OWLETTE 2021

NAME: KSU TRIO PROGRAMS

ADDRESS: 11 Courthouse Square, Dallas, GA 30132

SCHOOLS: Hiram High School, East Paulding High School, Rockmart High School, Cedartown Highschool

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KSU TRIO PROGRAMS

OWLETTE 2021

Volume 4

A collection of virtual summer academy student work and photos from 2021.

DOODLES BY:
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It is the goal of Kennesaw State University's TRIO Programs to empower our TRIO Families to success, motivate students to achieve their dreams, and enrich our communities.

Thank you to everyone who makes our work possible.
| 01. | LETTER FROM ADMINISTRATOR | Page 4 |
| 02. | VIRTUAL SUMMER ACADEMY STUDENT WORK | Page 8 |
| 03. | SENIOR FEATURES | Page 73 |
| 04. | KSU TRIO FAMILY PHOTOS 2021 | Page 78 |
| 05. | KSU TRIO FACULTY & STAFF PHOTOS | Page 109 |

DOODLES BY:
Christian Stephens
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Ahmir Lawrence
LETTER FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

DOODLES BY: Kalia Warren
Dear KSU Trio Family,

Looking back on this summer, my heart is full. Since March 2020, the COVID-19 Pandemic has radically changed the way that we operate both personally and professionally. In an increasingly remote and virtual world, it can be difficult to find a sense of belonging and feel connected to our community. This summer, our KSU Trio Family accomplished that and more.

Our students are a true testament to how rewarding hard work and commitment can be. Our students had the opportunity to take part in a holistic Summer Component virtually, where they could prepare for their upcoming school year and build skills that will help them succeed in their future online experiences in college, the workplace, and beyond.

It has always been our goal to empower our Trio families to succeed, motivate students to achieve their dreams, and enrich our communities...
AND WE ARE HAPPY TO CONTINUE OUR SERVICE TO YOU DURING THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES.

One of our main goals for this year’s Virtual Summer Component was to find a way to help students build the skills necessary to combat the fatigue so many others are facing in virtual spaces. To do this, we try to eliminate one of the key causes of fatigue—frustration.

We help students become more comfortable with online learning platforms by dedicating our first week to giving in-depth instruction on how to master our platforms before their necessitated use. This not only helps our summer run smoother, it also ensures that our students are being prepped for the increased online environment as the college climate changes to a more remote delivery service. This method allows our students to walk into dual enrollment and later postsecondary courses with confidence, knowing how to navigate their classrooms with ease and advocate for themselves.
Our second method to combat frustration is to make sure that our students can look forward to time spent with us. Partnering with Paradigm Shift, we had virtual seminars that our students thoroughly enjoyed, and our instructors did a wonderful job of making lessons interesting and fun. We chose electives that were tailored to our students’ interests to allow them the time to pursue their passions. We also encouraged students to participate in our Instagram Challenges, where they submitted photos to compete for prizes.

It is because of our amazing staff, faculty, and students that this year was another astounding success. The dedication and community of our KSU TRIO Family has been such a pleasure to witness, and this Owlette captures so much more than just our students’ work. It is our journal during this time of being apart together, and we hope that it makes you smile as much as we did.

We will continue to build our students’ confidence, enriching our communities, and providing the amazing service and care our TRIO Families know and love.

Thank you and stay safe,

Dalton J. Lemelle Jr.
KSU TRIO Director
Writings
HOW DO YOU DEFINE POETRY?

Poetry is the expression of how you feel or what you think using words. Imagery is definitely important here because you would want the audience or readers to feel what you are feeling.

-ZIPHORIAH TANIS

I feel like poetry is another way to express your feelings. Poets may use metaphors or similes. Poems may have different meanings than what you think it is, that is why you always have to look deep into the poems and find out what is the true meaning.

-ARIANA BELMAN

To me, poetry is the art of expressing how a person views the world with words.

-AALIYAH SAYAVONG
Poetry is a way to express yourself and put your thoughts into words that make sense to you.

-KHALIYAH DAVIS

To me, poetry is like a sea of words and thoughts that don’t really make sense together until you write it into a perspective of emotion where all of the feelings and words correspond with each other, creating a beautiful image and story in your head.

-AMAYA DOUGLAS

In my opinion, poetry is a way for people to express themselves on paper. It can serve as an outlet to what people might be feeling. Poetry can also be lyrics in songs. The rhythm and flow in poems also can feel like a song.

-KALIA WARREN

Poetry is the art of expressing one’s feelings through words that sometimes rhyme and other times don’t.

-ANIAYA GRACE
Poetry is a way of expressing oneself without being completely straightforward. Poets use complex words and wording to explain how they feel or what is happening around them. Some poems rhyme and have a certain rhythm. Some poems tell a story in a way that if you don’t read it twice, you’d never understand. All poems have a different signature to them that make them more interesting in their own way.

-ARIELLE JOHNSON

ODES & SONNETS

ODE TO THE SUN
I love the rays my beautiful sun gives
I love the comfort the sun gives me
I love the way you make my skin feel
And I love the way you calm me down
So, this is an ode to the sun
Under Your Touch
In the shadow of your warm love
I feel the most safe and comfortable,
And your soft, caring hands
Help me feel safe always under your touch

-JAAZIYA JONES
THE OCEAN

It was made before the land,
and seats the horizon,
every day it slowly expands
led by Poseidon

It has no remorse,
has no care to whom which it frightens,
it cannot be coerced
so large you would have thought it housed titans.

