

# Expressions

Spring 2021



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# Expressions

Minority Voice Magazine

Spring 2022

Cover Artwork by Brittany Yarbrough

# Letter From The EDITOR

There comes a time in everyone's life when the question of one's identity begins to creep into our mind. Am I who my family says I am? Am I who the world says I am? Does my physical appearance or my passions or my beliefs truly speak of who I am inside?

As college students, our journey to our identity has just begun and will continue through death. The journey to finding our identity can take an endless number of routes. The most important part is not the route you take but rather how you handle the journey there and what you discover throughout it.

The year of 2020 was a big time of self-discovery for me. It's something that I think will be with me for the rest of my life. What I've come to learn is that understanding who I am is a gritty, painful, joyful process. But at the end of the day, who I am is

something that cannot be summarized. For me, who I am is a combination of a million different things. Its what I love, its what I've been through, its my passions and beliefs. Who I am is everything that encompasses me. Identity is not something to be created but rather something that is already apart of us.

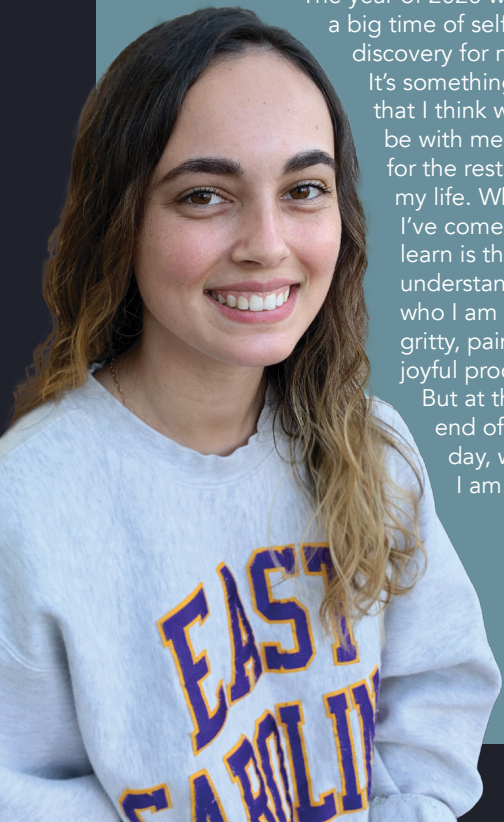
This publication is a visual representation of the pain, sorrow, acceptance, joy, loss and so much more that comes with discovering who you truly are. Your identity cannot and will never be determined by anyone else but yourself.

As you look through this publication, I encourage you to do two things. One, take in and appreciate the vulnerability of your fellow classmates and peers as they share their route to identity, wherever they may be on it. And two, open your mind to the depths of your soul. One's identity is not measured by a single big thing but by a million little things. I encourage you to learn from the one's around you and dig deep into who you are. You are the only one who will ever truly know the depths of who you are.

Often this journey can feel monotonous and helpless, like who you are is slipping from your grip. But I hope this publication shows that you are not alone in this journey. And that the reward is extraordinary.

Allison Todd

Allison Todd



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08 Untitled  
Yarbrough

10 Right To Breathe  
Rose

12 Untitled  
Algutaini

13 Our Beautiful Details  
Algutaini

14 Target  
Yarbrough

# TABLE OF CONTENTS





16 Untitled  
Dehart



26 Zen Moment  
Scalamoni



34 Freak Show  
Magistro

20 The Other?  
Mathews

28 The Found Orphan  
Anonymous

35 Empowerment  
Yarbrough

22 Collision  
Mathews

30 AgentsNWhite  
Moore

36 Over The Bridge  
Johnson

24 She/Her  
Morales

32 Voskren'ya  
Orlando

38 Not Silent Not Seen  
Waldon

25 Orbit Emotions  
Duncan

33 The Longest Conquest  
Orlando

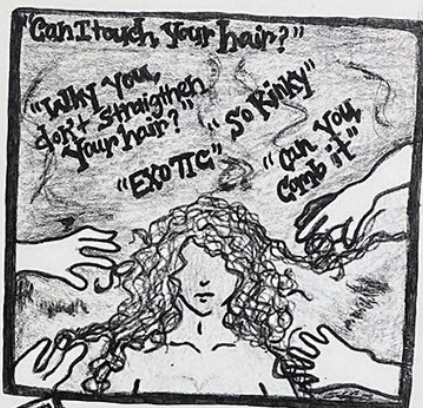
40 True Colors

Bring Me A Dream  
Orlando



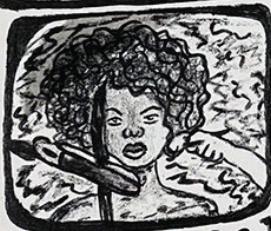
BRITTANY YARBROUGH  
Lithography





"HAPPY"

ARE YOU EVEN BLACK?



4/10

"untitled"

