

The HOOPEE BIRD



THE VOICE OF THE STUDENTS OF EAST GEORGIA STATE COLLEGE

WWW.EGA.EDU

Volume 42, Number 2

131 College Circle, Swainsboro, Georgia 30401

Price: FREE



Photo by M. Katelyn Moore

STUDENT OBSERVES ECLIPSE THROUGH SPECIAL GLASSES

EGSC observes solar eclipse

by LEARIE-JENEE JONES

On Monday, August 21, 2017 the community of East Georgia State College participated in an astronomical event. The Total Solar Eclipse of 2017 was a once-in-a-lifetime event, considering it only happens once in a lifetime. The EGSC Library hosted the Solar Eclipse "I Got Mooned at the Library" event in which everyone, including the Swainsboro community, was invited. The celebration included indoor and outdoor events such as a live streaming from NASA, a Solar Scope, and free Popcorn.

The event started at 12:30 p.m. with an opening statement from EGSC Library Director Kelly Ansley, who then handed the program over to Dr. Bob Boehmer, President of EGSC, for his welcome address. Proceeding Dr. Boehmer was Dr. Dee McKinney, Associate Dean of

eLearning at EGSC, who talked about her short story published in *Day of the Dark: Stories of Eclipse* and her writing career. Her book reading was focused towards any writer who felt discouraged and needed an extra word to move forward. Dr. McKinney also ruffled off two free copies of the book. Dr. Yelena White, Associate Professor of Math and Science, then gave a brief lecture on the eclipse itself with a demonstration on how it happens. During the eclipse, Venus could be seen, which makes the event more significant.

While some feared the eclipse, others were fascinated by its beauty and mystery. Since we did not receive a total eclipse, it took a lot of trust in the glasses provided so it could be seen. Overall, the event was a success and kept everyone's attention.



Photo by M. Katelyn Moore

LADY BOBCATS GET DIRECTION FROM COACH CJ PACE LAST SEASON

EGSC athletics taking the court and the field by storm

by AKIRA SUTTON

Over time, East Georgia State College's athletic department has gradually improved. Because of this, I thought that it was important for us to know the method to the madness. I sat down with EGSC Athletic Director Charles "Chuck" Wimberly and talked about the athletic program and their success.

Wimberly started off by saying that "the main goal that I had was to build a program and not a team." Once a solid foundation is set for a program, then future teams are able to start where past teams stopped.

"Athletics is one of the things that could make a school grow, and that all starts with a solid program," Wimberly said.

"I have a lot of respect for the coaches and the work that they do to help the students achieve success," he said.

While building a program is super important, another thing that Wimberly wanted to establish for the teams is a sense of pride for their school.



WIMBERLY

With the rapid growth of the school's athletic program, it is important to be proud of who you represent. When it comes to pride, though, he gives all of the credit to the coaches and the players. "One of the great things about our athletes is the bond that they all share," he added. "It is amazing to see players from the other teams at each other's games supporting and cheering on their peers."

This is something that starts with the coaches and is carried through

by the players. "Sometimes I get to witness the coaches talking about the progress of their teams and genuinely caring for their brother and sister sport. As a director, that is the most prideful thing to see."

"Winning is something that is contagious," he added.

After the program and pride is set in place, the only thing that is left for the teams to do is to maintain the ability to have successful seasons. As of last year, 3 of our 4 teams had their best sea-

son so far in the history of EGSC athletics.

Wimberly mentioned that "Our teams are knocking down the barriers and getting our school's name on the map by showing up to championships. We may not always win, but we are letting people know that we will always be there and ready to fight for the title."

"You're only as good as the people around you," he added, "and right now, East Georgia's athletics are surrounded by great people."

The athletic program wanted to let everyone know that they are super grateful for the support that is given to the teams. Wimberly has a lot of gratitude for Dr. Boehmer because of his constant support to the athletes.

"Dr. Boehmer goes to every game that he is able to make and that means a lot to us," he said. "The support of the community is what our teams thrive off of and to have that is what counts the most."