It knows no limit
no boundary or border can stop it,
it buries cities in minutes
quickly submitting to it.

Nevertheless, it is beautiful
the power it holds is indisputable.

-ZIPHORAH TANIS
My mother is my savior and happiness. She is the thing that fills my heart with joy. When thinking of the word joy, I remember Christmas. Christmas is hugs and kisses. Hugs and kisses is happiness. That is what my mom is. My mom is everything. I cannot think of the future without my mom. Everything would collapse. That is why my mom is my happiness.

-ARIANA BELMAN

Life... what is life but pain and strife
The world being full of the saying
Everything will be alright
Highs and lows or being told
to take the high road
Life is a big ole gray area
There is a never a 100 percent right choice
I’m between the gray lines
one of the people you wouldn’t see in the black or white
I stare into each side never knowing which one is right.

-KHALIYAH DAVIS
SPRING FLOWER

My bright flower,
you inspire me to write.
I love the way you bloom,
blossom and grow,
Invading my mind day
and through the night,
Always dreaming about your light
I see you in a beautiful bouquet
You are more calming, dainty and gentle.
The soft breeze flaps
the field of May,
And the springtime
has the pancontinental.
How do I love you?
Let me count the ways.
I love your optimistic
tagitude and color.
Thinking of your pretty
petals fills my days.

-KALIA WARREN

POETRY
AN ODE TO MY SIDEKICK

You tell me how to feel
You let me know in advance what could happen
You sometimes you scare me
You sometimes make me sad
You make me think about everything
but also about nothing at the same time
You switch and change at any given moment
You love to play and jump around
You love to be quiet but sometimes makes a lot of sound
I love you sidekick because you are a part of me
You help me see what I need to
And help me learn as I go

-CHRISTIAN STEPHENS

I praise my ancestors
for they got me here.
I praise them for the dark times they went through,
so I don't have to.
I praise them from the good and the bad,
for they were the ones to break the shackles.

-ANIAYA GRACE
When it rains
It will be dark and gloomy
I will
Find a way to listen
To the cries....
Of the mute
Can you hear them?
They are oh so quiet
But they are there
Lurking...
Hiding...
Crying....
Will you help them?
Help them ease their pain?
Then stay quiet and listen
When it rains.

-AMAYA DOUGLAS
Blending the roux into the pot
Okra is the best part of the dish.
Smiling as she knows it is ending.
I granted her wish it looked like art.

They had once gathered.
Scraping up their legacy
Through the tears of it all
They feasted and rejoiced.

The shrimp is the finest of the dish.
Flawlessly paired with the sausage.
Widening my mouth as I took the first bite.
Savory spoonful of crabs and rice.

This creole dish is sure divine.
Every single time.

-CYDNI TYLER
TO THE MOTHERS

To the mothers of our time
Strong and brave,
overprotective, and kind
Showing the younger how to act simply divine,
Some know not how to hold the tongue,
While others teach it
Some as cool as ice
So much so you could feel it
This ode I give to you
Just as a sign of my, gratitude

I thank you for the time spent,
Thank you for the sacrifices,
Both big and small
Thank you for the listening ears
Over all these years
Thank you for showing me true love,
And showing me showing it really feels
Thank you for the memories
And even making my life light
Almost like a sweet breeze

-ARIELLE JOHNSON
ODE TO WINTER

Ode to winter! If winter should ever cease,
so should the bird's early morning chirps,
the bee's midday buzz
and the owl's late-night hoot.

Oh, how I beg for the cold winter wind
instead of the sun's glistening rays.
The feeling of warming up to a fireplace
pleases me more than the buzzing of a fan.

I wake up every morning and rush to the window
yearning for the ground to be engulfed in the glistening white
snow.

-ZIPHORAH TANIS
GOING AWAY

Some sweet day I'll go away
Leaving behind the mess made
No day will be like today
but peace will be felt as if under cool shade

You'll be at peace
When everything is quiet
When all the noise has ceased
There will be no more riots

With time I will be forgotten
And the world will still run
Nothing else being made rotten
Everything will be fine under the sun

Some sweet day I'll be going away
Then you won't even have to pray

-ARIELLE JOHNSON
Two swans swimming,
thinking of love and a boat.
I soon went drifting off to sleep,
Not thinking of my heart or the swans.

Shivering in the cold,
I was sound asleep.
The wind blew faster and colder.
My head felt like ice.

Why do the swans look in love?
I don’t know their feelings.
My head feeling numb while waking.
What is it that I am feeling?

Walking around the pond,
I see the swans
From my dream last night.
I was dreaming the whole time, the swans.
Now I see what true love is.

-ARIANA BELMAN
LIST POEMS

COURAGEOUS

I like it when you are determined.
I like it when you are dedicated.
I like it when you are happy.
I like it when you are proud.
I like it when you are willing to put all your power into your work.

-ARIANA BELMAN

FIRE

I don’t like the heat.
I don’t like the sound of “crack, sizzle, pop”.
I don’t like the smell of burnt wood.
I don’t like the bright orange color.
I don’t like the hot heat.
I don’t like fire.