Battling young



# Right To Breathe

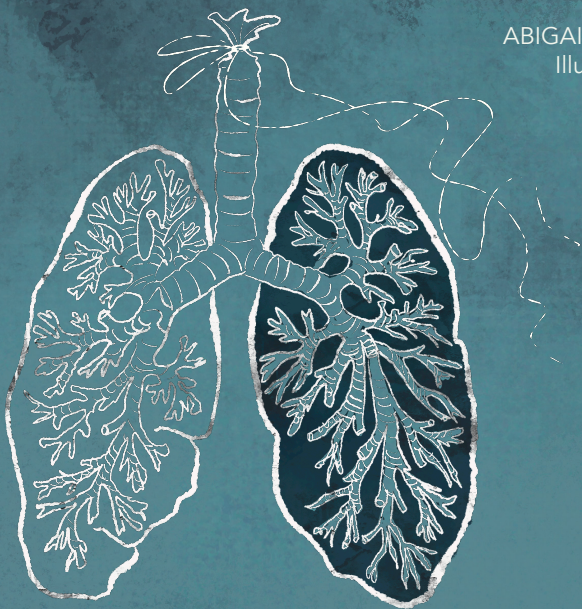
TORY ROSE  
Poetry

What a world we live in  
Born unto a bloody towel in a white room surrounded by people cheering us on while we  
cry and scream  
Gently patted on the back until we can breathe  
Slowly we're taught to muffle those same cries that were once applauded  
Indoctrinated to know wrong from right, black from white  
Walking on stolen land to school to learn about 1492  
And say a pledge to a cloth of red, white, and blue  
But what does that all mean to you?  
When the Trail of Tears has been erased from the history books  
When it's not about individual thoughts but how someone looks  
And what about when that same baby applauded for crying, screaming, and breathing,  
cries out that they can't breathe?  
But we're applauding the perpetrators because possibly they weren't a perfect human  
being  
Perhaps they had a dark side  
Or simply, came from the darker side.  
When we come into this world covered in blood, gasping for air, and leave the same way  
Where's the Deus Ex Machina of our burning world when crimes against humanity are  
being committed in the name of the good god above?  
Take a breath and breathe in the air from  
Californian and Australian wildfires  
Go out to a restaurant and chat about cancelled football games while someone without a  
mask coughs in the background.  
When did breathing become so controversial?  
The very thing that sustains us has become a political warzone



We protect our own but no one else  
When did the right to life become up for debate?  
Well, it all started when a group of slaveowners and enablers wrote a document that  
would determine the fate of their newly acquired land across a continent that was not  
theirs for the taking  
And thus: A Nation Was Born.  
But the right to breathe was only guaranteed if you fell within the hidden asterisk  
after "land of the free"  
For whom is this land free for if the right to breathe is not guaranteed?  
If the right to kick and scream changes not only with your age but with your skin color,  
too?  
This is our child that we have raised  
And it's continued destruction by perpetuating this toxic social construction is our  
cross to bear and burn.  
We are but a young nation in this world  
And thus we have so much growing up to do  
In rearing this child not learning from but re-enacting the past  
If we continue to stay stuck in our old ways, we will always be taking and breaking our  
toys  
And when we're playing with human lives  
It becomes more than just the most dangerous game.  
We built this world  
Simply fit together a base of blocks in slots, but never thought to think outside the  
box  
It's time we tear this dollhouse down  
And build a playground fit for everyone.  
As with any construction  
If you can build it up, you can tear it down.  
And so it's time we grow up and found a new home built with enough freedom,  
space, and grace, for every human and race to breathe  
And turn up your face to the smiling sun that asks not what your privilege can do for  
you, but blindly asks what your light and warmth can do for the world.

ABIGAIL LUND  
Illustration





# Untitled

SAFANA ALGUTAINI  
Photography







# Our Beautiful Details

SAFANA ALGUTAINI  
Poetry

Happiness comes in the form of beautiful moments.

Friends with innocent souls.

In the form of days we enjoy with God's conviction.

Happiness is not luck.

So what?

Happiness within us...

We choose to see things the way we want, the  
bright side is always there; But a few of us talk to it

The others will see him/her from afar.

Nothing comes to you, everything wants you to take  
the first steps to get it...

Beauty within us and light radiates from our eyes  
and beautiful life will grow with us through our way  
of dealing with life!

Happiness is a moment we make with our beautiful  
lives, with our details that mean so much to us.

Beauty and happiness come from something  
beautiful inside us, even if we're in a cabin; It's not  
places or decorations that make us happy.

Our way of doing it...

Look who's doing it!

The beautiful things inside us who do this...

Neither luck nor places have anything to do with it;  
It's just excuses for whoever wanted to make his life  
miserable.

And finally... The glory of those who enjoy their  
simple details and beautiful souls...

