

ANTHONY JENKINS: STUDENT PROFILE

By Roger A. Harris

It's often said that perception is more real than fact; that people by nature believe more so what they see and feel than in what they know and understand. With Anthony Jenkins, this scenario is all-to-often the case. At first glance, people often mistake this handsome, articulate, and focused 22 year old's pride and determination to succeed as a show of arrogance or conceit. In measured, intelligent, and specific terms he openly states that "You've got to know from where I come to know who I am. If you have any doubts about my motives or intents, all I ask is that you take the time to find out." In the end, you'll be surprised at what you discover. At once an author, model, SGA senator, and yearbook staff member, you might wonder where this Junior class Political Science major gets his drive. The middle child of four, Anthony's parents divorced when he was still young. Growing up on Southeast 4th street, a Washington, DC ghetto put a certain edge to his demeanor and tenacity to survive. Yet, in Anthony's words "I owe all that I am and will be to my mother Naomi. She is my friend, hero, mentor, and all things in between", a reflective smile crosses his face belying his true sincerity. "I can remember when Moms would sometimes miss dinner to make sure that we kids had enough to eat...getting dressed in front of an open stove because the heat got turned off...doing homework before the sun went down: no lights"; these and even more events unmentioned that helped to mold Anthony's character, shape his will, and instill the dedication required for success. "She never quit, never walked away, never gave up. To see my Mom handle the constant pressure or raising our family let me know that I could handle whatever problems confronted me, because they were nothing by comparison to what she had to endure." Anthony takes his responsibility as a student leader and role model very seriously. He believes in helping others and takes every opportunity to do so, though he has learned to take time out for himself. "I do like to have fun but feel that right now is when I have to go for mine." His busy schedule doesn't allow for much of a love life but conceded that he actually has someone in mind to settle down with..when the time is right! Anthony was one of eleven students selected from over seventy applicants nationwide to complete an internship in the Washington, DC circuit court system. He was very proud to represent FSU in this capacity and his plaques, certificates, and awards are testament to his abilities and helped foster FSU's growing prestige. The contacts he developed and experiences he captured will be invaluable in his quest to become a criminal or corporate lawyer. Anthony Jenkins has made the conscious decision



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to take on the pressure and responsibility of presenting his example of a man, leader, and role model to society. Indeed, he is representative of the many men and women at FSU who are not just here to get a degree, but to make a difference. And it is in this light that we should not only view Anthony, but commend and emulate his light as brightly. He is an outstanding example of the quality student FSU is providing an environment in which to develop and thrive.

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heritage. But we must not forget that we all are "America." So, when we look in that mirror or extend that index finger, let's make sure we know to whom it is we point.

The reality is that if we all have a vested interest in "America" (and we do), then we all need to learn to accept, not deny, change, or remove, the hyphen we force "America" to wear. Fortunately FSU, in its own disarming way, is going about its business producing the quality student that will not only build on its heralded legacy but also flourish in its new-found diversity, despite the myopic cries of those who might yell racism.

Lightning strikes forests and they burn so that new growth may prosper. Our growth: the reason for this fire.