



The Oak and Pine

A BAINBRIDGE STATE COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

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Spring 2017 Edition • P1

The Great Divide of 2016:

Students reluctant to talk about presidential results



By VICTORIA LONG

vlong2@student.bainbridge.edu

Early in the morning on November 9, 2016, Donald J. Trump was elected the nation's president-elect, earning 279 electoral college votes in the race against Democratic Candidate, Hillary Clinton, who ended up with 228 electoral college votes. The results of this highly anticipated and hotly debated election left the nation in shock and amazement. While some ended the long election day with celebrations, others solemnly mourned the loss his or her candidate suffered.

After the results of the 2016 Presidential Election set in, many took to the street in anger protesting the president-elect. Online, petitions quickly sprang up in an effort to garner signatures to stop Trump from entering the White House in January. The shock of Trump's monumental win can also be felt locally, especially by Bainbridge State College students.

Polling students and questioning their beliefs about the candidates before Election Day proved a difficult process. Many students declined to share their political leanings and affiliations, while others openly criticized both candidates and their effectiveness to govern the United States. One Bainbridge State College student said, "This year of campaigning and mud-slinging, and the media frenzy that has surrounded both candidates has orchestrated chaos throughout the country." Although some students voiced disgust and mistrust of both candidates, there were students with positive things to say about the prospective changes that each candidate could potentially bring to the country. Religious liberty and health care were among the chief reasons for one student's support for Trump. Many students also declined to be interviewed and polled on their opinion after the election results were in, but a few managed to say something and asked to remain anonymous. A student was openly surprised at the results, believing that Clinton would take the role as the

United States forty-fifth president. Although feeling indifferent as to whether they felt happy or upset about the results, the student argued it was nice to see someone who "was not a politician running for office" and admitted Trump's "charism and larger than life presence" could have been an influencing factor in the minds of voters. According to the same student, no only did Trump's ability to "play the showman influence voters," but his ability to "catch on to the anger and frustration felt by the majority of white Americans middle-class workers was seen." Even though Trump's campaign could be considered a "roller coaster ride", Americans can only hope the new president will embody the spirit of the American people while protecting the rights of all men, women and children, regardless of race, religion or sexuality. Will Trump's presidency usher in an era of job creation, reduced taxes, lower health care premiums and make for a better economy? Only time and the cooperation between the government and the voice of the American people will tell.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Student Life

Student ID required.

- Welcome Back Bash (Early Co.) | **Tuesday, Jan. 24th**
- Welcome Back Bash (MAIN) | **Wednesday, Jan. 25th | 11 a – 1 p in lobby**
- National Popcorn Day in SWC lobby | **Thursday, Jan 19th | 11 – 1**
- Basketball intramural sign up will be from **Jan 11th – Jan 31st**

- Basketball intramurals begin Thursday Feb 2nd and run every Thursday until March 2nd championship game (probably at noon, but time will be decided based upon students schedules)
- Coloring Day | **Jan 31**
- Bingo in lobby | **Wednesday, February 8th at 1 pm**
- Valentine's Day in lobby | **Tuesday, Feb 14th**
- Karaoke in lobby | **Mon. Feb 20th | 1 pm**

- Coloring day in lobby | **Wed. March 1st 1:00 pm**

Carter Arts & Lecture Series Calendar

(All events at the Kirbo Center Auditorium.)

Free & Open to the Public

- Nathalia Holt, NYT Best-selling Author- **Jan. 19th @ 7 p.m.**
- Dom Flemons, The American Songster & Grammy Award Winner: **Feb. 9th @ 7 p.m.**

- Agnes Fury, Social Activist: **March 16th @ 7 p.m.**
- Terry Anderson, Former Foreign Correspondent: **April 6th @ 7 p.m.**

The Georgia Poetry Circuit Calendar

(Craft lecture begins at 4 p.m., followed by a poetry reading at 6 p.m., all in the Kirbo Center Solarium)

Free & Open to the Public

- Kim Addonizio: **Jan. 31st**
- Rachel Eliza Griffiths: **April 3rd**

Academic Calendar

- First Day of Main Term classes: **Jan. 9th**
- Martin Luther King, Jr. HOLIDAY: **Jan. 16th**
- Midterm: **March 3rd**
- Spring Break: **March 6th-10th**
- Last Day of Class: **May 1st**
- Graduation: **May 6th**

The Boy Who Lived and His Legacy

By **VICTORIA LONG**

vlong2@student.bainbridge.edu

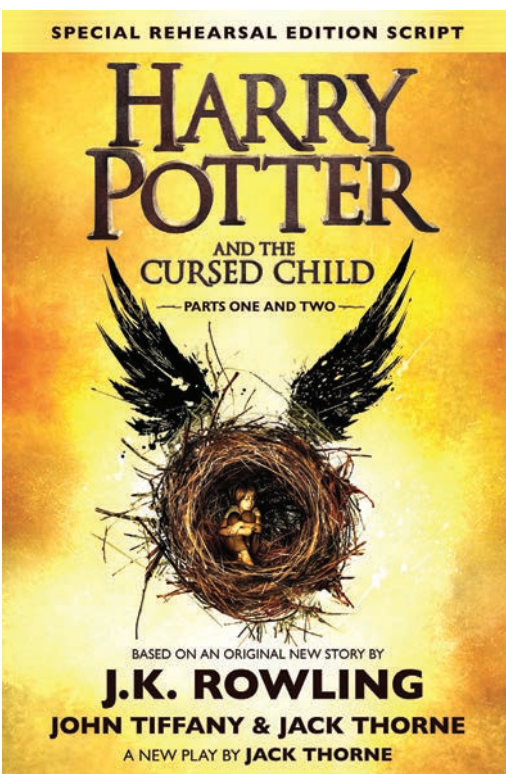
For fans of the Harry Potter series, by J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, offers fans a look into the beloved hero's life after the famous Battle of Hogwarts that took place at the end of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows. Taking place 19 years after the famous battle, readers find themselves back at King's Cross station as young witches and wizards prepare to embark on their yearly journey to the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Harry, Ron and Hermione have long since disappeared from the classrooms at Hogwarts, and are now sending their children to the great wizarding school. In this new story by Jack Thorne, we meet James, Albus, and Lily Potter, the children of Harry and Ginny Potter, along with Rose Granger-Weasley, the offspring of Ron and Hermione Granger-Weasley, as well as Scorpius Malfoy, the only son of Draco Malfoy. We also revisit familiar faces such as Professor McGonagall and Albus Dumbledore.