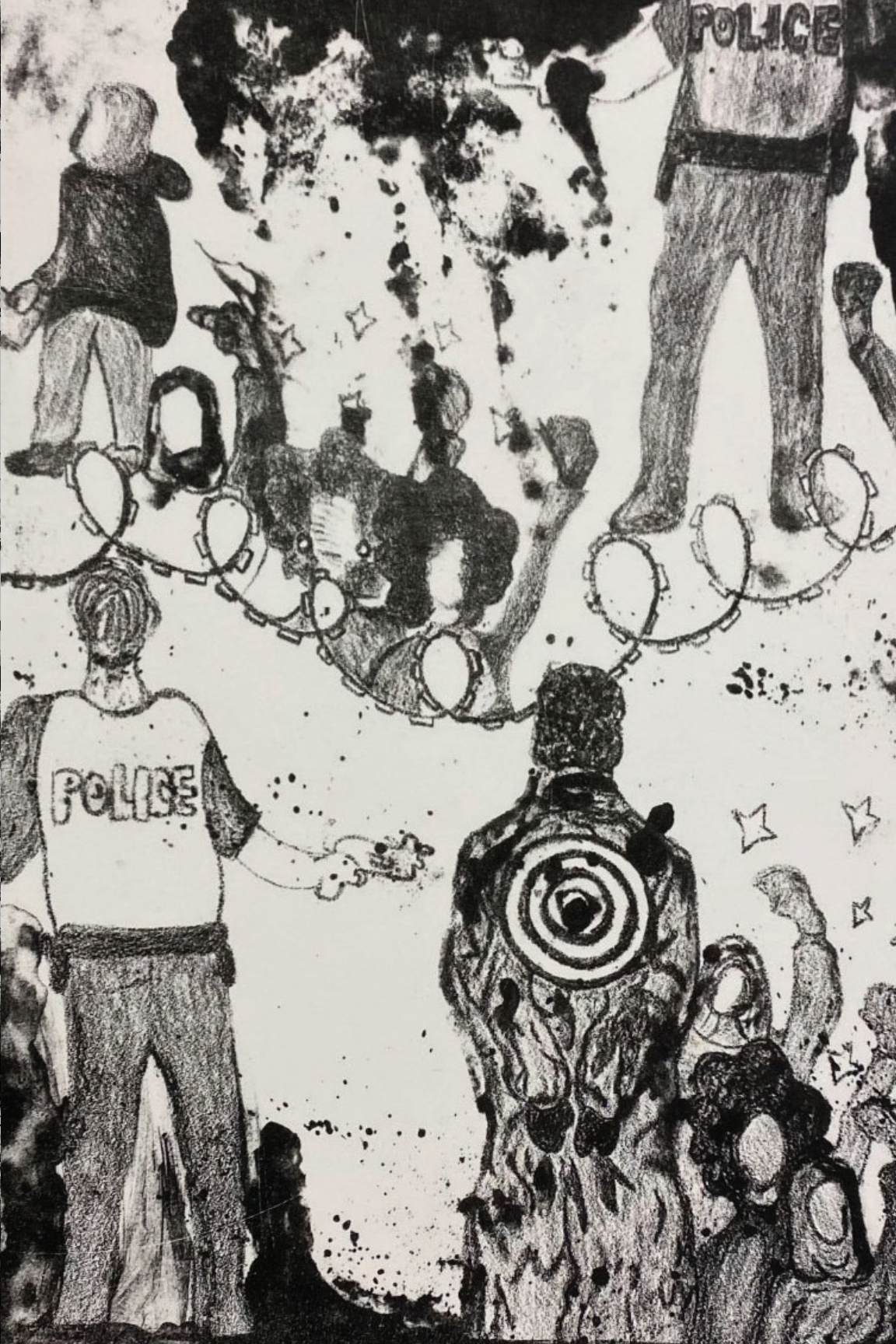
# TARGET

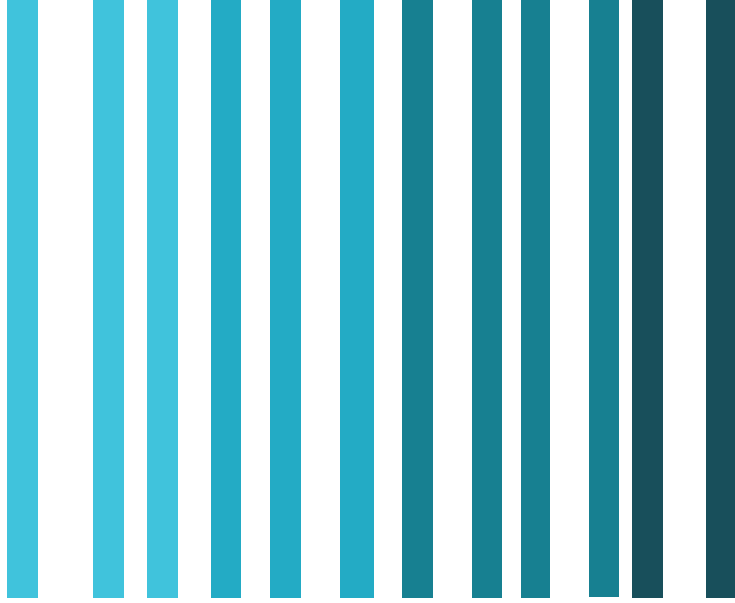
BRITTANY YARBROUGH  
Lithography

In this piece I wanted to express the issue about police brutality, and show how the black man is always the target, about little black boys who have to grow up in a world that views them as targets. I used the splatter effect on this piece to emphasize the brutality. The women are protesters, moms, sisters who are fighting for their men and boys, being their voice. The piece is important to me because of its relevance with the BLM movement.