-AALIYAH SAYAVONG
SUNFLOWER

I love our picnics at the park.
I love when you brush through my curls and detangle the Locs.
I especially love when you listen to my conspiracy and theories.
But most of all I love that our future isn't dark.

-CYDNI TYLER

Oh Melanie, you are my “mother”
Oh Melanie, you are a lot of trouble
Oh Melanie, you are extremely crazy
Oh Melanie, you are driving ME crazy
Oh, Melanie, Oh dear Melanie we’ve never even met before
Oh Melanie, maybe one day

-CHRISTIAN STEPHENS

I like the way you smile.
I like the way you make everything you do worthwhile.
I like the way you make everything okay.
I like the way you do everything your way.
I like the way you pay attention to others.
I like the way you don’t smother.

-KHALIYAH DAVIS
LOVE

I love it when you hold me close when no one is around.
I love the sensation of your fingers rubbing in my hair.
I love the smell of your essence drifting in the air.
I love it when you whisper every word I love gently in my ear.
I love everything about you my dear, so never forget how your love makes me feel.

-AMAYA DOUGLAS

I like the cold.
I like the cuddles between the covers.
I like the snow that melt by my touch.
I like the feeling of knowing Christmas is coming.

-ANIAYA GRACE

I love your smile when you’re passionate about something.
I love how bright your skin glistens in the sun.
Your warm hugs make my soul glow.
I like when the sun glows on the ocean at sunrise, as I sip a cup of coffee.

-KALIA WARREN
IF ONLY

I wish I could believe the way you do
I wish I could hope in the unseen, things far out of sight and mind
I wish I could trust in everyone
I wish confidence was something that lived in me
I wish I had the faith you have been given
I wish this
I wish that
I wish I didn’t have to wish, and I could just be that.

-ARIELLE JOHNSON

SUMMERTIME LOVE

In the summer I go on walks
In the summer I hang with friends
In the summer I feel love
In the summer I go to the beach late for the breeze
In the summer I relax with no worries
In the summer I go to carnivals
In the summer I relax at home and outside

-JAAZIYA JONES
Poems From the Heart

All my life I’ve been taught to love
I’ve been taught what love is supposed to feel like
I’ve been taught what love is supposed to look like
I’ve been taught that love lives in the good

Over time, I’ve truly learned that in the bad is where
you truly understand love.
On those rainy, cold, lonely nights
On the days when no one calls
Those moments where you truly just need a
shoulder to cry on

That is when you realize
all the love you need is inside you.
So, when you are alone, you are at peace
because you know love.

-Ziphorah Tanis
ROCKS
She called them crystals.
He never understood why.
They were small
and had an unnatural shape.
Nothing special.
But to her, they were magical.
She would wish on them like shooting stars.
Tucking them under her pillow each night.
She would never tell him her manifestations,
now he stood alone,
just him and those things.
But he understood that they were more than just rocks
- AALIYAH SAYAVONG

In the blink of your eyes
The wavering smell of freshness in the air
The comfortability of your cries
The bareness of us conversing
Its within us together
-CYDNI TYLER
BROKEN AGAIN

Heart break, it’s my fault
I put my heart at stake
Thinking someway, somehow you would take care
Hold me close, but then I broke like glass
Run far, run fast
That’s what they told me
This love here won’t last
Soon it will be left for the past
Listen here, listen there
This poor girl just didn’t listen
Not anywhere, not anyhow,
Now on my knees I bow
Break me once, break me twice
I didn’t choose to listen
Even when I was broken the million times
Call me a fool, but I thought this was true
Give me all, give me none
By your side I promised to stay
That’s been the promise since day one

-ARIELLE JOHNSON
THANK YOU

Thank you for standing with me when there was no one.
Thank you for allowing me to use your shoulder as tissues
for my tears.
As I can say many times to my family and friends out there.
I can say thank you for teaching me lessons about life.
For pushing me to be bigger when I felt small.
Thank you, not only for the shoulder, but for the night you
was up with me.
Now, it’s time for me to let go of your hand and go on my
own different paths.
A path full of tears, heartbreak, laughter, and even
sometimes anxiety,
but it’s a path I’m willing to take and I only can say.

-ANIAYA GRACE

Toss all your thoughts to the sea and spend the rest
of your life with me.
The image of us together is what keeps me going in bad weather
Come rest your head next to me.
We could sail all throughout the sea.
Just me with you it’ll be.

-KYRIE WILLIAMS-MITCHELL
The American dream is coming here with nothing but getting so much,
That seems like the dream,
but what if I told you the dream wasn't made for us,
Us who picked the cotton,
Us who had to fight for our stolen land back,
Us who never stolen jobs that no one wanted,
and us who are judged for our eyes.
Dreams should be sweet,
but when your skin is darker than the night sky
it's no longer a sweet piece of candy, but a sour lime.
A dream made by white man, for the white men.
What can I say,
They never knew that a black woman would be the vice president,
or better yet a black man president.
Many of us marched so we can walk, sleep, eat, and learn in the same room as them.
He had a dream, but the dream is still a nightmare.
We are no longer in shackles physically,
but we are mentally,
so please let me know what is truly the American dream.

-ANIAYA GRACE
RAINBOW

My heart is the color red. The color red represents the love for my mother.