Life may seem peaceful for our beloved characters, since the demise of the Dark Lord Voldemort occurred over 19 years ago, but what would a Harry Potter story be without the rise of dark magic and a powerful enemy? This newest story explores the rise of a new enemy that threatens the peaceful life of wizards and muggles alike. Our characters also grapple with their past and the futility to change it, no matter how much loss it brings. Throughout the adventure, readers encounter how the charac-

ters deal with love, loss and the power of friendship. Readers will also observe how rumors and family fame can affect a child's life. Albus Potter tries to live up to the fame and legend of his father Harry Potter, but can't seem too, while Scorpius Malfoy lives shrouded by a vicious rumor about his parentage, which lead the best friends on a quest to change the life of one character, which in turn changes the whole course of time, and the lives of some of our most loved characters. Characters that readers are sure to have pegged as "good" or "bad" in past novels are shown to be more three dimensional in this story, with their points of view being explored more in depth than in past novels. The story also takes readers back into familiar settings such as The Ministry of Magic, and the locations of events from the Triwizard Tournament found in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*.

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child offers fast-paced, edge-of-your-seat scenes filled with vibrant imagery and heartfelt dialogue, along with emotional insights into the iconic characters that fill the magical world of Harry Potter. For a refreshing look into the beloved character's life, and the adventures that occur after the Battle of Hogwarts, pick up *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* at a local bookstore today.

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child: Parts One and Two is new story written by Jack Thorne, and is based on a new original story by J.K. Rowling, John Tiffany, and Jack Thorne. Published by Arthur A. Levine Books, \$29.99, 327 pages.



Consolidation: A Solid Choice?

By RAWLS GRIMSLEY

rgrims12@student.bainbridge.edu

What does the word “consolidation” actually mean? The word consists of two different definitions. The first literary definition of the word is the combination into a single, more effective whole. The second definition is the formation of something physically stronger or more solid. The word on the street is that there has been some discussion of the possible consolidation of Bainbridge State College

with a larger institution in the area. One question comes to mind: Why does BSC need to consolidate? The BSC interim president, Dr. Stuart Rayfield defines the current state of the University System of Georgia as like being at a “crossroad.” Many of the institutions in the southern part of Georgia are seeing lower numbers in enrollment. Dr. Rayfield states,

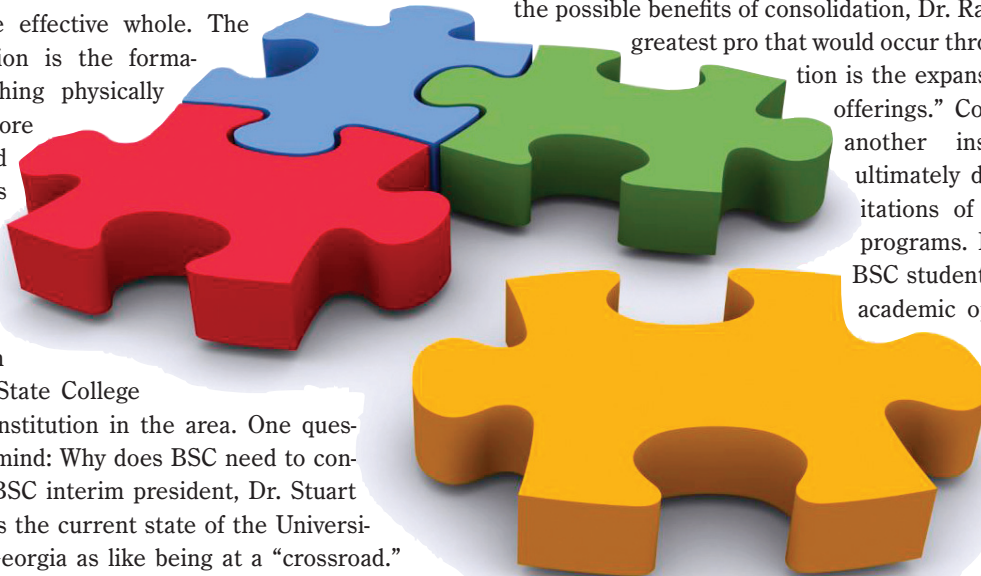
“Much of it has to do with the demographics of this area of the state. We’re seeing much less people in this area graduating.” Dr. Rayfield went on to say that she believes the system is looking for what will provide the best opportunity not only for the financial state of the colleges but for the students as well. They believe the answer is consolidation. When asked about the possible benefits of consolidation, Dr. Rayfield said, “The greatest pro that would occur through a consolidation

is the expansion of academic offerings.” Consolidation with another institution would ultimately diminish the limitations of BSC’s bachelor programs. It would provide BSC students with the same academic opportunities the

merging college has to offer. When asked whether or not he would be in favor of consolidation,

second-year Bainbridge State

College student, Tanner Powell, said, “Yes, I would because I feel like...there would be more four-year degrees that people could get while staying home instead of going through the transfer process. There would be more opportunity and convenience.” Consolidation would be such a great opportunity for students to get the education they need in order to enter the workforce, and it would all take place right here in Bainbridge, Georgia. How awesome is that! Unfortunately, like all great things, there is a bad side to consolidation. What does consolidation mean for the Bainbridge State College name? Bainbridge State College would be no more. BSC would simply become a satellite campus for the other institution. Dr. Stuart Rayfield believes BSC would still be able to retain its long history and cultural background even after a consolidation. After being asked what she thought about losing the Bainbridge State College name would be like, MOWR student, Jamie Worsley responded, “It will be sad to lose the BSC name, but I think...losing the individuality of the college could be prevented by preserving the history of the college.” From an overall point of view, consolidation seems like a great move on the college’s part. It would provide students with so many more opportunities on the academic level. It seems like a conSOLID choice, but will it actually happen?