# Untitled

CHLOE DEHART  
Photography





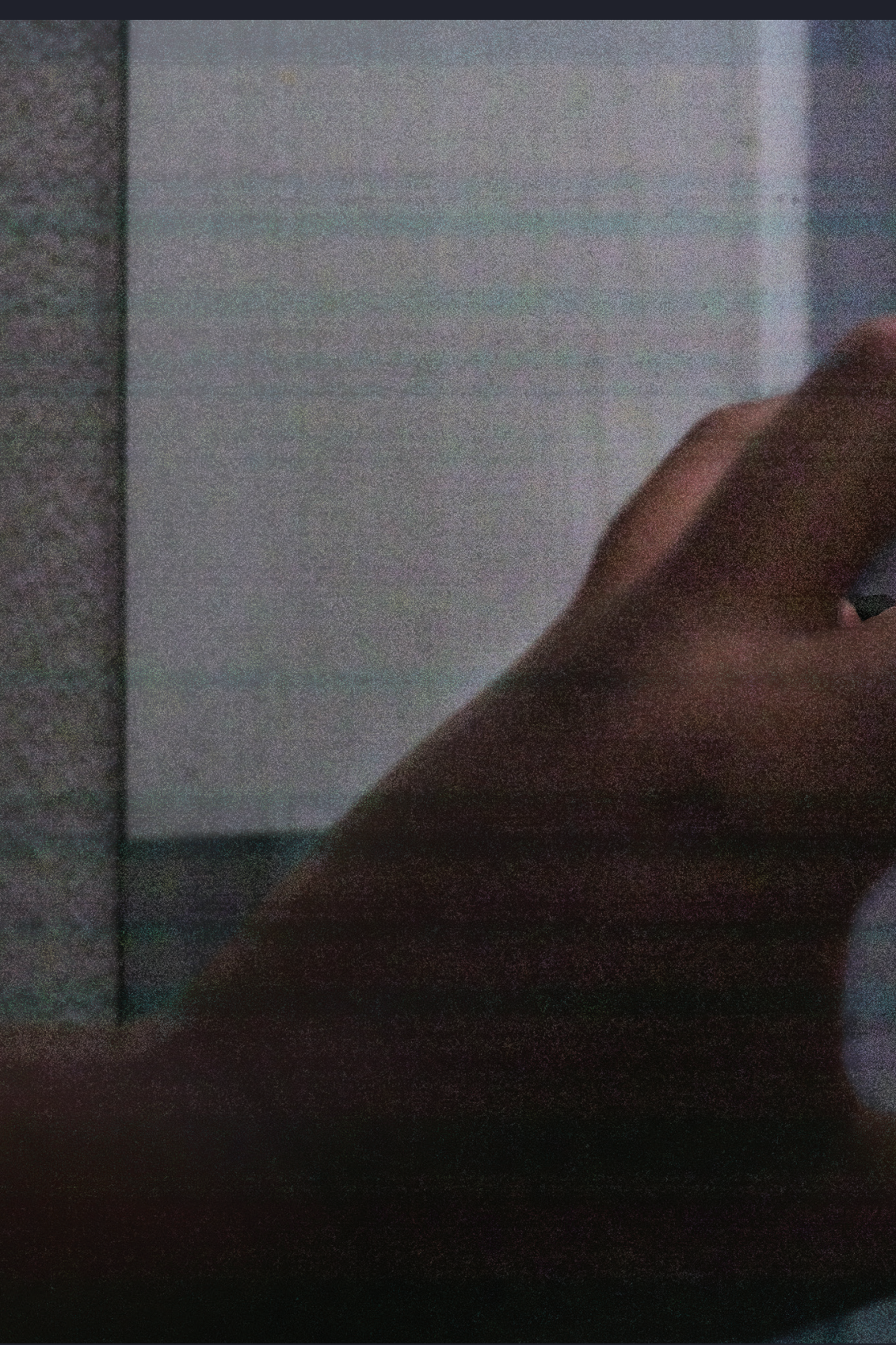
# UNTITLED



CHLOE DEHART  
Photography











# The Other?

ISHARA MATHEWS  
Digital Photography









# Collision

ISHARA MATHEWS

Digital Photography



doesn't fit me  
never did  
probably never will  
maybe when i was a child  
wearing pigtails  
and itchy blouses  
dresses with my pink converse  
having grass stains on my pants as i played outside  
she/her suited me then, but not now

she/her reminds me of the women in my life  
my mother,  
my aunts,  
my grandmothers,  
my cousins,

who fit the  
cis-tem of a binary society

it's not about them as a whole,  
it's about me  
and my journey uncovering the vastness of my gender identity

she/her outgrew me  
and i left her to become something  
more than what i was assigned to  
at birth

something outside my very own existence

she/her

felt like wearing big shoes  
much too big for my feet

more like wearing non-slip socks  
but they keep slipping into my shoes  
until i am forced to  
fix it myself

myself?  
an identity crisis is not for the weak  
honestly, it took me  
years and years  
to finally feel at home in this body  
make it my own  
add my unique touch  
spin my own record