The color orange is an energetic color. This is for all the physical activities I do with my family.

The color yellow represents the sunshine. When the sun shines my mom smiles the brightest.

The color green represents growth and health. My mom is the strongest woman I know and will overcome anything.

The color blue represents patience and balance. My mom has yet to understand that.

The color indigo represents focus. The focus will help my mom with her sickness.

The color purple it’s like purple rain. It’s raining and then it goes away. The tears in my mom’s eyes go away and turns out to be happiness.

-ARIANA BELMAN
As I walk, I noticed a little girl that looks very familiar.
She smiled and waved then disappeared.
I woke up in a cold sweat realizing that she was the past me.
The me I once knew,
the one who never cried herself to sleep,
the one who saw fear and never backed down.

Who am I as I looked in the mirror?
Oh, I remember
I'm the one who cries herself to sleep,
the one I never knew,
the one who sees fear and runs.
Who am I?

Is it fair to say that I am done?
Ready to say my goodbyes.
Is it fair to say that the ones I'm leaving behind will be okay?
That the air is clear now,
that the stress I have is no longer there?
Who am I?

PART I
What can I say to them before I go?
"I love you?",
or better yet
"Sorry?"
Sorry that I can't stay any longer.
Sorry that I lost many battles,
but never won the war
or sorry that I can no longer walk with you to your next chapter?
Who am I?

-ANIAAYA GRACE

It appears you had no emotions
Playing with feelings like a toy
You are used to people giving you cheers
Believing that I am a toy
It's time to say goodbye

-CYDNI TYLER
US
We both see the world differently
You may see sun
I might see clouds
But our feelings are the same
We are connected in a way
You might be miles away from me
But I feel you, you feel me
Phone calls on a rainy day
Facetimes in quarantine
Always appreciate your smile
Oh, how I miss that smile
Come visit me
Why don’t you, it’s long overdue
-KALIA WARREN

FOR MY LOVE
I will always be there
Day and night
Night and day
Forever and always
Always and again
You are the one I want forever
You are the one and the only one to make me happier than life
-JAAZIYA JONES
A DREAM DEFERRED POEMS

A HEART DEFERRED

A day in the rain
Cold wet gloomy, droopy
Jaded by the despair of the cloudy dark sky
Colder than the whisper of the wind
Or maybe like the loneliness found in a moldy basement
Like king without his queen in a room fakes
A heart deferred is like the wilted rose.

-DESTINY HANNA

A HEART DEFERRED

What happens to anger deferred?
Does it burst like a shaken-up bottle of soda?
Or does it get contained like a prisoner behind a jail cell wanting out?
Does it tick like a time bomb waiting to explode?
Or does it pop like a balloon holding too much air?
Maybe it just spreads like a winter cold?
Most people believe it will go away like a neglected kitten.
But I think it just lingers like the haunting of a ghost.

-ANAH'JAH BOOKER
A LIFE DEFERRED
What happens to a car deferred?
Does it rust like an old pipe?
Or break down like an old bike?
And then stop working?
Does it wash away like chalk in the rain?
Or fly away like birds in the winter?
Maybe it just deflates
like an old balloon?
Or does it stay put forever?

-KHAMRY'S MITCHELL

FULL OR EMPTY DEFERRED
Does it feel heavy
Like a treasure
Or light like and feather?
Are you a realist
Or an idealist?
Maybe it’s just an amount
Or who are you?

-KAYLIN WILLIS
FEELINGS

What happens when feelings are deferred?
Is it as red like a rose?
Or gloomy like the rain?
And then form like a rainbow?
Does it bloom like a flower in the meadows?
Or shrivel up like a scroll?
Maybe it just hangs
Like a loose thread.
Or does it fade away?

-MARISKA BAILEY

A LIFE DEFERRED

What happens to a life deferred?
Does it wait for us to panic
like a fox, move in for the attack?
Or does it force people into submission like an evil king
And then laugh?
Does it shroud your face like a mask?
Or hide you away
like a treasure?
Maybe it just came to be heard
like a small child
Or does it hurt?

-MATTHEW HOBBS
THE MIND STATE OF ME

Ever changing, evolving, and warping
Spontaneous as can be,
Like a nectar-hungry bee, swatted and disturbed
My mind is focused though too, easily unnerved
Thoughts like crystal river water flowing as one
A rock is plunged, the stream is split,
The damage is done
Never recovering, the idea is lost
Like a needle unable to thread,
The goal is tossed
My mind state is differed an unimaginable mess
My mind state is frantic there is no rest

-JETT ROBINSON

A CAR DEFERRED

What happens to a car deferred?
Does it cease to function
like a brain at one’s time of departure?
Or sit there like dogs waiting for food?
Does it cause you pain not being free?
Drive you insane?
Maybe it’s just as simple,
like staying in on a regular day.

-ARIELLE JOHNSON
A STOMACHE DEFERRED
What happens to a stomach deferred?
Does it growl
like a bear?
Or break down like an enzyme
And then make food?
Does it get empty like a gas tank?
Or does it dry up
like flowers?
Maybe it just yells
like a human?