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Opinions

P4 • Spring 2017 Edition

The Oak and Pine

Move On When Ready: A Life Changer & Academic Enhancer

By **HALIMA MONDS**
hmonds@student.bainbridge.edu

Few 14-year old students have taken advantage of the opportunity to participate in the Move On When Ready (MOWR) Program. For me, participating has been both a life changer and an academic enhancer. As a homeschool student, options to find quality educational activities to supplement my homeschool requirements are important ingredients to a holistic learning experience that is both academically and socially engaging. As you can imagine, when MOWR became available to 9th grade students, I immediately seized the opportunity.

Having had two brothers before me, Akintunde G. Monds (c/o 2015)

and Cazembe S. Monds (c/o 2016), participate in the MOWR (formerly ACCEL) program served to inspire me, but more than their involvement, my passion and motivation for learning are what drew me to the MOWR program. And unlike my brothers, MOWR has afforded me the opportunity to learn, lead and serve. My parents John H. Monds and Kathaleena E. Monds saw MOWR as an avenue to a full, 2-year scholarship – something that I earned because of my academic preparedness.

The intimidation of taking the Compass Exam created some initial challenges; however, the success in passing the Compass was just what was needed to boost my confidence. There were several factors that are believed to have be the “secret

sauce” to my success in MOWR. First, my involvement in the Christian Homeschool Association of Regional Thomasville (CHART) Enrichment Program sparked my love of math and helped to develop my study skills. Next, my willingness and desire to participate in campus activities to quench my academic and social thirst were important. Finally, the need to differentiate myself in preparation for college beyond high school was paramount.

MOWR program has changed my life for the better. It has created opportunities for me to serve my peers as a Tutor, as a two-term SGA Vice-President, as a campus Ambassador, and through a host of other activities. The professors at Bainbridge State College have nurtured me and have helped me



MOVEONWHENREADY: Lefttoright, Akintunde G. Monds, Halima K. Monds, Cazembe S. Monds

to discover my strengths and areas of improvement.

Since fall 2015, when I started classes at Bainbridge State College, my love of learning has expanded. Each day I am on campus I become more and more excited about my classes. As a Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) nerd, I am have enjoyed College Algebra, Pre-calculus, Calculus I and look forward to Calculus II, III and Statistics in the future, but more than the

courses, I look forward to the long-term relationships that have been developed with faculty and friends.

Beyond the achievement of the A.A. degree, my ultimate goal is to serve as a role model to other young students living in rural Georgia that it is possible to achieve the A.A. degree while in high school. The inspiration of the BSC faculty has my sights on working toward the Ph.D. degree with the hopes of one day becoming a college professor also.

The Oak and Pine

A BAINBRIDGE STATE COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

STAFF LIST

Editor.....Susanne Reynolds, BSC Media Coordinator

Advisor.....Dr. David Nelson

Graphic Design & Layout.....Jason Smith, Gray Area Tech Solutions, LLC

Produced by.....Bainbridge State College Office of College Relations

Reporters/Contributors

John Cody Gainous
Rawls Grimsley
Shelby Lane
Victoria Long
Halima Monds
Jennifer Nichols
Kathryn Reese Patterson

Photographers

Shelby Lane
Victoria Long
Kelsey Miller
Halima Monds

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Many More Where That Came From



SUSANNE REYNOLDS,
EDITOR

susanne.reynolds@bainbridge.edu

It is my pleasure to present the first edition of The Oak & Pine, Bainbridge State College's student-authored newspaper. The staff has worked exceptionally hard on researching, interviewing and expressing their views through writing. In order to express our gratitude to those who came before us and laid a solid foundation for us here at Bainbridge State, The Oak & Pine staff would like to dedicate this first edition in memory of our first president and founder, Dr. Edward Mobley, a man who inspired many through his personality, music, leadership and writing. His vision of a higher education institution in this region has led to many dreams being fulfilled. Again, the staff is very grateful for his vision because without it, we may never have met.

The idea for The Oak & Pine came about as a way to present journalism, higher education and the importance of storytelling to students and the community. As the interest and articles began to

flood in, I was astounded by the professionalism and thought-provoking content the students presented. With their writing, they introduced refreshing outlooks on many topics that made me proud to be the editor of this newspaper. Without them, this idea never would have become a tangible piece.

Again, many thanks goes to the students as well as Dr. David Nelson, who helped introduce new ideas to the students and myself. I would also like to thank Jason Smith with Gray Area Tech Solutions. Without his guidance in newspaper layouts and graphics, I would have been hopeless in putting this piece together. You all have been great at making this vision a reality. I'm excited to see what the future will hold for The Oak & Pine.

Thank you for reading. We hope you enjoy and come see us here at Bainbridge State College very soon!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear President Trump,

I know you are very busy right now, and I do not envy the stress you must be under. I can't imagine that you slept at all last night! You are in my thoughts and prayers this morning.

President Trump, you have a hard job in front of you. Right now it looks like more people voted against you than for you. Either way, it is a fact that the country is very divided about the prospects of your presidency. While many celebrate, and many gloat concerning your victory, there are many who are afraid. Many immigrant families fear for their future and the future of their loved ones. Many Muslim families are afraid and concerned that there is not a place in your America for them. Many African Americans are afraid that you will not be a President for them, as you have used phrases and tactics with a legacy of racism in this country. Many women are afraid that your Presidency gives legitimacy to the misogyny that many have felt from your campaign.

Mr. President, I am everything

the news says your voters are. I am white, I am male, I am an evangelical Christian, I am working class, I am not a college graduate, I live in a rural county in Georgia. But I have followed your campaign closely, and I have seen things that scare even me. I did not vote for you. In fact, I tried to do my small part to convince others that you were not the best candidate for the job. I didn't think it was funny when the old tapes were released of you bragging about groping women. But I know a lot of people who did. And I know a lot of school children who think that a President Trump is one who thinks its funny to talk dirty about the girls in their class. I fear for the young girls in this country in the white working class rural schools where you are revered. Mr. Trump, on the night you were elected, I walked upstairs and found my wife in tears, afraid for the future of our country. I hope we are wrong about you.