find a home within these hollow bones  
to finally feel like

# she/her

MICHELLE GIRON MORALES  
Poetry

me  
whole and complete  
.-m.g.m






# ORBIT EMOTIONS

ERICA DUNCAN  
Acrylic Painting







ZEN MOMENT  
ZEN MOMENT  
ZEN MOMENT  
ZEN MOMENT

LORRAINE SCALAMONI  
Collage



# The Found Orphan

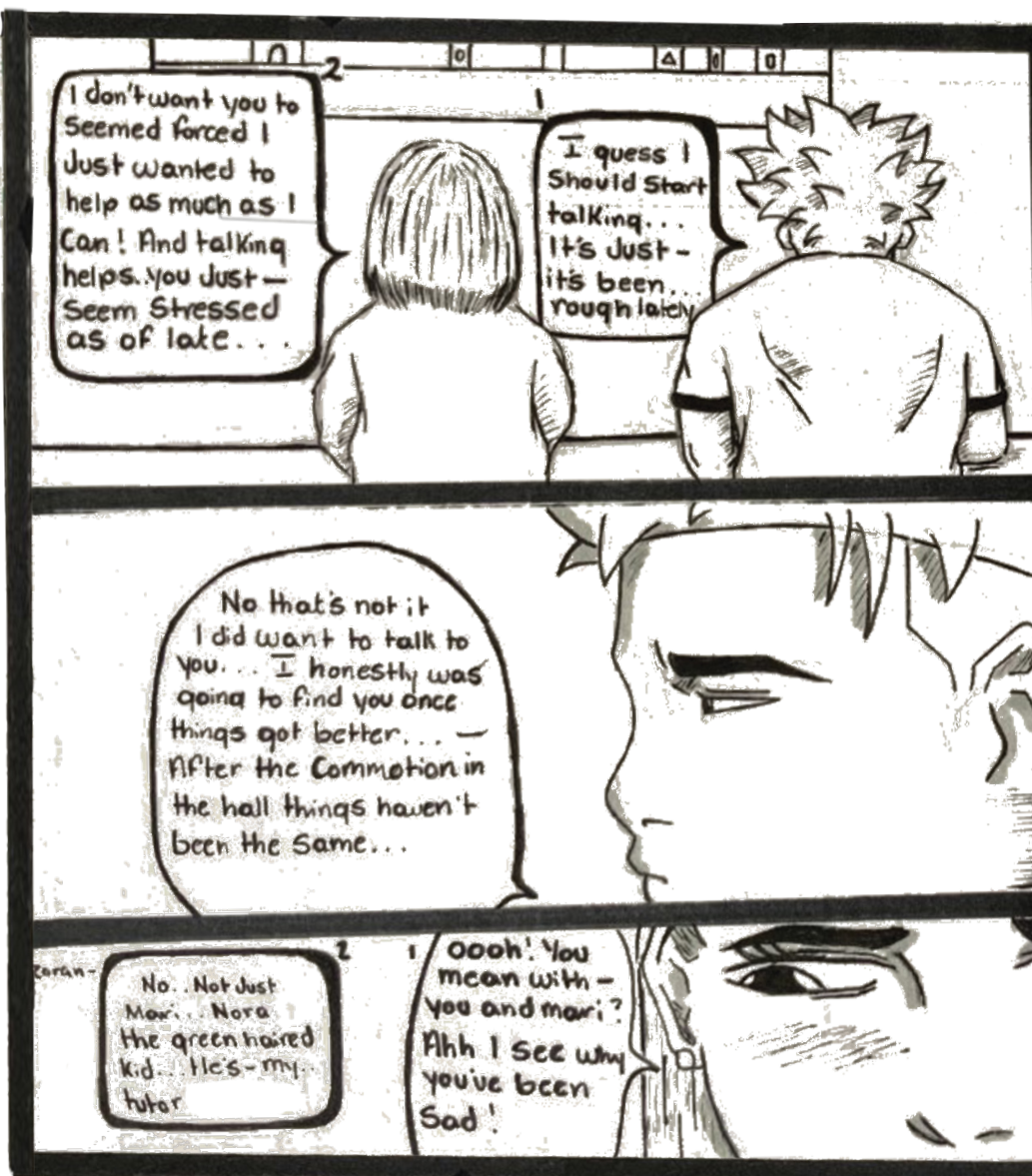
ANONYMOUS  
Sonnet

For years I searched for a place to be  
For time has shown that I have no home.  
The idea of safety feels so strange to me  
Through the years I've grown to being alone.  
For days and weeks my skin left untouched  
My heart and mind blank of kind words and love.  
But trying to find it left me crushed.  
Yet time has changed the narrative written above  
Through higher powers bringing an orphan home.  
Through the love of the heart creating a bond  
Builds a family with laughs sweeter than honeycomb  
Where love flows into an abundant pond  
But weary is me, an orphan who searched  
Who found a home, a safe place to perch.



ABIGAIL LUND  
Digital Illustrations





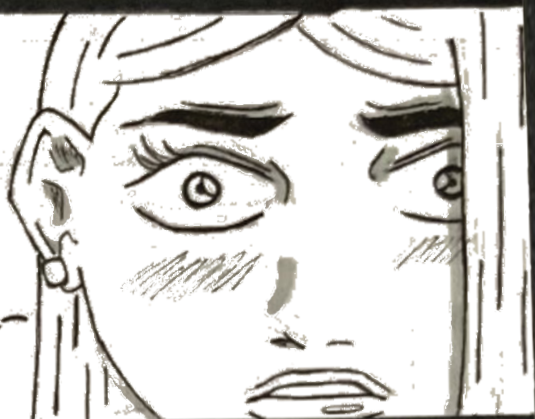
# AgentsM



Zoran

He recently moved in with me and my grandma and it's great but it seemed like he was taking my place... My friends, people seemed to be more fond of him and he just got here... So what you saw is me... pretty much Snap... Along with that I lost Mari... and Nora even my friend Onimae to some guy constantly hitting on her

oh-



Do I like... Mari? No I don't think it's that I love her... But like a friend or family... honestly I'm not too sure why I got so jealous. Maybe it's just everything going on as of now...



That's true... Did you here about one of our Janitors? He was brutally murder it was on the news -