Dr. Deborah Vess named new VPAA

by AKIRA SUTTON

At the end of the 2017 Spring semester, we had to say goodbye to Dr. Tim Goodman as he retired from the position of Vice President of Academic Affairs. While it

was sad to see Dr. Goodman go, it is our biggest pleasure to welcome Dr. Deborah Vess into the East Georgia family!

Dr. Vess has a "passion for teaching and learning." With that passion, she plans to work on the development of faculty and finding diverse ways to get students more engaged in the classroom. One of the main focuses that Dr. Vess has is working on the gateway courses.

The plan with that is to get students ready for graduation and to prepare them for the next institution that they go to after they graduate from East Georgia State College.

While Dr. Vess is super intelligent, she is also very talented in the music department. Dr. Vess got a degree in piano performance. She also played the drums and guitar while she was in college, but she said



DR. VESS

that the piano was her favorite. This transpired into her teaching piano while she lived in Texas.

Welcome to EGSC, Dr. Vess!

FIRST FRIDAY

THE *Morgan* HOUSE

of East Georgia State College

521 W. MORING STREET • SWAINSBORO

EVERY MONTH!

INSIDE THIS EDITION...

Your Campus2

Events at EGSC2

Sports Report3

Student Voices4

East Georgia's "voice of the students" wants to hear from you!

If you are interested in writing for *The Hoopee Bird*, contact our advisor:

WARREN GOOSBY
wgoosby@ega.edu



CONTACT US

The Hoopee Bird
East Georgia State College
131 College Circle
Swainsboro, GA 30401
ohoopee@ega.edu

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must be accompanied by the author's name, phone number and email address. All columns and letters to the editor are the opinion of the author. The views expressed in the Editorial section do not necessarily express those of the *The Hoopee Bird*.

YOUR CAMPUS, YOUR COMMUNITY

Get involved in your college experience

by LEARI-JENEE JONES
East Georgia State College is thought of as a community for students and faculty to interact. On the three campuses of EGSC, there are many ways to get involved. However, why should one be involved in the community? How could it benefit a student? The benefits of being involved in the EGSC community vary. Involvement in clubs, sports, and events around campus could build self-esteem, relationships, and give a great support system.

could potentially give them courage to step outside of their shell. Some clubs around campus include: Art, Criminal Justice, Book, Chess, STEMMEGA, Student Ambassadors, and the Residence Hall Association, to name a few. Each club is encouraged to nominate a Homecoming King and Queen to run for the court. Each club can also be what the student wants it to be. Events do not have to always be centered around the club's purpose. For instance, the Book Club could host a bake sale even though it does not relate to books. Clubs also accept everyone for

who they are with open arms. Sports also play a big role in Bobcat involvement. EGSC has multiple sports teams including Intramural teams who have a winning spirit. The Intramural sports teams are Dodge Ball, Volleyball, Tennis, and Flag Football. The Intramural spots are welcome to anyone. While playing on sports teams, one could find life-long friends and even bond with their current friends. The events around campus are ways to network and meet new people in our community. Every first Friday of the month

there is a gathering at The Morgan House. Other events would be sports events, art galleries, club day and the Bobcat Regatta. Most of the events that happen on campus are annual events or events that can be caught every week. Any involvement on campus can benefit someone, if it's from getting a Seal of Distinction on their diploma to just finding life-long friends. On the EGSC campus there is always something happening to be involved in because it is such a small community. Our community benefits everyone involved and even those not involved.

See you there!