-MCKAYLE CAINES-COOLALL
ESSAYS

DOODLES BY:
Jett Robinson
Arielle Johnson
Khamrys Mitchell

OH MY GOD!
The American Dream I want to accomplish is becoming a lawyer. I have wanted to become a lawyer since I was in elementary school because I would watch a lot of crime shows at a young age. As I got older, I noticed the justice system seemed to be corrupt and unfair so that felt like another reason that I should pursue this career. The steps that I need to achieve this dream include graduating high school, going to college and studying political science, graduating law school, and taking the bar exam. An obstacle that I will face is the bar exam. Every lawyer that I have ever met has said the bar exam is extremely difficult and almost nobody passes on their first try. There's no way that I can address this obstacle besides mentally preparing myself before taking the exam. This is the best career path for me because fighting for what's right reflects who I am as a person.

-JANAYA ALLEN

My American dream is to be a video game programmer. It also includes a wife, 3 kids, a nice car, and a house with 4 bedrooms and other things as well. I have made this my dream because when I was younger, games brought joy to my life and I want
to do the same for future generations. I would want a family because I feel like it will bring me joy once I'm old to see them have their own family. To meet this dream, I will first have to learn how to code. I will need to get a college degree while also having a portfolio of projects I have made. Once I have done that, I can apply to a game company that is semi big but not massive like Nintendo and Microsoft. An obstacle I could have been student debt, so I have to avoid taking out loans. This is the best path for me because it is something that will make me happy and something that I already started to work towards.

-OMAR RODRIGUEZ-SEGURA

The American dream has been described the same way in different words for many years. For some the American dream is a white picket fence around a nice house, a family with a dog, and matching pajamas at Christmas. The American dream for me is bringing the right offenders of the law to justice to make the world a better place. According to Matt Bodman Between “2 and 10% of convictions in the criminal justice system is wrong”. To me the first step in making these wrongful convictions decline starts with good police work, investigations, and being sure to arrest the right criminals. To become a police officer does not take a lot of work but to become a good one does. To achieve this dream, I must
graduate high school. A high school diploma is the minimal education requirement. I will go a step further in my education by getting my bachelor's in criminal justice and learning Spanish. I will also have to attend the police academy. Some obstacles I may face while chasing my dream as a police officer would be discrimination based on my race and gender. It is sad that people will treat you different or worse because of the color of your skin and or gender. I will address these concerns by working hard despite the cruel and trying comments, and by smiling always because I know what my purpose is and will be. While this dream is not for everyone, it is the dream for me. I believe that to the world you must do your part. Being a police officer is part in society because I have the determination, courage, strength, and heart to leave the world better than how I entered it. The first step though...

Graduating high school, yeah one year of that place.

-DESTINY HANNA

It is crazy how you can think someone is successful, while they think they are far from success. The meaning of success varies from person to person. Some versions of success may measure wealth, while others may measure helpfulness. This is why the vision for the American Dream is not universal. My version of the American Dream includes many aspects, but the main focus is becoming a successful entrepreneur. This is my
dream because I like the idea of being my own boss. In order to make this dream a reality, there are many things I must do. There are normally 4 steps to becoming an entrepreneur: finding your industry, researching your market, educating yourself, and slowly building your market (“How to Become an Entrepreneur” n.pag.). One obstacle I may face as an entrepreneur is losing motivation. Paul Esajian, founder of Fortune Builders, says, “It is not uncommon for business owners to lose motivation now and then, especially if you haven’t landed a deal in a while” (“9 Ways to... Biggest Obstacles” n.pag.). Motivation is very hard to keep up, especially when things are going wrong. One way I can overcome this obstacle is by having a good support system. This career has a lot of requirements, and I will need all of the emotional support I can get. Although this dream requires a lot of motivation, I know I possess the qualities it takes to reach it. I am prepared to fail as many times as I need and take as many risks required to reach my version of success. Winston Churchill once said, “Success is walking from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm.”

-ANAHJAH BOOKER

Everyone has a dream or at least a goal they would love to reach, mine is to be a pediatrician. This is a medical doctor the takes care of infants, children, and adolescents. It takes a lot
of hard work and dedication to get there, but I know that I can. It’s been a dream of mine since the age of 8 because of my pediatrician at the time, she was my inspiration and still is.

When I was eight years old, I had a doctor by the name of Doctor Johnson, which I my last name too. She was so much fun to be around, and not only talked about my health but who I am and wanted to be. In the time spent around her she expressed how much she loved the job she had and as I got older, I realized the love I had for science and young children and decided that what I wanted for myself. To get there it’s going to take 4 years of university where I take a ton of pre-med courses, and then 4 years of medical school, along with another 3 years of residency. I’m going to be in school for a very long time, but I do know that it’s going to be worth it in the end. I’ll be doing something I love and be making money too.

With all of this, the reason I know that I can make it is because I have God and my family by my side. Through dedication, hard work, and prayer, I can make it. This is something that can not only help me, but my children if I have them, and kids from my church also, it’s the best choice for me so that I too can make a difference.

-ARIELLE JOHNSON
Since a child I have always been fascinated and surrounded by art of all kinds and artist from all backgrounds. Art is an escape from day-to-day problems, and it would be a pleasure to continue it as an American dream. My style of art chosen is graffiti this is influenced by my upbringing in a hip hop-based environment, known by many graffiti is a element of hip hop.

