know these are things that I shouldn't be doing," Kennedy said. "You have to make a conscious decision that you want better for yourself. You just have to be responsible and put the other things aside." Kamari committed to

quitting old habits completely and participating in religious challenges such as fasting to prove to the younger people she leads that it can be done. When some people are not motivated to keep participating, Kamari still follows her goals to be successful with Nu Vision. "Leading a small ministry can cause a person, such as Kamari to become unmotivated, frustrated, and a loss of zeal. However, Kamari is such a strong leader that she seeks God and then she will also ask for guidance from other leaders in the church," Minster Tammi Moore said. "In this microwave society and world of social media, I marvel at how Kamari leverages her desire to be more like Christ to resist the temptation of this world. Especially being a millennial! It's inspiring."

*Photo Courtesy of Kamari Kennedy*



## NEWS

### One of Seven: Making History in the South



*Photo Courtesy of Rootsweb*

By **Cynthia Harris**

*Contributing Writer*

Growing up as an African-American, there are always stories told about how hard people had to fight for equal rights. There was always emphasis on how much some suffered and lost. On the brighter side of the spectrum, there was also rejoice in learning most of those painful situations led to many breakthroughs and changed history. What makes it more real is when those stories hit really close to home. Although now he is known as Erskin Ulysses Harris, he was born and grew up as Ulysses Erskin Harris

in Portsmouth, Virginia. Even though his name is not in books, he did make history. In September of 1966, on his first day of high school, Harris became one of just seven young African-American children selected for a mission: to be the first blacks admitted to one of Portsmouth's all-white schools. Before that fateful day Harris had no direct sense of segregation. It was when he reached third grade that he began to see less and less of his white counterparts. Spoke fondly of the days when he could play games openly with his white neighbors with no penalties. "There used to be no tension between the races," Harris mentioned more of his upbringing in the racist south. "But when we hit high school, some of us junior high, things just changed."

It was not that much different throughout many places in the South. Although in 1954 when Brown vs Board of Educa-

tion forbade segregation in schools, it never made anything equal for black students or their families. In the 50s and 60s, the act of keeping the two races apart was so normalized that it was ignored schools were learning institutions meant for everyone. "We were kids," said Harris. "I went to Keto School, which was an all-black school, and I couldn't play with the white kids as much anymore because we got split up." Cradock High School, in the summer of 1966, was an all-white school. African-American parents who lived in Virginia had not really done much to fight the racism in their communities at that time. However, when letters were sent to their houses to ask if they wanted their child to be selected to integrate the high school, Harris' parents, wanting the best education for their children, quickly signed the letter. "There were five boys and two girls," Harris recalled.

"We caught the Douglas bus downtown to catch the Cradock bus. When we walked up to the podium on the stage...the things being slurred...it made me remember where I was. I had several people call me and the others n\*\*\*\*\* and things, but we learned to deal with it and not be hateful back." Keeping that attitude, Harris made sure he was going to make the best of his experience at school, and he made history once again by becoming the first black person on Cradock's wrestling team, finishing second overall in the local division. He also went on to serve in the U.S Military and graduate with his Associate's Degree from Tidewater Community College. "At that point it barely mattered about race," Harris said proudly. "Before I never gave it much thought. I just feel that it was something I was supposed to do. Maybe as I get older, it will begin to dawn on me more."