EVENTS AT EGSC

- Nov. 1 Men's Basketball Game 7:30 p.m. Gym
- Nov. 3 International Game Day
12 a.m. - 6 p.m. Room J503
.... First Friday at The Morgan House
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 7 Men's Basketball Game 7:30 p.m. Gym
- Nov. 8 Mason Beehive Display
10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Quad
.... Women's Basketball Game
5:30 p.m. Gym
- Nov. 9 Breast Cancer Awareness Softball
Game 3 p.m. Softball Field
.... Family Astronomy Night
5 - 7:30 p.m. Fulford Center
- Nov. 10 Murder Mystery Dessert Theatre
8 p.m. EGSC-Statesboro
.... Open House 9 a.m. EGSC-Augusta
- Nov. 11 Murder Mystery Dessert Theatre
8 p.m. EGSC-Statesboro
.... Women's Basketball Game 2 p.m. Gym
- Nov. 13 Fraud Awareness Week Kick-Off
8 a.m. All Campuses
.... Residence Hall Association Town Hall
Meeting 7 p.m. Jean & Shot Strange
Clubhouse
- Nov. 14 Transfer Tuesday
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Cyber Café
.... Fraud Awareness Presentation
Clay Sprouse 11 a.m. LFG Auditorium
- Nov. 15 Scholarship Applications Deadline
- Nov. 16 Exit: Stage Right Playwriting
Contest Deadline
- Nov. 17 Women's Basketball Game
5 - 7:30 p.m. Gym
- Nov. 18 Women's Basketball Game
2 - 4 p.m. Gym
- Nov. 20 - 24 Thanksgiving Break
Swainsboro, Statesboro
- Nov. 21 Men's Basketball Game
6 p.m. Gym
- Nov. 22 Women's Basketball Game
5:30 p.m. Gym
- Nov. 22 - 24 Thanksgiving Break
All Campuses
- Nov. 24 Men's Basketball Game 2 p.m. Gym
- Nov. 25 Men's Basketball Game 2 p.m. Gym
- Nov. 30 FAFSA Completion Workshop
5 p.m. EGSC-Augusta
- Dec. 1 First Friday at The Morgan House
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 2 Women's Basketball Game 2 p.m. Gym
- Dec. 4 - 8 Final Exams
Swainsboro, Statesboro
- Dec. 7 - 8 Final Exams - Augusta
- Dec. 8 Graduation Rehearsal 2 - 4 p.m. Gym
- Dec. 9 Fall Graduation Ceremony
10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Gym
- Dec. 9 Women's & Men's Basketball Games
2 p.m. Gym
- Dec. 10 - Jan. 4/8 Winter Break
- Dec. 11 Women's Basketball Game
5:30 p.m. Gym
- Dec. 11 - 14 Final Exams - Augusta
- Dec. 19 Women's Basketball Game 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 4 Augusta Classes Begin
- Jan. 8 Swainsboro, Statesboro Classes Begin

Giving back to the community

by CHASSIDY BYRD
When I was 12 years old, I transitioned from a private school system to a public school system. The standards, curriculum, and the way students were disciplined was all so different to me and quite overwhelming. When I entered into adulthood, that same feeling reoccurred; the feeling of fear and that "what's next?" question that most of us tend to have. I was so unsure about my life and what I wanted to do. I had no sense of direction and I felt purposeless. Adapting to the real world can either make

you or break you. With so much chaos going on in today's world, people often times blame their failures on society, I was one of those people. I needed an excuse for not knowing what I was best at. I needed someone to blame for my emptiness. Just when I thought I was "DOOMED," one of my high school teachers called me and asked me to volunteer with immigrant tutoring. I thought I imagined this to be exciting to have something to do for the summer. Although most of it was exciting, it also had its downfalls. The most stressful part about this

opportunity was watching young kids grab several snacks because they didn't have food at home. Maybe the most stressful part was watching a child come in crying and worried about their siblings. No, maybe the most stressful part was knowing that I spent so much time complaining about what I was or what I wasn't. A quote writer by the name of Roy Conway once said, "I believe that we all have a responsibility to give back. No one becomes successful without lots of hard work, support from others, and a little luck. Giving back

creates a virtuous cycle that makes everyone more successful." It was that exact summer when I tapped in to who I am. I am a giver through compassion and I encourage others to give back as well. We live the way we were taught to live or the way we know how to live and then from that, we hope that life gives us some, if not all, of that life back. Whether you give through your career (teacher, doctor, nurse, lawyer, etc.) or through a simple trash pick-up at the park, giving is giving and someone will be thankful that you did.



DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING on campus?

Visit EGSC on Facebook and check out our event pages!

[www.facebook.com / EastGeorgiaStateCollege EGSCStatesboro EastGeorgiaStateCollegeAugusta EGSCBobcats](http://www.facebook.com/EastGeorgiaStateCollegeEGSCStatesboroEastGeorgiaStateCollegeAugustaEGSCBobcats)

Searching for scholarships?
Look no further!
Go to www.ega.edu/scholarships and click the link for online scholarship applications.