# White

CAM MOORE  
Drawing

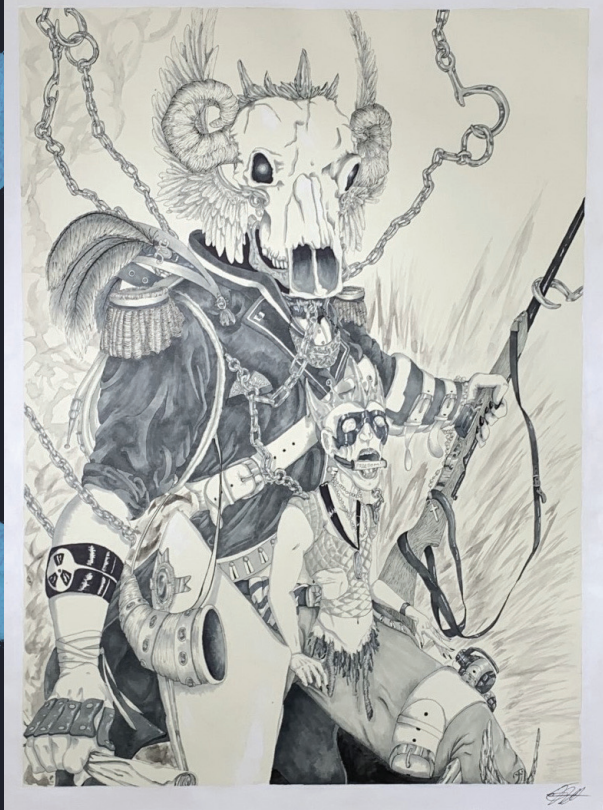


## Voskresen'ya

MICHAEL ORLANDO

Linoleum Relief





## The Longest Conquest

MICHAEL ORLANDO  
Linoleum Relief

## Bring Me a Dream

MICHAEL ORLANDO  
Linoleum Relief







# Freak Show

OLIVIA MAGISTRO

Lithography





# Empowerment

BRITTANY YARBROUGH

Lithography

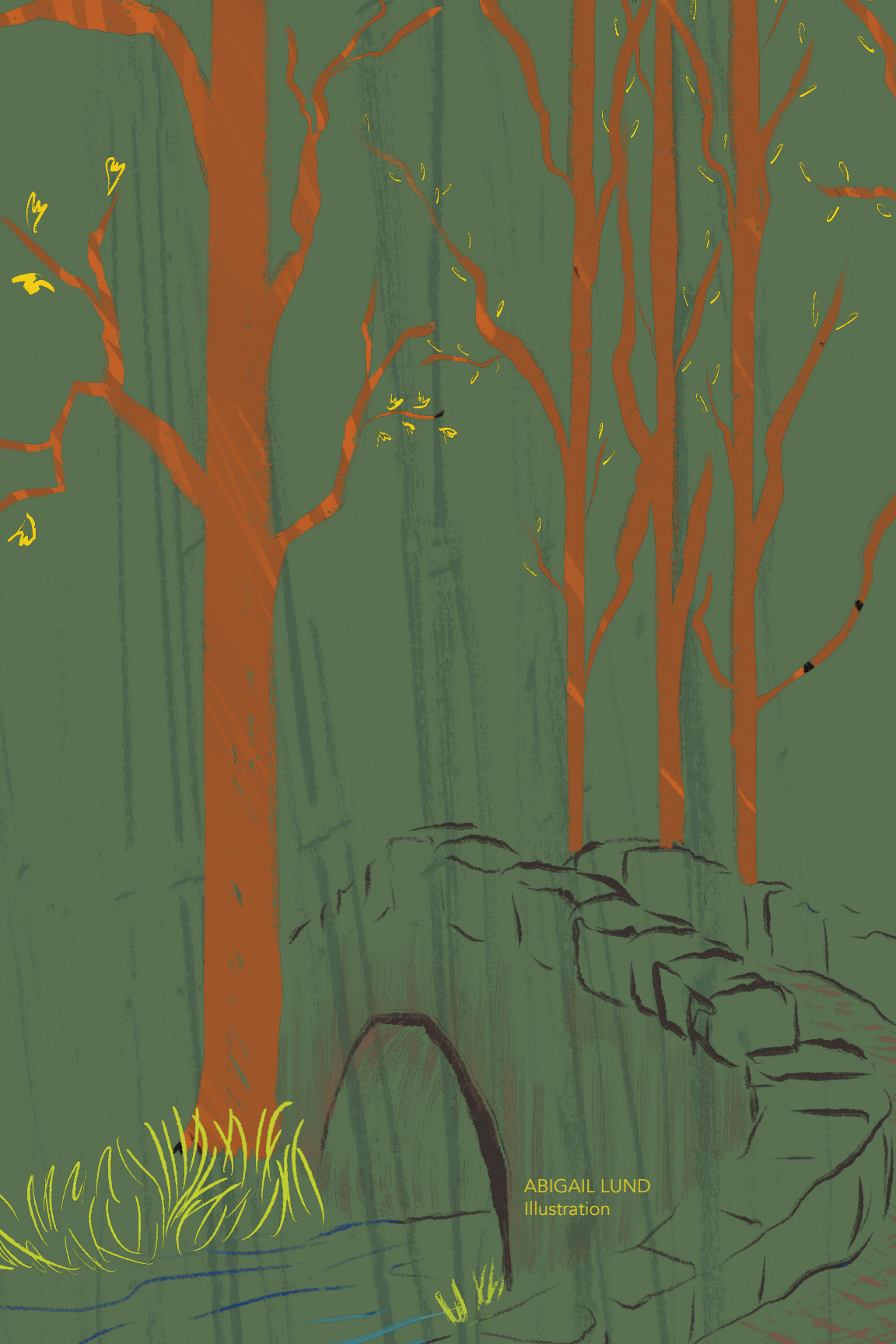
# Over the Bridge You Go

CANDAISHA JOHNSON

Poetry

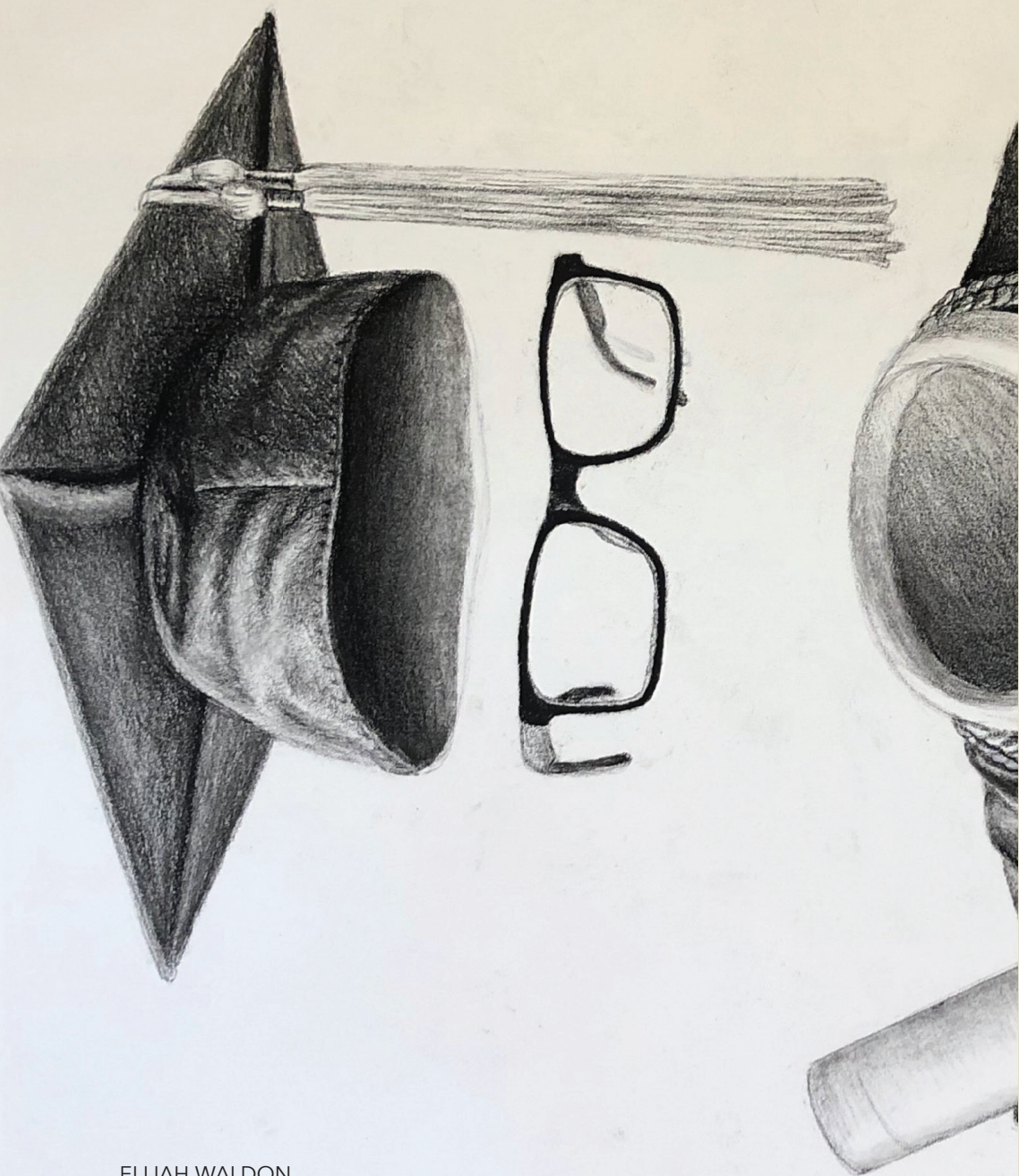
I saw you flowing in the wind.  
Wondering where you were going,  
I followed.  
You looked so beautiful with your brown covering.  
You looked so free-spirited,  
it gave me chills.  
I never witnessed the wind complement anything for a while.  
You begin to lose your flow.  
You're slowing down and I see that you're falling to the ground.  
You try to keep up in order to reach your destination.  
Seeing you continue to flow brought a smile to my face.  
Much like the wind that continues to push you forward,  
I tried to stay connected.  
I began to notice our surroundings and see there is a bridge.  
You must notice it too,  
but you're still going ahead.  
A big gush of wind flowed through my hair,  
then hitting you.  
My eyes follow your movement as you go into the air and go over the bridge.  
I looked down,  
worried of your current state.  
You landed softly on the water.  
Now floating down the bay,  
I understand the meaning of "letting nature take its course."