I am a Christian, President Trump. And while you have said that you love the evangelicals, you love the Bible, and you are a

'pro-life' candidate, I don't believe that you represent my Christian convictions. You have also said, "I love war." I hate war, though, Mr. Trump. My Christian faith commands me to love my neighbor, and even love my enemy. I can never love war like you do. You do not represent my Christian conviction that as followers of the middle-eastern refugee named Jesus Christ, we must welcome the strangers who come to us from war-torn Syria. You want to turn them away, because many of your voters are afraid of them.

President Trump, you have been elected to be the next President of the United States. I will pray for you. If you truly plan to do some of the things you have said you will do, then I am afraid. I am afraid for the people who are not white, Christian males like me. But I am also afraid for the white Christian males like me. I am afraid that they will see you as a hero no matter what you do. I am afraid that they will not tolerate the voice of those who say that Trump's America is not good for them. I am afraid that they will

try and silence the voices who speak out against your policies. I am afraid that they will become so entangled in your allure that

they become more Trumpian than Christian. I hope I'm wrong.

John Cody Gainous



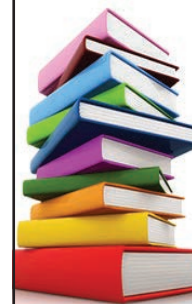
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Lifestyles

So, what's up with student loans?

By JENNIFER NICHOLS
jnichol5@student.bainbridge.edu

Need a Student Loan? At what cost? Depending on the type of student loan you receive, your interest could be radically intense. Though student loans are essential when you “need to pay for college”, they can also generate a ‘hefty payback full of interests’ from major financial lenders and without collateral interests rates vary regardless.

Here's how: Once you graduate with your first – degree “if” you don't have Financial Aid to assist you, you begin immediately making payments toward your Student Loan(s) the moment you graduate; the next part of your education is your bachelors but, if left in further debt from owing from your associ-

ates (at a two year college), and the more student loans are offered to finish paying for college, often times students become stuck paying back more than what they borrowed called ‘compound interest’. Here is an example: Simplified Compound Interest Formula

The formula that is used to calculate all federally guaranteed student loans according to debtfreeadventure.com, Matt Jabs at <http://www.debtfreeadventure.com/how-student-loan-interest-is-calculated-and-why-it-varies-from-month-to-month/>

How Compound Interest Is Used

- Daily interest amount = $(\text{Current Principal Balance} \times \text{Interest Rate}) \div 365.25$

- Monthly interest amount = $(\text{Daily Interest Amount} \times \text{number}$

of days in the month)

Here is an example of daily interest calculated out on a student loan of \$10,000 at a 6% interest rate:

- Daily interest amount: $(10,000 \times .06) / 365.25 = \1.6427

- Monthly interest amount: $\$1.64 \times 30$ (typical month) = \$49.28

The above example shows that a student loan with a balance of \$10,000 and an interest rate of 6% would cost \$49.28 in interest in a typical 30 day month.

But, what happens if you can't get a job in that line of work that you went to school for? What do you do? Is there any debt forgiveness? Or, help in retracing your steps? Well, before you begin taking out student loans just because it says ‘low interest’ does not guarantee that remains low. Every interest that you use is money spent that could have been set aside for a rainy day.

According to the headline printed in “The Wall Street Journal”, which read “The Student - Loan Problem Is Even Worse Than Officials Figures Indicate” by Josh Mitchell , <http://blogs.wsj.com/economics/2015/04/14/the-student-loan-problem-is-even-worse-than-official-figures-indicate/> proves true even for students who graduate from Bainbridge State College which is a two year college part of the University System of Georgia.

Like many students, many with families end up settling into a job but, typically it is less than they imagined. With hardships, life and the economy much gets in the way including, paying back a loan larger than you borrowed and accruing while you can't afford to repay over another extended period of time...



With even a “Promissory Note” banks alike and other small or large time lenders manage to stay afloat using their investments called “you”. Even with “tax deductions”, yearly deductions don't give back the entire balance a student managed to pay and if not claimed adequately, that can also cause more money to be deducted.

In which case, it is best to pay back the note while you are still in college, the day you take out the note to keep from further damaging your credit and accruing compound interest amongst late fees is crucial.

So how do you win? Well, be careful who you do business with; use your time wisely; think before you attend college and check out the financial backing carefully. Know that assistance is always there regardless of a legal document despite the institutions affiliates; “if” you are to use a bank or some form of financial institution speak to them first, and let them know that you need help with college funding honestly. Allow them to assist you in mobile banking to track your account daily

including your interests of the type of account that covers extra interest to head off hidden fees and your payment.

With a steady job, and dependency you can qualify for programs through local institutions that will help you even if you have to borrow some money, be sure to check out the amount of interest they would charge in the very beginning reading carefully and let them break it down for you ‘in their presence’; only borrow what is essential and take notes. Often home banks are a better choice especially, a credit union due to lower interest rates but, remember that you need to always be in the know of your own finances; banks can even recommend a payback guide by using simple consolidation.

With the right guiding support banking in education also, becomes not only a business relationship but a smart achievement when you know the ropes in dealing with money and finance... It's your life. College is an investment, so invest wisely.

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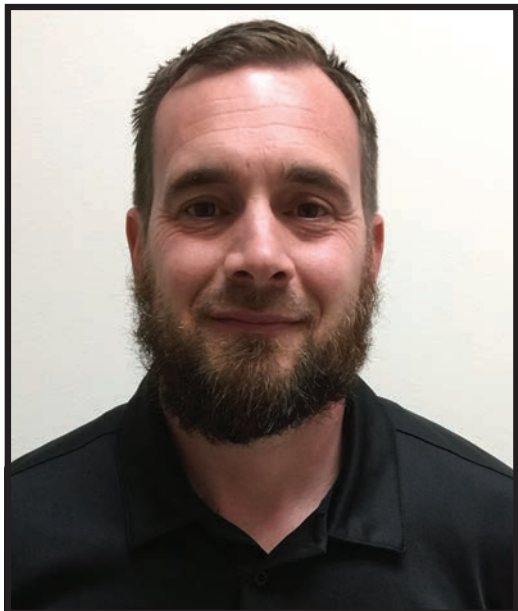
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Where are They Now?

An Alumni Story



By **SHELBY LANE**

My name is Matthew Maestas. My story is a little bit different than others you might have heard before. I am not the typical student who decided what I wanted to be when I was in my junior year of high school and stuck with it my whole life. However, I strongly believe that every path I have taken has helped me become who I am and Bainbridge State College has made me an overall better man from the things that I was taught in my time there.