The first step to achieving this American dream is practicing. If you do not practice your art form you will not get better or progress on the road to your dream. Such practicing includes sketching out pieces every day, observing art in the world around you and finishing pieces of art daily to add to our inventory of experience. The next step to achieving this American dream is developing. Developing includes skill style and developing as a person in general. As you develop on your journey to become an artist you will grow as a person learning new ways to express your art. Your skill will develop overtime and only get better and better if you continue to practice.

All of these steps on the path to this dream are connected and effect each other greatly. The last step to this dream is delivering. Delivering includes taking opportunities for gigs/jobs, proving your style in the community of art, getting your talent exposed to others not just artist but people that will pay. Benefits of pursuing an artist dream is working on your own
time and working freely, freedom to travel the world and 
experience different cultures while providing art, opportunities 
to meet helpful people that will provide guidance on your 
journey, you control what you do based on work effort and 
drive to become better. This American dream provides a sense 
of freedom something envied in our society today, something 
that took blood and effort to achieve in America. An artist is 
my American dream.  

-JETT ROBINSON

The American Dream I am chasing is to become a travel nurse. 
This is my dream because I have always wanted to become a 
commodity in the medical field. I am choosing to become a 
travel nurse because I can have freedom to choose when and 
where I want to work while also being paid my worth. At first, 
I was contemplating to become a doctor, but I don’t think I 
have the mental capacity to take the MCAT and go through 
medical school. A nursing job would suffice because I think it’s 
not such a hard job. “Travel nurses help fill gaps in areas 
where there are nursing shortages. They are employed by an 
independent nursing staffing agency instead of a single hospital.” 
(“What Does a Travel Nurse Do” n.pag.) I can travel to new 
places and become more social. Angelina Walker says, 
“Competitive pay, great benefits, and free housing are also 
major benefits of the job.” (“What Does a Travel Nurse Do?”)
This shows some of the benefits of a travel nurse. Requirements for becoming a travel nurse is being a RN and have 2 years of nursing experience. Challenges that may arise is travelling so much, choosing where the jobs are, and missing home. I do love to travel but it sometimes gets tiring. After I have been working for a couple of years, my hours should be flexible, so I would have the freedom to take time off when needed and get back to family and friends. I think this is the best path for me because my sister plans on becoming a doctor, so if I were able to choose a job at the hospital she’s working at, I would be able to see her. This is also the best path for me because whenever family members are sick, I would know what do and how to take care of them.

-McKayle Caines-Coobilall

My American dream is to become a therapist. To be a therapist you must listen and help people through their struggles, give advice and help them be the best version of themselves. My reason why is growing up I had some family problems and if I didn’t have my sister or brother to be there for me, I wouldn’t have anyone. I want little children who don’t have siblings to know I’m here for them and they don’t have to go through it alone.

However, some things I will have to do to achieve my American
Dream is to finish high school firstly. Secondly find a college and receive the knowledge I need. Thirdly make good relationships to support me on my journey and focus on myself. And lastly find a job that fits my criteria and financial needs. One obstacle I might run into is doubt or stress, but it’s completely normal and I would ask my significant other or friend for support or help. I love psychology and being able to help others through situations.

Overall, I’m in love with the idea of being a therapist and helping others. Of course, I’ll have struggles and if it doesn’t work out there is always other ways to help people and my secondary job is to be a veterinarian. But things will always work out if they’re meant to be.

-Kaylin Willis

The American Dream I am chasing is to be an International Lawyer. This is my dream because I want to see a change and I want to make a difference. There are many international affairs and disputes going on just due to simple miscommunication and understanding. In order to reach my dream, I have to stay focused and motivated. Even when I hit a rough spot within a case or during class, I have to keep pushing because to me, a failure is giving up when something gets rough. If I can’t pass an obstacle during a situation as
simple as that, then what if I was in a court room? A possible obstacle that I may run into is not being prepared for a case. I can always call a recess to review the new information to form a rebuttal against or I’ll have to power through with what I have in hopes it is enough. This is the best path and dream for me because I have all the necessary qualities and personality traits to properly defend and solve issues amongst others. Not only that, referring back to the change, there is a cycle going on. Someone needs to break it and that someone is going to be me. As of now, I just have to keep working and prepare for the world I will be facing.

-MARISKA BAILEY

WHAT I LOVE INFORMATIONAL WRITING

FILM
Throughout the years, film has always been a go to. It is the way people can express themselves in an artistic aspect, with people all over the world. Movies help people to escape from real life for a few hours, and sometimes that can be a wonderful distraction from everything that is going on. I can voice my opinions, build communities that thrive together, and have similar beliefs. I really love to immerse myself in film and
to gain knowledge in the theory and context behind scripts. I feel very strongly about black women in the film industry. I love when they get together and make something beautiful with meaning and worth. Tressie Souders was the first black woman to direct and produce a film. She directed and produced numerous films for the black community. The visual basis of film gives it a universal power of communication. Most people look at films as a form of entertainment, and it is but you can actually connect to a film. Maybe someone has been through something in their life and seeing certain representation on the big screen can make them feel heavily close to it. To conclude, film is the way I express myself, whether its writing scripts or being behind the camera, I always have a passion for it. I can express myself or others on screen for the world to see.