The Hoopee Bird
East Georgia State College

EDITORIAL STAFF WRITERS:


- Kholton Hamann
- Leari-Jenee Jones
- Tanekque Lewis
- Akira Sutton
- Idris Graham
- Chassidy Byrd
- Miaya Lundy

ADVISOR
Warren Goosby
wgoosby@ega.edu


ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
The Hoopee Bird
East Georgia State College
131 College Circle
Swainsboro, GA 30401
ohoopee@ega.edu


There's something for everyone at East Georgia State College!




Student Government Association
The Student Government Association is the campus organization governing student activities and representing the students in college affairs. SGA members are elected by the student body.




The Hoopee Bird
First published on January 28, 1974, *The Hoopee Bird* is the voice of the students of East Georgia State College. This free monthly newspaper features news, sports, entertainment, editorials, calendars, and more from each campus in Swainsboro, Statesboro, and Augusta.



Student Ambassadors
The East Georgia State College Student Ambassadors promote collegiate pride in EGSC and help facilitate awareness of campus programs and services.




Wiregrass Literary and Arts Journal
Wiregrass is an annual literary and arts journal of East Georgia State College featuring our talented students, faculty and staff.



African American Male Initiative
The African American Male Initiative serves the young African American men of EGSC by instilling the values of Dedication, Respect, Inspiration, Vigilance and Excellence (D.R.I.V.E.)

Clubs
Intramural Sports
Disc Golf
and More!



Visit www.ega.edu/student_life to learn about all our activities!

GO BOBCATS! EGSC SPORTS REPORT

East Georgia State College: Getting to know the coaches

by KOHLTON HAMANN

Men's Basketball: Leroy Jordan



here is "more than just basketball and should be spent developing as young men, especially when it comes to academics."

The 2016-2017 season for Coach Jordan and his men was considered to be a learning season, finishing with an overall record of 10-21.

"Last year's record did not reflect the hard work and ded-

ication that was put in," said Jordan.

When envisioning what the 2017-2018 season has to bring us students here at EGSC, one upcoming thing to watch is the size of this year's team. The Bobcats have five returners, along with the biggest team in EGSC history, including five players ranging in height from 6'7 to 6'10.

One thing Coach Jordan looks forward to with this new group is being able to, as he says, "Lay a foundation of character, and prepare a team of new and experienced Bobcats for competition."

Key Players to Watch:

• **Tariq Jenkins, #3**

Upon return in January, Jenkins was the floor general for the Bobcats last year, leading the team in assists and averaging upwards of 12 points per game.

• **Aaron Reddick, #35**

Reddick led last year's team in rebounds and blocks, becoming a force in the GCAA on both sides of the hardwood.

Baseball: Dusty Hess



the close-knit community here in Swainsboro, saying, "The ability to have a personal relationship with my players is something I value most, and has laid the foundation for a fun, exciting team to be a part of."

One thing Coach Hess wants his players to take away from this program is the desire for all of his guys to

grow as a person and develop as a ball player.

In these upcoming weeks, the EGSC baseball team will be working to instill the "East Georgia way," assisting the new and returning players with learning a one-of-a-kind work ethic and laying the foundation for this program. The message he wishes to convey to our student body is that this year's team is coming off a historic season, setting the school record in wins at 30, bringing home the regular season conference championship along with being two wins away from the Junior College World Series.

Key Players to Watch:

• **Taber Raley**

Coming to East Georgia as a walk-on in the 2016-17 season, Raley was a consistent starting pitcher for the Bobcats. Raley was consistent in both non-conference and conference play, tallying over 73 innings pitched with four wins.

• **Tyler Owens**

The same as Raley, Owens came on a walk-on spot for the Bobcats last year, throwing one no-hitter and collecting 80 innings of work, along with six wins.

Baseball: Matthew Passauer



tioned EGSC, saying, "I also have to thank the administration and players at East Georgia for the opportunities they have given

me during my time in Swainsboro. The players I had the fortune of working with at East Georgia made an impact on my life and my career that will never be forgotten."