Straight out of high school in Marietta Georgia in 1995 I went to Kennesaw State University as a freshman. I lasted about 2 semesters before I ran out of HOPE and had a poor GPA. After basically flunking out, my retired father and my mother, a registered

nurse, both wanted to move down to Bainbridge where my mom's family was all from and to also get me into a college close to home. This just so happened to be Bainbridge State College.

In 1998 I went to Bainbridge College and started in the Business Administration Degree. I started working for the college in the Technical Division when Dr. Robert Coker was the Director. During my time there I had a ton of positive influence on me and would always express the importance of continuing my education. I never knew how much his influence meant until years later. While working in the Technical Division at the college I was also working with Mr. Fordham who was one of the Accounting Professors there. I would help by tutoring his Accounting classes. During the 1999 early 2000 school year, Bainbridge College started the Ambassador Program under the President's office.

I was lucky to be chosen to be a member of it and was honored. I had actually gotten to a point where I felt like I belonged somewhere and my grades had drastically improved during my time at Bainbridge College.

In late 2000 my time at Bainbridge College was over as I graduated with my Associates Degree in Business Administration (Accounting) and was accepted once again at Valdosta State University to start the fall of 2000. I moved over to Valdosta and shortly after I began working as an assistant in the Admissions Division while completing classes towards my Accounting Bachelors. Living in another city while going to college then proved to me once again that my grades would slip. However, I graduated in

SEE ALUMNI, PAGE 12

Faculty Spotlight:

Dr. David Byrd, Professor of Math

By **HALIMA MONDS**

hmonds@student.bainbridge.edu

Dr. David Byrd has been an influential math teacher for student at Bainbridge State College for a number of years. He teaches the following courses: College Algebra, Pre-Calculus, Calculus I, II, and II, and Statistics

Dr. Byrd grew up around Dothan, Alabama. He went to Newton High School, which is located North of Dothan. He completed his undergraduate work at Troy University, and then he went to the University of South Carolina to obtain his Masters, and on to Auburn to receive his doctorate. He has a Bachelors degree in mathematics, Bachelors in science and math, Masters in math, and holds a Doctorate in mathematics education. He taught high-school level math for three

years prior to joining academia.

When asked the question "if you were to start his teaching career over again, what would you do differently?" Dr. Byrd replied "I would have obtained my advanced degree sooner so that I could start teaching college courses sooner".

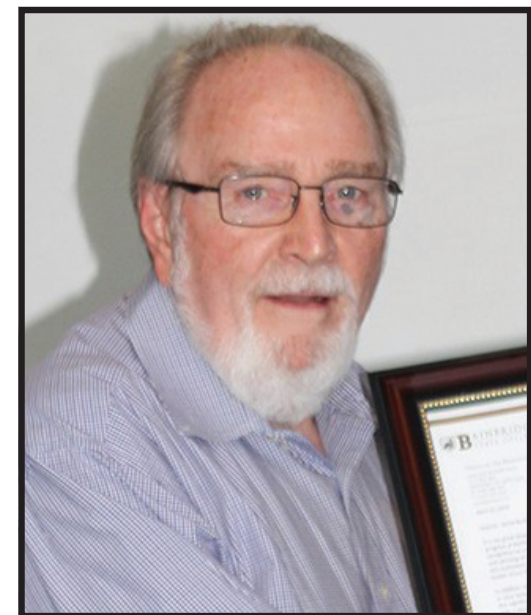
For his dissertation, he did a regression analyses problem, which is a statistic problem. He became a teacher because he enjoyed the concept of explaining math to students, and working with students.

Bainbridge State College was not the only college where Dr. Byrd taught, he also taught at a 2-year college in Alabama for 30+ years and at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Upon retiring from the Alabama University System, he was not fully ready to leave the

classroom entirely because of his love of math; thus, he found Bainbridge State College. For Dr. Byrd, the easiest and nicest thing about being a professor is the fact that math comes easy to him and working with students is a very rewarding job, respectively.

The hardest thing about being a professor for Dr. Byrd is when he is unsuccessful in helping a student understand a certain concept, no matter how hard he tries and works with the student. Although Dr. Byrd loves all the different mathematical formulas and theorems, the Pythagorean theorem is his favorite. Another interesting fact about Dr. Byrd is that his favorite area



SEE INVERTIEW, PAGE 12

Studying Abroad at Bainbridge State: How to Prepare, and What to Expect

By **KATHERYN PATTERSON**

kpatters@student.bainbridge.edu

Leanna Stephens is currently the President of the Student Government Association here at Bainbridge State College, and has visited Canada, as well as France and Italy, through our Study Abroad Program. I recently interviewed Leanna, and asked her a few questions pertaining to safety precautions, her favorite part of the experience, and what advice she would give to fellow travelers.

We met bright and early on a Tuesday morning at about 8a.m., and Leanna was more than happy to share a bit of her experience with students! We discussed the safety measures taken during the course of her trip, and she said “we traveled as a group mostly, and couldn’t go off on our own.” “When we were in certain places, you knew to put your bag in front of you, but not for long; just a few beggars and pick-pocketers,” said Leanna. “They were just like anyone