ABIGAIL LUND  
Illustration

# Not Silent. Not Seen.



ELIJAH WALDON  
Drawing





# TRUE COLORS LEGACY

This exhibit is made possible by a collaboration of the  
Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center and the School of Art and Design.

"Hope: is a thing with feathers-  
That perches in the soul-  
And sings the tune without words-  
And never stops-at all.

- **Emily Dickinson**



# S VISION

Presented in celebration of LGBTQ History Month.

As the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center celebrates its tenth anniversary, we reflect on our journey up to now and our hopes for the future.

Throughout history, the LGBTQ community has, time and again, proven its grit and tenacity against seemingly insurmountable odds. We stand on the shoulders of those in the LGBTQ community who came before us and helped to establish a legacy of perseverance and hope.

Our stories are our history, each one a reflection of a life lived and a journey unique to each person. In this exhibit, participants reflect on those who have influenced them and how they hope to impact their future. We also asked them to think about their legacy and their vision for the future.



**Beyonca Mewborn**

She/Her/Hers  
ECU Class of 2021



**Blake/Blue Mansfield**

They/Them/Theirs and Xe/Xir/Xirs  
Animation



**Crystal Bowers**

She/Her/Hers  
ECU Graduate student in  
Graphic Design

**Sondi Hoffman**

She/Her/Hers  
WCC Biology instructor





**Mark Rasdorf**

He/Him/His

Director, Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center

I finally came out when I was 19. It was 1982 and the terror of AIDS was about to be an ever-present reality in my life and the lives of so many others in the LGBTQ community.

Twelve years later, I saw Tony Kushner's *Angels in America* on Broadway. In the closing moments of the play, Prior Walter proclaims, "This disease will be the end of many of us, but not nearly all, and the dead will be commemorated and will struggle on with the living, and we are not going away. We won't die secret deaths anymore. The world only spins forward."

It was, for me, an indelible experience in the theater. Kushner's eloquent, defiant words capture the resilience of our community. Amidst death, homophobia, transphobia, and elected officials who think nothing of playing legislative games with our lives, we persevere.

My work today honors all those who came before me and I stand on the shoulders of the role models throughout my life—from Jack Carr in 1980 to Jesse Peel today—who have inspired me to help build a better future for LGBTQ people everywhere—most especially in eastern North Carolina.



**Daniel Fontenette, M.A.**

He/Him/His

Greene Hall Coordinator

The thing that gives me hope in the world is the ever-increasing pace of acceptance towards the LGBTQ+ community. Since gay marriage was legalized in 2015, I have felt such a relief in knowing that other gay people like myself have an equal chance at happiness. Although we have a long way to go, the amount of people who are expressing themselves and showing their support for the community becomes more prevalent every day. I hope to use my position in every phase of life to be able to help other LGBTQ+ people feel loved and supported as they are discovering who they truly are. I strive to use my knowledge and resources to build connections and a foundation for others. I want to be able to continue helping create an environment where everyone feels loved for who they define themselves to be.



**Catherine "Cat" Lynn**

She/Her/Hers and They/Them/Theirs

Animation/Textile Undergraduate Student

I have always felt like I didn't belong in some aspects of the world. It was a nagging feeling I could never get rid of and I felt that way until I came here to ECU. It was here that I started to have hope.

With each new friend that I make and the changes that I am making to my life, my sense of belonging increases. My friends, teachers, classmates—they give me hope and they all make an impact on my life. My friends aren't just friends, they are my family and a family I can be proud of.

As I continue to make new discoveries about myself, I am grateful to all those who have positively impacted my life. My hope is that with my art and my time here at ECU, I can make an impact and give back that hope that was given to me.