-KALIA WARREN

People can grasp much about the origin of Black-Creole Louisiana by learning a bowl of gumbo. Deriving from New Orleans, Creole Cuisine influenced by enslaved Black Americans, French settlers, and Native Americans. The most prominent dish in the state of Louisiana is Gumbo and was made by enslaved people which introduced okra to the dish. It is a blend of roux, vegetables, chicken, sausage, and shrimp, and a side of rice. Although gumbo has always been popular within creoles in Louisiana the demand for gumbo was gained in the 1970’s from
a senator in Louisiana. Gumbo often gets compared to other dishes throughout creole cuisines such as Jambalaya, and Etouffee. The sheer difference is how they are constructed and made. I have grown up and eaten creole cuisine my entire life, but my favorite dish would be gumbo. On holidays such as Christmas, and Thanksgiving my mother is from New York, but she learned from my dad how to make it therefore I would always be overly excited for holidays. I knew that I would be eating a crafter dish that was delicious. However, nobody makes it better than people from NOLA my yearly grandmother makes multiple batches for our family around thanksgiving, and it taste heavenly. I love tasting the roux and shrimp and the best way to have gumbo is less rice. It is mandatory to go back for seconds or thirds because the blend will have you crave more. Anytime I introduce people to creole culture I always mention the food and especially gumbo it makes me happy to introduce others to an amazing dish. I love gumbo because when tasting it you can dive into the rich culture that was produced.

-Cydni Tyler

FASHION

What I love and enjoy taking apart in is fashion. I love it for its ability to facilitate creativity. It’s a form of expression and a gateway to new ideas. I don’t necessarily restrict myself to
certain styles, silhouettes, eras, or trends; rather I do what's pleasing to me only and what makes me happy. That is the main rule I believe people who like indulging in fashion should follow: doing or making things that bring one joy. Fashion shouldn’t adhere to what others may think of what I wear or the attention I garner from it. It should be a freeing and alleviating imaginative outlet. My favorite aspect of fashion is accessorizing. I enjoy leg and arm warmers for more chilly weather; they’re a viable option for sprucing up a look that could seem plain otherwise. I also adore gaudy gold jewelry. I think they bring the outfit to life and nod to 2000’s black streetwear: a style that I’m very fond of.

Speaking of particular styles, the ones that I admire most are cyber 2000s, afro futurism, Japanese fruit magazine looks, and subversive basics. Subversive basics take on ordinary foundational articles i.e., tank tops, plain jeans, plain T's, plain long sleeves and transforms them beyond conventional functionality. They take on new forms that explore ranges of shapes, tatters, tears, and holes. The Cyber 2000s style uses elements of futurism. It delves into imaginative worlds and wears often associated with movies whose settings take place in the future. Some outfits implement space suit components or bubble-shaped/oblong structures to outfits. Space guns and other weaponry makes its way into the style too.
Afro futurism involves cultural African wear and futurism ideas. Hair is a big factor of this style; it is either formed into protective hairstyles or it goes beyond the boundaries of functionality by constructing black hair into large masses that seem to jump from medium on which the outfit is displayed on. I couldn’t recall another name for the Japanese fruit magazine looks so I apologize for its wordiness. The magazine looks are loud and colorful; they stray away from cohesion and normalcy. I believe that’s why I’m so fond of it, the style holds more emotion due to the freeing feeling of doing away with restriction. The last style is black 2000s streetwear: gaudy gold jewelry is a staple along with sparkly gem adhesions, shades, patterned jeans, printed skulls, and blingy B.B Simon belts. I love the style for the sparkle and jewelry. As shown above, I like these styles for how they make me feel and not for how they make others think.

-KALIA WARREN
-SAIMYAH LYNCH

-CHRISTIAN COWELS

ART
ART

-Desirae Ferrell

-Logan Mortensen

-Ester Ayala
ART

- Rodolfo Hernandez

- Matthew Hobbs
ART

-DESIRAE FERRELL

-ANNIE LYS
Ester Ayala

Yessica Perez

Logan Mortensen
PARIS SIMS

-AHMIR LAWRENCE
-MATTHEW HOBBES

ART
RODOLFO HERNANDEZ

ESTER AYALA

ART
SENIOR DEDICATIONS

DOODLES BY:
Emmanuel Adamson
DEAR SENIORS,

Congratulations on this huge achievement! While we have dearly missed seeing you all face-to-face for the past year, we cannot say how much we admire your ability to make the best out of this time spent virtually. We know that you will continue to spread light to us, your peers, and your community. We are so proud of our seniors who have graduated this year, and we can’t wait to watch you grow throughout your postsecondary journey!
BLAKE SMITH
Georgia Highlands College

MARKEYLA HUGHES
Georgia Highlands College

SAALIH AH ABDUS-SHAHEED
Georgia Southern University

BREYONNA STONE
Columbus State University

RACHEL COOPER
United States Army

MATTHEW CHANDLER
Chattahoochee Tech

DANAMEI WRIGHT
Valdosta State University

ROBERRIA LESLIE
United States Air Force

MIRACLE WEEKS
Clayton State University
SENIOR DEDICATIONS

MAURANSON LOUIS
Kennesaw State University

JAYLA LUCAS
Kennesaw State University

JAMES BOOKER
United States Army

KENNEDY ALEXANDER
Georgia Southern University

MAIYAH WHITE
Chattahoochee Tech

ANGEL BOHORQUEZ-CORTEZ
Georgia State University

DAMYAN BORISOV
Georgia Highlands College

KAYLEEN URIOSTEGUI
Georgia Highlands College

JAYDA LORD
Augusta State University
KSU TRIO IN PHOTOS 2021

DOODLES BY:
Annie Lys
Hayley Addison
INSTAGRAM CHALLENGE: IN THE WOODS

This was our weekly photo challenges where students had the opportunity to submit photos via Instagram or their success coach.