As a whole, the community thanks Matthew Passauer for helping establish a premier college baseball program in the southeast part of the United States.

Women's Basketball: C.J. Pace



looked back since.

A proud product of Junior College Basketball herself, Coach Christian "C.J." Pace is entering her third year as the women's head coach. Playing for Chipola College in Florida, Pace knows how to establish a successful program. Playing for a year professionally overseas, Pace spent time in Santarem, Portugal for six months and another six months in Lima, Peru. When it comes to coaching, her first four years were spent at a number of schools including one year at Chipola, one year at Georgia Perimeter, and two years at Armstrong State. Pace began her career here at EGSC in 2015 when she took the head role, and has not

In the 2016-2017 season, Pace helped lead our Lady Bobcats to a 20-8 record, and for the first time in women's basketball history our Bobcats hosted the first game of the GCAA tournament, beating Atlanta Metro.

Pace was named the Coach of the Year by the GCAA.

When a player completes her two years here at East Georgia, the most important

thing Coach wants her graduates to understand is that the past four semesters here in Swainsboro were meant to not only develop them as basketball players, but as kind, caring individuals that realize the worth of working for what you want.

"You put in what you get out" says Pace. "Work ethic will show not only on the court, but in the classroom as well."

When asked about this upcoming year, Coach Pace smiles from ear to ear, then explains that this year's recruiting class is ready to fill the void from last year's graduates, and explains that the "chip on your shoulder" mentality is the new standard.

Key Players to Watch:

• **Jonnae Johnson, #10**

Johnson is a returner for the Bobcats, and placed second on the team in both rebounds and points last season. Expect to see a very enthusiastic student of the game, one who plans to turn heads in the 2017-2018 season.

• **Asia Harden, #4**

Harden is a highly talented point guard from Burke County, and is someone Coach Pace expects to assume a leadership role not only in the fall, but the spring season, too.

The message Coach Pace sets out for the student body is a challenge. "This community and school are very instrumental for our success; we need the 6th man to come out to set the tone for our home games."

Well Bobcats, challenge accepted, right?

The Lady Bobcats will take on Andrew College in the team's first home game on November 8th.

Softball: Becca Hewitt



the impact I can have goes far beyond just my players," she said.

A product of East Georgia State College herself, Rebecca "Becca" Hewitt played for the school's first-ever softball team in 2010-2011 and is heading into her first year as our team's Head Coach after serving as the interim head coach last year.

Hewitt's coaching experience began with travel ball when she coached a 12u Lady Sharks team, then moved on to 14u. This time spent with younger generations of athletes helped Hewitt realize the importance of a strong community.

"When young girls are at our games, wishing that they were the ones on our field, it humbles any coach to the certain realization that

Last year's softball team went out with a bang. At the GCAA tournament at the end of the season, Coach Hewitt and her players fought their way to the championship game. The one thing Coach Hewitt wants her Lady Bobcats to take away from this program is that hard work does, in fact, pay off, and the one thing absolutely no one can take away from

an individual is their heart and desire to win.

When asked what she wants out of her players, she makes a comment about her own time playing college softball, saying, "As an ex-player, it is easy to say there were some nights where I wished I would have put in those extra reps or stayed after to become not just a player of the game, but a student, also. I just want my girls to walk off the field knowing they gave it everything they had, because softball does not last forever."

This year, our softball team comes in with a strong and fast recruiting class, with the versatile ability to fill the voids that graduated last year.

Key Players to Watch:

• **Libbi Lance**

Lance was last year's starting catcher for the Lady Bobcats and goes into her sophomore year with a chip on her shoulder, adopting a bigger role as a team leader.

• **Taylor Long**

Long was the softball team's starting shortstop last year, and put together a spectacular year on defense. She exemplifies a hard working student also, having to overcome obstacles that would have made her graduate in the winter. Thankfully, she was able to work her class schedule out, meaning we will see her in a Bobcats uniform this spring.

STUDENT VOICES

Get to know your SGA!