**Perice Manns**

She/Her/Hers  
Brody School of Medicine,  
Class of 2023



**Michael Gaines**

He/Him/His  
Master of Fine Arts  
candidate in Art



**Curtis D. Wilson, M.A.**

He/Him/His  
Clement Hall Coordinator





**John Rhodes-Pruitt**

He/Him/His  
Master of Fine Arts Candidate in  
Painting and Drawing

**Michael Pruitt**

He/Him/His  
Technology Support Specialist,  
UNC Pembroke



**Heudith Molina-Elizalde**

They/Them  
Pre-med/Biomedical Engineering



**Ian Hope**

He/Him/His  
Psychology major with a minor in Linguistics



A photograph of two men, Brad Collier and Justin Pritchard, smiling and posing together. Brad is in the background, wearing a light blue button-down shirt, with his arms around Justin. Justin is in the foreground, wearing a black polo shirt. They are standing in front of a backdrop of vertical rainbow-colored curtains.

## **Brad Collier**

He/Him/His  
Assistant Director of First Year  
and Transition Programs  
College of Engineering and Technology

## **Justin Pritchard**

He/Him/His  
Administrative Support Associate  
East Carolina University Office of  
Economic and Community Engagement

Acceptance gives us hope and that hope is the one legacy we want to leave behind. There is nothing more comforting than to know you are accepted for who you are. In all we do, we accept and love people and the journey they are on. Our goal is to allow people to be their complete selves and to be welcomed into the circle of friendship without limitations. It is our desire that when people think of Brad and Justin, they say, "Those guys loved me just as I was."

A photograph of an older woman with short, wavy white hair, wearing a black sleeveless top and a black beaded necklace. She is smiling and standing in front of the same rainbow-colored curtain backdrop as the men above.

## **Laurendine "Lauren" Thomas Clark**

She/Her/Hers  
Pursuing bachelor's degree with a double major  
in Religious Studies and Psychology

"What gives me hope is that I truly believe people are intrinsically good and want to help each other. Each stage of life presents its own set of unique challenges that cannot be overcome by individual effort. I could not have made it through combat in Vietnam, the rigors of nursing school, or my gender transition without the love and support of those who were sent to be a part of my inner circle. I have been shown much love and support by the LGBTQ community. It has been consoling that there have been others who have faced similar issues and who so graciously showed me how to overcome the challenges of transitioning. My hope is that I will continue to pay it forward for others who are struggling with life issues and give them that little extra boost they need to accomplish their life goals."



**Kashayia Coltrane**

She/Her/Hers

Pursuing a bachelor's degree  
in Social Work

You will never truly be free until you learn to be comfortable and gain confidence in living in your own skin. I pray that as I continue in my career path, I will inspire and touch lives in a way that empowers, encourages, and impacts future generations. Remember, you can't spell beautiful without "U"!



**Quashawn Chadwick**

He/Him/His

Brody School of Medicine,  
Class of 2025  
ECU Brody Scholar

The word resilience comes from the latin "resilio", "re- + salio" meaning to rebound, spring back. Individuals who are resilient are always bounding back from losses and ready elevate themselves and those nearby to new levels. Like springs, we LGBT folk are full of latent, indomitable energy. The people of the LGBT community have faced historical hurdles in health care, social justice, and financial well-being. From family and stranger alike, we have been told "NO" to fair treatment, gentle consideration, and basic decency. Despite these challenges, in no other community is there found more color, more smile, more song and dance, mind and creation, nor fiercer lovers than ours. Overcoming our losses, we educated the masses. Our resilience knows no bounds.



**Omar Diaz**  
He/Him/His  
Master of Public Health Candidate,  
Brody School of Medicine  
East Carolina University,  
Bachelor of Science in Biology '20



**Karena Graves**  
She/Her/Hers  
Master for Fine Arts candidate in  
Sculpture



**Kiarah Peoples**  
She/Her/Hers  
Fashion Artist

**Briana Earl**  
She/Her/Hers and  
They/Them/Theirs  
Master of Fine Arts, Photography



# THANK YOU TO:

## **OUR CONTRIBUTORS:**

We cannot thank you enough for the vulnerability you continue to share with us. Your hearts and minds are beautiful, and this publication would be nothing without you. Thank you for sharing your journey to identity with us and trusting us with your work. It is an extreme privilege and honor to feature not only your art but your soul in our publication. We hope that you continue to find a place of peace and expression in our publication.

## **TERRENCE DOVE:**

We will never be able to fully express our thanks and gratitude for all you have done for the magazine division. You continue to influence every piece of our publication and that will never stop. All of our hard work is a direct reflection of who you are and what you have taught us as magazine staff. We promise to continue creating meaningful and impactful work in your honor.

## **ANNAH HOWELL:**

Thank you for your continued passion and love of all things design. You add the color and depth to every spread and always encourage us to be bold and creative. And for that we are immensely grateful.

## **CHERIE SPELLER:**

Thank you for always being a solid place to land in moments of uncertainty. Your passion and love for media and news is evident and we're so thankful for all you do for us.

## **THE STAFF OF PIRATE MEDIA 1:**

Thank you for the hard work you have put into not only this publication but every aspect of Pirate Media 1. Your words are significant, your design is powerful, and your passion for creating is the backbone of this publication. We would not be who we are without you on our team.

## **OUR READERS:**

As you read through this publication, we hope that you feel the immense passion through every piece and design. The time and work put into this publication is all worth it when we know that our readers will truly appreciate it all. Thank you for supporting us and for allowing our contributors to share a piece of them with you. Without your support, Expressions and Pirate Media 1 would be nothing but paper and ink. With your support we are so much more.



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### Submission Guidelines

Expressions is currently accepting submissions for our next issue. Contributions can be any illustrations, poems, short stories, photographs or non-fiction works. All submissions should include your full name, major and classification. Please send all work to [expressions@ecu.edu](mailto:expressions@ecu.edu). Those pieces selected may appear in our next edition.



**Greenville  
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