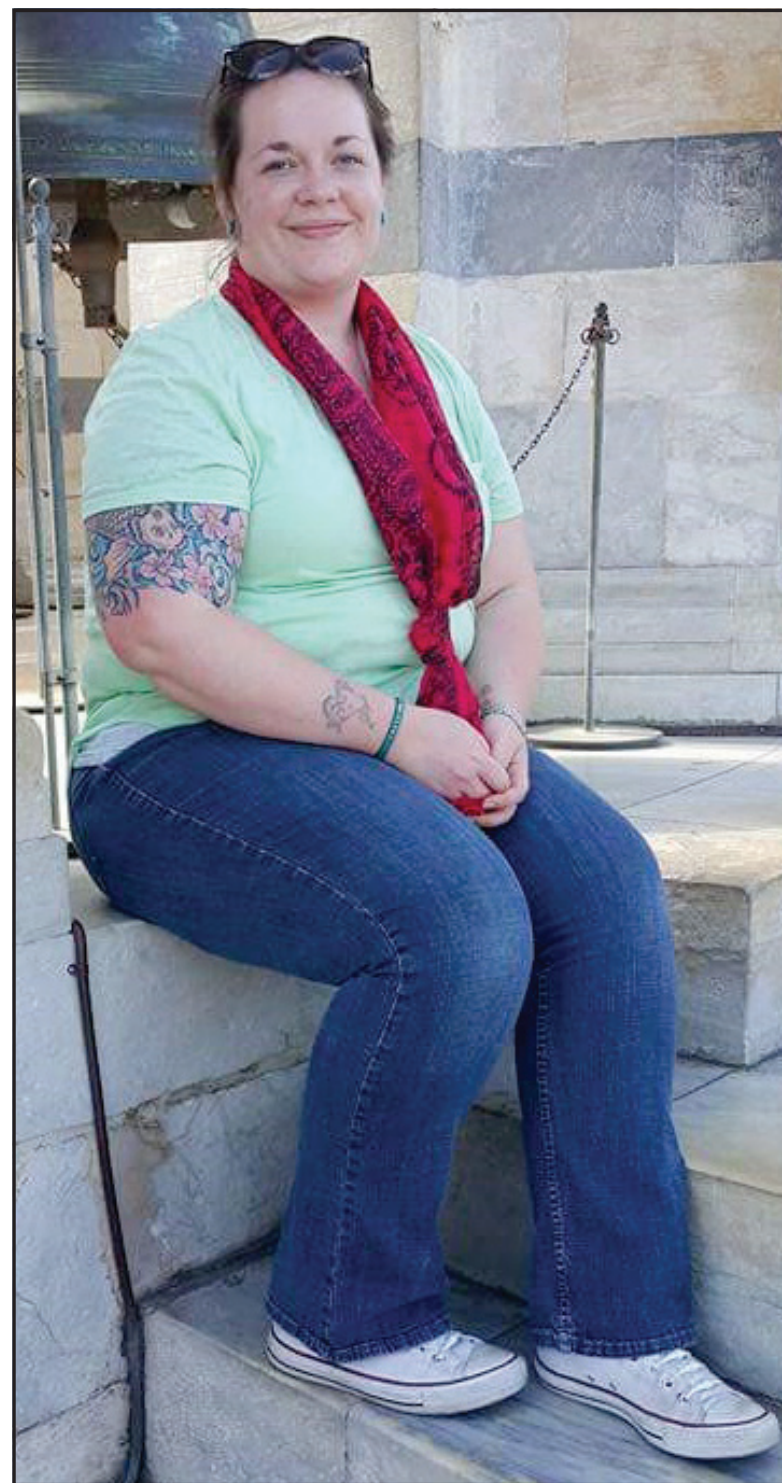
you’d see here in the U.S,” she said. “We were far from danger of any kind, and our professors kept track of where everyone was,” she said.

Traveling to another country is an amazing opportunity, and as most people do, Leanna was able to select her favorite aspect of the trip, saying “being in another country, and seeing other people do the things that we do, just in a different way, is fascinating!” Leanna described the view of the churches in Italy as “beautiful and very, very moving.” “They made me cry,” she said, placing her hands firmly on the table and revealing the age of the historical sites. This led her to suggest “journaling at the end of every day.” Leanna said that she did so much that she couldn’t remember everything, and wished she had continued logging her daily activities.

Speaking of daily activities, Leanna advised students to “be prepared to WALK, because you will be doing a lot of it!” Besides journaling while you’re in,

and trekking across, a different country, Leanna only had a few more pieces of advice to pass on, saying “don’t overwhelm yourself trying to bring a laptop and all of that, because you probably won’t need it.” She also said to “save room in your bag, because you can just buy a few toiletries when you get there.” Basically, “just keep it simple and easy!”

Leanna and I concluded our interview with what she found beneficial about visiting different cultures, to which she answered “it changed the way I saw everything when I got back! I noticed the amount of litter here in our country in comparison to Italy, France, and especially Canada, and the use of freshly picked foods and herbs at restaurants where we went.” She said “I notice some strange little habits now that I didn’t notice before, and I love that I am able to see those differences and similarities between different cultures.”



STUDY ABROAD: Leanna Stephens takes a rest at the Tower of Pisa.

ENROLL NOW!

229.243.6920

Surviving College: Tips from a BSC Student

By SHELBY LANE

slane8@student.bainbridge.edu

College life is a mixed-emotion situation filled with excitement, hard work, fun and more hard work. Some people may look at college and think it's just high school again and they don't want to bother with it. However, college, whether you plan to attend a small or large school, can be extremely fun, rewarding and character building. College life is simply figuring out what you are doing, planning and getting into the groove of things. Once you do that, you're good to go. So, for all you who are planning to start college soon, here's just a few tips from someone who has been where you are and knows the struggle.

Tip 1: Planning

I, a student who is not very organized or planned herself, must tell you to go ahead and start working on planning. Go ahead and get yourself a calendar and a planner (or maybe 3) and write out EVERYTHING you have to do that week. Once you start taking multiple classes, it's hard to keep up with due dates, homework and studying while also trying to keep up with personal things like haircuts and doctors' appointments. Yes, I know this probably seems cliché, girly and immature but boys, you could benefit from this too. (yes they do make "masculine" planners, don't worry) One mix up in your schedule can result in horrific things such as missing assignments which leads to obtaining a zero on your seven page paper which leads to having to do makeup work and extra credit on week nights and dealing with your mother when she finds out

you're failing. That is if you still live at home, if not, it results in a bad grade which results in a more stressed out college student eating ice-cream while pouting and missing more assignments. So, moral to the story, give you're busy, hard-working mind a break and take 10 minutes out of your Sunday night to write out your schedule for that week. I promise you will not regret it.