Name: Brianna Clay

Class: Freshman

Position: Freshman Senator

Hometown: Swainsboro

Major: Political Science

School Involvement: SGA, Ambassador, Drama Club, Book Club, Correll Scholar, BCM

Favorite Thing About EGSC: I love meeting new people at EGSC

Favorite Thing to do at EGSC: The school events on campus are a lot of fun!

Favorite Movie: Pride & Prejudice

Favorite Food: Sushi

Fun Fact: I was on my high school's first soccer team

Fun Fact about Your Family: My mom is from the Philippines

Favorite Thing to Do on Weekends: Hangout with friends and family

Words of Advice for Potential Bobcats: Be involved. It's a lot more fun than you realize. Don't be afraid to make new friends

Future Plans: Transfer to a four-year university and major in International Affairs. Then go into law school to become an international lawyer.

Keep going

by CHASSIDY BYRD

I could sit for hours and explain every single circumstance that could prevent you from being the best you can be, but, truthfully, all they will ever be are excuses. Attending college can be very frustrating at times, and that's something I wasn't told from the start. My problems and lack of success stemmed from me not being motivated enough, trying to be a college athlete while working a full-time job to help support my family, and trying to do for others while forgetting myself. I've seen people try things over and over again and still fail. It happens because of two reasons: either it's just not meant to be or they never change their input in order to get a better output. When I first attended college, I went in so unsure about what I wanted to do in life...but I've matured, I've grown, and I've also failed at several things.

Never be embarrassed of failure. I believe that failure is inevitable, but it is also a part of the preparation process. I'm grateful for that, because my failures have groomed and molded me into the person I am today. I'm no

longer weak and easy to give up. But I have passion, drive, perseverance, and a motivation that was birthed from so many obstacles.

Best-selling author Suzanne Evan wrote a book entitled *The Way You Do Anything Is the Way You Do Everything*. Believe me, there will be days where you just don't want to get out of bed for that 8 a.m. class, days where you just don't have the energy to stay up late nights to complete that homework assignment, and there will be days where you just completely forget EVERYTHING... but it is important that you KEEP GOING! For a lot of us, East Georgia State College is just the beginning to our unfinished success. Maybe you can't promise "perfect" grades, but be sure to keep going. Maybe you can't promise to make it to every single class, but be sure to keep going. Maybe you'll fail a course once or maybe even twice, but be sure to keep going. Trust me, your input will be rewarded with an amazing output but you have to KEEP GOING! Even after you've failed, keep going!

How does student housing affect life on campus?

by MIAYA LUNDY

Student housing affects life on campus more than you think. One of the most important factors about school is academics. You have to keep your grades up to continue to attend, and to make that possible, the student would have to be present in class.

With on-campus housing it makes going back and forth to classes easier. You also have a lot of flexibility with the activities you choose to do outside of school. There is a variety of sports and different clubs that some of the students take part in, and living on campus contributes a lot to their success in the activities and also their classes.

It also helps students make life-long

connections with new people. It is so important when you are away from home to have that constant communication. Living on campus gives the students instant access to peers, even when they need help with academics. Students can put together study groups that can also have a very positive effect on passing their classes.

This is also something financial aid can help with or pay for, without having the worry of making monthly or partial payment. On-campus housing is one of the best things that could have ever happened to a college students and the decision has a worthwhile effect.

Learn your lesson

by TANEKQUE LEWIS

Today, I noticed that a lot of freshman college students don't take their education seriously, which is understandable. Fresh out of high school, right into unlimited freedom. Making your own choices with no parents watching your every move is a big adjustment. You're "grown" now, right? Wrong. You're not as smart as you think you are, and you're most certainly not smarter than your professor or any other staff member. These intelligent and caring people are here to help you succeed in college, but they are not here to baby you or treat you like the high school student you once were. They set rules and regulations for a reason, and being rude and disrespectful is not the way to get a degree.

Coming to college was the best decision that I've made so far in life. It hasn't been easy, by any means, but I can honestly say that it has been worth it. At the risk of sounding old, I have to tell you my "back in the day" story, so no judgments, please. When I first started college, I had a super power of acting like I had everything figured out when, in reality, I had absolutely no idea what I wanted. I went to the first college that accepted me and picked the major that looked like something I would like. Everything after that was a blur. I went to class, but didn't learn anything because my mind was still confused. I made a few friends who I let distract me even more and procrastination became my middle name.