Students and staff took photos of them studying outside, their favorite spot to relax, or an inspiring photo of nature.
INSTAGRAM CHALLENGE:
BUILDING CHARACTER

Students and staff dressed up for a pic as their favorite character from their favorite movie or book.
INSTAGRAM CHALLENGE: SECURE THE BAG

Students and staff submitted photos of themselves completing their weekly WBL requirements, dressed up as their chosen profession, or a photo of them building the skills required for their future career.
KSU TRIO Spirit

Students and staff took creative selfies in their KSU TRIO gear.

INSTAGRAM CHALLENGE: KSU TRIO SPIRIT
Students and staff created any kind of photo using a reflective surface with a caption that reflects their experience this summer.

“This summer, I learned how to use my time wisely. I also learned to never give up, even when there’s a lot of work to do.”

-RODOLFO HERNANDEZ

“I think that the ASL class and Advanced Drawing classes were my favorite. It showed me about different life experiences, people, and creativity.”

-MATTHEW HOBBES
“I learned so much from the summer program. This program made me feel very prepared for high school.”

-UZYA ALEXIS

“This summer taught me many skills like better organization, dealing with peer pressure, and to stay prepared at all times. The program also prepared me for next year and even years after that. There were many supportive people willing to help me at all times which I appreciated.”

-JORDAN POMPEY

'As I reflect over my time as being a Success Coach for KSU TRIO Upward Bound Program this summer it makes me think of the word exuberant. I am thankful for this opportunity to work with students who are sitting where I did when I was a part of this amazing program!"

-ASIA TURNER
“This program helped give me a head start, and also gave me the opportunity to know what I’m going to need help with. It was very helpful to have people talking about leadership and encouraging us as students to keep pushing.”

-ARIELLE JOHNSON

“This summer has been my first year at the UBMS summer program and my first summer school experience. At first I expected to be boring but it was actually quite fun even considering it was virtual, I loved that I got to “meet” new people and I also really loved the paradigm shift at the beginning and end of the program! I loved how my success coach, Telai and Ms. Brittney were so helpful doing the whole program.”

-DESIRAE FERRELL
"My summer experience was filled with lots of people going out and having fun. I also went a lot of places myself. The Summer Academy helped me and taught me many skills to prepare for school.

-AHMIR LAWRENCE

"I miss my first year attending the Summer Academy riding the bus. This year’s program was a fun and new experience for me even though I hardly show it. As this being my third year participating in Summer Academy, I realize that I lack time management skills and being too idle. I also realize that I have the talent and skills to balance out my weaknesses."

-MAURANSON LOUIS
"This summer was very cool; I traveled to New Jersey to spend time with family and friends. I went to fairs, relaxed, and had the opportunity to complete this great summer program."

- JAAZIYA JONES

"For me, this summer highlighted just how resilient our KSU TRIO Family is! I am so incredibly proud of all the work our students, faculty, and staff accomplished in such a short time. We have overcome obstacles, learned new things, and made this a great summer to remember."

- JENNIFER CRATON
"This summer, I had the incredible experience of supporting a determined group of students in all their endeavors as Kennesaw State University TRIO’s newest Academic Advisor. I enjoyed welcoming our new Freshman class to the Upward Bound program and making sure they feel confident with starting a new chapter in their lives at high school. I learned to push through many tech issues too!"

-PRISCOILLA PITA

"When I reflect over this past summer, I am grateful that I was able to work with such bright students and offer any assistance that I could. I enjoyed getting to know them and even learning new things myself during different classes."

-ANNA CRATON
Marlly Griggs
English Department

Tiffany Monroe
English Department

Erna Anderson
English Department

Danny Bellinger
English Department

Sandy Rae Scott
English Department

Dr. Joanne Jezequel
English Department

Ryan Wilcox
Math Department

Latasha Lampkin
Math Department

Tahir Islahi
Math Department

Louisa Cox
Math Department

Krystal Livingston
Science Department

Martina Hayes
Science Department

Briana Brooks
Science Department

Dr. Damon McCoy
Science Department

Tanya Cain
English Department

Tahir Islahi
Math Department

Kiyoko Demmings
English Department

Dr. Joanne Jezequel
English Department

Latasha Lampkin
Math Department

Louisa Cox
Math Department

Martina Hayes
Science Department

Briana Brooks
Elective Department
It is the goal of Kennesaw State University's TRIO Programs to empower our TRIO families to success, motivate students to achieve their dreams, and enrich our communities.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MAKES OUR WORK POSSIBLE.
Until we can be in person again...
OWLETTE 2021
Kennesaw State University
TRIO Programs

Virtual Summer Program
Student Work Magazine, Vol.4

https://bagwell.kennesaw.edu/units/trio/

@ubpolk
@ubhiram
@ubms_ephs
OWLETTE 2021

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