Tip 2: Be Prepared

Being prepared is KEY to succeeding in college classrooms. Teachers love when you go above and beyond on being ready for assignments or group activities in class. No matter how mean or uncooperative you think your teacher is, I can promise you that they know a good student when they see one and your hard work and efforts will pay off. However, being prepared for classroom work is not the only thing you should be prepared for. You should be prepared for the whole day when you go to your first class. Pack easy snacks in your backpack because we all know you can't focus in class when your stomach is growling louder than your teacher talks. Bring coffee and lots of water to drink throughout the day to keep yourself hydrated. Also, this is college people. The high school days of dressing all fashionable and nice to classes are over, it's time for real business. Studies show that the more comfortable you are, the higher the exam scores and I know this is true from personal experience. This tip given to me by the wise Dr. Vanzo, helped be to bring my overall grade up from an F to a B plus. Yes, miracles do still happen.

Tip 3: Get Involved

Getting involved in your school is one of the fun parts about college and may also help you in your academic side of school as well. Being involved in your school will help you meet new people and get you more comfortable in the schools atmosphere. This also helps you meet people that could be potential study partners in the calculus class you're struggling with. Getting involved with school projects and clubs also looks great on other college applications, if you are transferring, and even on future resumes. Leadership roles and clubs shown on resumes shows a boss that people can trust you to be in charge and could get you that job you really, really need in order to stay in college and pay your tuition fees.

Tip 4: Stay Encouraged; Stay Confident

Finally, last but not least, tip number 4 is encourage yourself and be confident. Encouragement can take you a long way when struggling in the college world. Bad grades on exams or missing assignments can get you pretty down in the dumps, especially when your education means so much to you. You can stay confident and encouraged not by other people but by yourself. Write yourself encouraging notes in your binders and think about the good and happy things in your life rather than the bad things. Remember that you are better off than someone else in the world and you are doing the best you can. Some people have different ways of keeping their own head up. Maybe it's listening to music, reading encouraging things or even encouraging

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Sports & Activities

P10 • Spring 2017 Edition

The Oak and Pine



Ryn Crider performs at the 2016 Georgia-Country Music Awards in Macon.

From CNA to the Stage: GA Female Country Artist 2016 recalls time at BSC

STAFF REPORT

From CNA to singer-songwriter, Ryn Crider has great memories of being in the classroom at Bainbridge State College.

In December 2008, Blakely-native Ryn Crider received a Certified Nursing Assistant certificate. She remembers one of her instructors fondly.

“Ms. Beverly Stapleton was absolutely amazing,” she said. “She was very thorough and encouraging, but also very serious about the class.”

Crider achieved the highest average for a semester in her class.

She recalled, “My favorite class in the

program was Psychology for Nursing.”

After completing the board exams, Crider worked with an elderly psych day program and then went on to work at Early Memorial Nursing Home.

Since then, the former CNA has made huge tracks on the way to achieving her dream of becoming a singer-songwriter.

In 2016, Ryn Crider claimed the title of GA Female Country Artist at the GA Music Awards in Macon.

Since 2011, the GA Music Awards has recognized Georgia artists in Rock, Hip Hop,

SEE CRIDER, PAGE 12

Local Lyrics

By **RAWLS GRIMSLEY**

rgrims12@student.bainbridge.edu

What do you get when you multiply one Will by another Will? The answer is simple: Will squared. Blakely and Bainbridge natives, Will Wiley and Wil Giannars met about two years ago through a mutual friend. Giannars is a self-taught guitar player and Wiley has basically been singing since he was born, but the two had never actually performed on stage. After getting together and jamming a few times, a friend asked the two to play together at a local community event. After the friend received a high amount of praise for their performance, the two began to play together at local gigs more consistently as “Will & Wil.” After play at several events, the duo decided they needed a more catch name and thus, Wil(l) Squared was born. Since the establishment of their catchy name, the duo has continued to gain publicity in the surrounding area and now play a monthly rotation at local gigs, such as Tamara’s Tapas in Apalachicola, Mellow Mushroom in Albany, Harry A’s on St. George Island, Mango

Marley’s in Mexico Beach, and the 4th Out in Blakely. The duo mainly does covers of songs that consist of anything from rock to pop, but the two members are songwriters as well, which has allowed Giannars to perform a few originals at some of their shows. The duo has also released its first CD of cover songs and plans to record and release another cover CD within the next year. They’ve even had the opportunity to play live on a radio station in East Point, Florida, a few times and record a commercial for the local Verizon Wireless store in Bainbridge. When asked about the future of the duo, Will Wiley said, “I think I can speak for (both of us) when I say that we would honestly be content with being able to do the band fulltime!” Wiley went on to say that he simply has a passion to start doing what he loves, which is making music, for a living. He hopes the duo continues to grow in popularity and possibly reach the professional level. Wil(l) Squared is looking to accept more gigs, such as weddings, parties, eateries, community events, etc., in the near future. They can be found on Facebook @willandwil and on Instagram @willsquaredband, so go check them out!