In my mind, I had it all handled. My grades were decent and that

kept my parents off my back, which was better than the parties I attended.

My first year was a breeze. My second year, I figured, would be pretty much the same. That year, life had other plans. Having the same mindset from freshman year and just getting by, I figured I was good. That is, until the grades came back. I had flunked most of my classes and was in the process of losing my financial aid, which meant I had to tell my parents, who were under the impression that I was doing just fine. I thought it couldn't get any worse until it did just that—it got much worse. By this time, I was super lost. I had no idea what my next move would be or how I was going to survive the big, bad world.

At this point, I didn't think it could get any worse, but it did, and I felt like I was going to break. I was not in a good place and everyone that knew me could see it. My family became concerned and my parents were worried more than anything. This was my turning point. One thing I never like to do is worry or disappoint my parents, and I had done both. Once I saw "the look," I knew I had to do better. Making my parents proud and showing them that their sacrifices weren't pointless is my main motivation in life. That may not be yours, but whatever it is, let it be the thing to keep you focused. Take it from someone who was never focused and had to learn the hard way.

You may not be sure what you specifically want out of life, which is okay. It may not be as easy as you thought

it would be, which is also okay. What you do know is that you chose to come to college, so why not take it seriously? Why not make the best of it? Don't get me wrong, having fun and making friends is all fine and dandy, but it is not the most important thing. Learning, listening and comprehending is. Setting goals and not letting distractions keep you from accomplishing them is also important. Yes, you're young and have time to figure things out, but don't waste this time. In my opinion, this is the most important time of your life. The time to set yourself up for how you want your life to be in the future.

This is coming from someone who didn't appreciate the opportunities presented to her early on, but figured out really quickly how tough life can be without a plan in place or how lost you actually can feel when you realize you messed up because you were hard-headed. The saying is true—a hard head really does make a soft back side. Take advantage of opportunities and break out of your comfort zone. There is much more to life than parties and slacking off. There is money to be made and barriers to break out here. In order for that to happen, you need a plan. I'm not saying that college is the only way, but, in all honesty, it can't hurt. Think about how you want your life to be and what you need to do to make it happen. Learning the hard way cannot be an option, especially when you have so many people on this campus rooting for you to succeed.

Life is the final battlefield

by IDRIS GRAHAM

I've always seen life differently than most. In me has always been the drive to be successful. Me being the only boy out of three females gave me a desire to become a man before my time.

Everyone that knows me knows it's always been serious business and I have come a long way. Trials and tribulations will come to everyone. It's up to us individuals to persevere. All throughout time, there have been people that overcome obstacles. I've met some of them and some of you may know some.

That should inspire people, but, in some cases, we have the opposite. The war today is on human excellence. It's on you as soon as we walk in the gas station. The average human being struggling with himself to find peace. I would like to help, and, in certain cases, I do.

People come from different backgrounds, but we have the same human make up. Inside that make up, we have a heart and a mind. When the mind is out of control, it does crazy things.

Most people are longing for something that will help them make sense of how they feel. In some cases, there's

something missing there, and they fill it with a false appetite. In life, if we don't eat, we starve. Some people eat things in life that are burdensome to their life. The basic needs most but met to survive. When you starve you, eat whatever and they have with no filter. If we eat bad things in life, our life will suffer. So, let's all eat of productive food so we can thrive.

People must want to succeed as much as they want to breathe. It's impossible to grow if you don't have water. Insight and knowledge are the basic things for human life.

Many times, we overlook the small things in life. In all actuality, it's the small things that develop into big life. If everything went as planned, we would never learn. So, when we question things out of doubt, we should ask one question. We all have faith in something so let your faith grow.

As a human being, you should grow into a successful flower. One that sprouts even when all odds are against them. So, you be that flower and find your success.

You can reach Idris on Twitter @GrahamIdris or email at idrisgraham@gmail.com

BE THE FIRST TO KNOW

JOIN THE HOOPEE BIRD STAFF



CONTACT OUR ADVISOR
WARREN GOOSBY • WGOOSBY@EGA.EDU