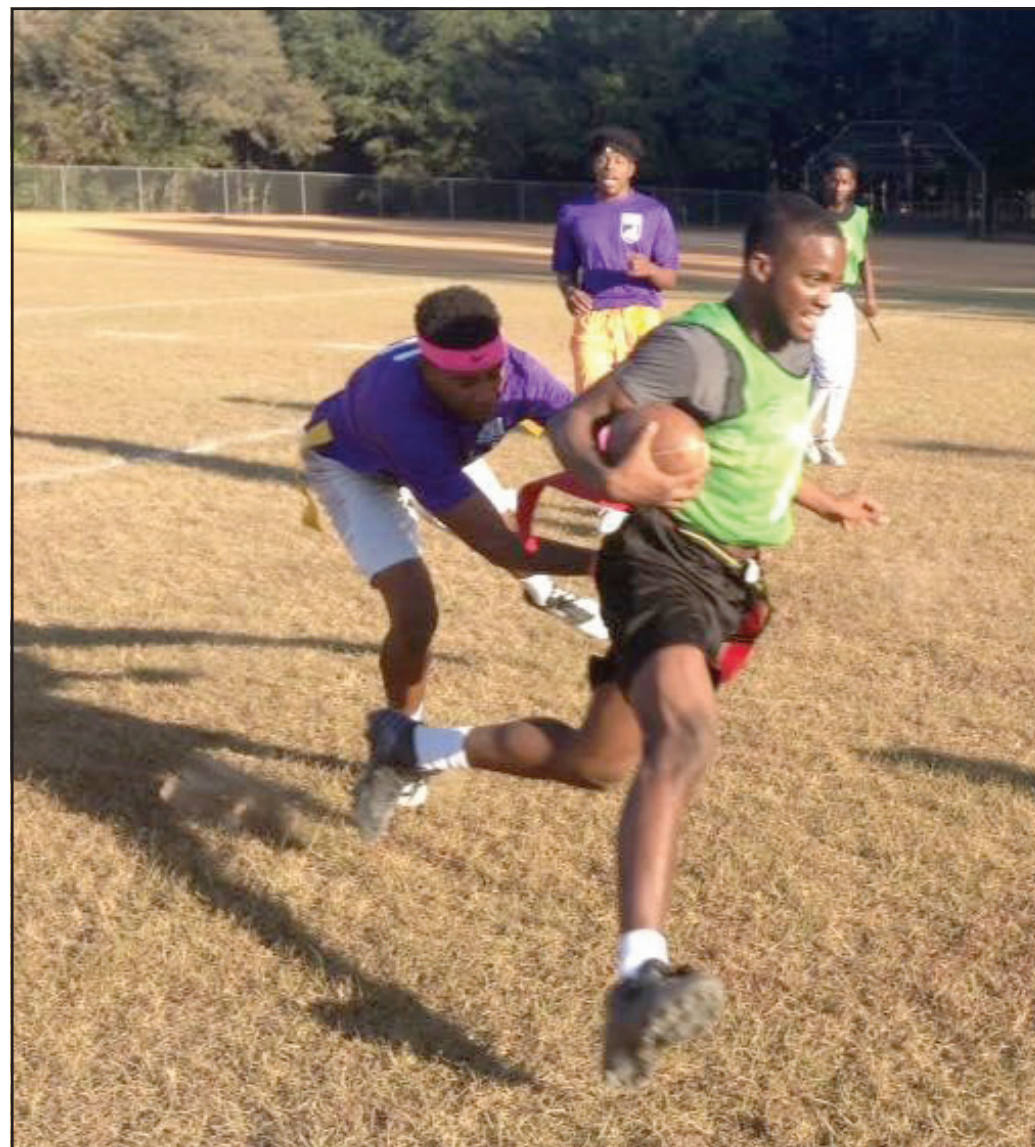
Will Wiley (left) and Wil Giannars entertain audiences every chance they get.

Fun with sports at BSC

Photos by **KELSEY MILLER**
kmille8@student.bainbridge.edu

to all current students to either sign up for a tournament and play or check out the ping pong paddles at the desk and play anytime.

Look at how much fun there is at BSC! There was a ping pong tournament on Tuesday Nov. 15 in the Student Wellness Center game room with first prize and runner-up winners. Open



Top Left: Students battle it out during the ping pong tournament.,
 BottomLeft:Runner-up,DaytonAmersonandfirst-placewinner,ChristianNovak,display prizes.

Above:Studentsplayflagfootball,a popularintramuralsportatBSC,onNov.16.

ALUMNI

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2002 with my Bachelors in Business Admin (Accounting/ Finance) but did so with a GPA that was not my best. After working in accounting and being a student full time, I realized that accounting may not be what I wanted to stay in forever. In late 2002 after graduating, I decided to leave the accounting world and became a City Police Officer with the Valdosta Police Department. I stayed there until mid-2006 as a patrol officer and gradually moved my way up the ladder finishing my police career being a Sergeant of Investigations after 10 years of service. While employed there I was also the Teacher for the Campus Crime Prevention which allowed me to work with students and teach them about the subject matter and a more personal side of law enforcement. This struck a new spark in me as I decided to change careers, again.

Towards the end of 2006, I decided I wanted to get my Masters. I applied and was promptly rejected due to a non-qualifying GPA from Valdosta so many years before. Shortly after receiving the rejection notice, I decided to go to the Department Chairs office and inquire about what could be done to help me. As God took it into His hands and I spent a lot of time praying, I was given the

CRIDER

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Country, R&B and more—and this year local talent took home the award for Female Country Artist.

Coming from a family filled with musicians and radio personalities, Crider was exposed to music at an early age and began performing at the age of five. Since that time, she always dreamed of growing up to be a singer.

Her influences included artists such as Prince, Etta James, Fleetwood Mac; Sly and the Family Stone, Earth, Wind and Fire, and Otis Redding laid the foundation for her love of the funk and soul music. Bands such as Led Zeppelin, The Black Crowes

chance to get into the Master's program.

I graduated in 2009 with my Masters in Public Administration with a 4.0 GPA and went into the Doctorate of Public Administration for about 2 semesters until transferring to the Education Leadership Doctorate. I decide to leave law enforcement for good and I was hired at Georgia Military College fulltime as the Director of Admissions/Assistant Dean of Students.

My goal is to use all my past stories and experiences to work my way to being a Vice President of Student Affairs and with some prayers and faith, maybe a President of a smaller college somewhere if it is meant to be. At 40 years of age now, I do not really know where the road will take me but I do know that I gave up a long time ago trying to drive my life and have left that to my faith in God. He has done a much better job than I ever did. I am looking to do a proposal defense this November and will be completely done and graduated with my Doctorate in Education Leadership in May of 2017.

and Stevie Ray Vaughan were the seeds that planted her rock and roll roots. Since she was born and raised in a small rural town in Southwest Georgia, classic country music was also, a part of her everyday life.

Since Crider's musical career began, she has shared the stage with Rhett Atkins, LoCash Cowboys, Bobby Pinson, Daryl Singletary, The Atlanta Rhythm Section and many more.

This past year her career has reached new levels with performances most weekends and new original music waiting to be released.

INTERVIEW

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of math is Trigonometry.

Dr. Byrd believes the best strategy to learning is the ability to study hard and be determined. The best strategy for teaching is to teach for understanding and once a student understands a certain concept they can then learn to build upon their understanding.

He also uses the idea that "nothing succeeds like success" when it comes to his teaching. He strategically makes his first test "easy" in order for a student to succeed. By succeeding, the students want to

learn more. The best thing about being a mathematician is associating with like-minded people.

The math professor gave the following advice for all the people who might want to major in an area that entails math: "Take all the math you can. If a curriculum says you only have to take four classes, say "Hey can I take some more?" because you never know when you might need that extra math course. So always get as much math as you can, because it will take you a long way".



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