

STUDENTSPOTLIGHT Dreams of being a big baller

by Brian McKithen
Contributing Writer

Senior offensive lineman, Larry McDonald, will be graduating from FSU with a long list of accolades, and talks about his future goals of playing in the NFL.

Offensive lineman, Larry McDonald, walked on the field for the coin toss at Virginia Union, and counted his blessing about being able to suit up in his number 51 jersey and start his 42nd collegiate football game as a Fayetteville State University Bronco.

Set to graduate in May as a health and physical education major, Mr. McDonald is a six foot, lineman from Mebane, North Carolina who has been playing football for FSU for the past four years. He was a part of the CIAA championship winning team in 2009.

He feels it is truly a blessing that he was able to stay healthy enough to play in every game while here at FSU.

"I look at it as a reward for all of the hard work that me and my teammates do in the off

season," said Mr. McDonald.

With the season over, Mr. McDonald hopes to go on and accomplish yet another goal, which is to play in the NFL. Mr. McDonald plans on going to some combines and showing off some his talents to coaches and scouts that are out there. He is confident about being able to make it in the professional league.

Mr. McDonald feels "With God's help, I will get an opportunity to play at the next level."

This was the last season for many Bronco football players as Mr. McDonald is one of ten seniors departing from the team.

"I am going to miss playing with my teammates. I have played with some great athletes, and there are some great young athletes on the team and they have a bright future. And I will miss joking and lining down on Saturdays with them," stated Mr. McDonald.

The program gave Mr. McDonald an opportunity to play football at the collegiate

level when other schools wouldn't give him a chance. The FSU Broncos did, and he has taken full advantage of it.

Mr. McDonald will be leaving the team with numerous accolades and top honor achievements as a student-athlete. He was on the all-rookie team in 2008 and was named second-team all CIAA in the 2009-10 season. In 2011, he was recognized as an Honorable mention preseason all-American and made the All-CIAA First Team.

Already departing with an impressive list of accomplishments as a Bronco, if Mr. McDonald had another season he would have possibly broke the Broncos' modern era record of 43 starts, set by defensive line coach Damien Adams.

Head Coach Kenny Phillips said "You would've never thought that this is his senior year, but he's done a great job for us on the field and a great job in the classroom. He's accomplished a lot in four years, and that's what you look for when you come to college as a student-athlete."



Voice photo by Jennifer Lucas

McDonald

Comedic, poetic inspiration entertains students

by Jalynn Jones
Voice Staff Writer

Comedians and poets perform an inspirational and empowering mix comedy and poetry for Fayetteville State University students on Nov. 18 in the Shaw Auditorium.

It's not often that speakers can successfully mix comedy and a positive message, but that was what happened last week at the Comedy Explosion show called "Are U Wasting Time."

Founded by Asim Ali, the California native wanted to expand his works to Fayetteville State University where he has a home and a family.

The evening's performers included BET Def Comedy Jam comedians Dexter Smiles and poet, Poetri.

Mr. Smiles kept the crowd in tune with his witty jokes and Poetri did spoken words poems such as "Monsters in my Stomach," "Krispy Kream," and "Waka Flocka."

"Are U Wasting Time" is a youth empowerment and personal development program to help students become passionate about their education and to the nurture talents and intellect of young people. They did a free show at the Boys and Girls Club nearby to volunteer their talent to the community.

The *Are U Wasting Time* comedy explosion was sponsored in part by the brothers of the Epsilon Beta Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi. Here are the highlights from the interviews from *Bronco-iRadio* and *The Voice*.

Where did Asim Ali's motivation come from to start the "Are U Wasting Time" movement?

Asim Ali: "Well it came from a very intimate space. It came as a result of me doing some reflecting on my talent and my intellect and just feeling as if I had grossly underutilized my own talent. So you take that internal reflection and combine it with having family members and friends caught up with gang activity and a number of different things that we know eat away at the fiber of our community. I just decided that instead of getting on a soap box that I wanted to be a part of an effort and so I committed myself to youth empowerment and personal development."

Has their ever been a time when you wanted to quit?

Poetri: "I've never wanted to quit... My wife has multiple sclerosis so there are times when I have to be at the house with her at all times. I just got back from Chicago [where] she got a stem cell transplant so we were there for like four months... I don't wanna say I

thought I was gonna quit, it was just a rough period because I was focusing on my wife and the transplant."

Do you feel you play an important role in society?

Dexter Smiles: "I really do. I see entertainment [or] comedy as a medicine of some sort. People need [to laugh]. Especially in this economic climate, we need to laugh and laugh loud. I mean that laugh that makes [your stomach hurt]... If you don't laugh right now, you definitely will cry. Comedy is healing, poetry is healing."

What is different about "Are U Wasting Time" that other youth empowerment programs lack?

Asim Ali: "What make Are U Wasting Time youth empowerment and personal development so different... well there are a lot of good programs out there... more power to you If you are lending yourself out there for the development of [our] youth. But, what I do have say is that we as adults have failed the youth tremendously. When you think about it, when you have a son and that son comes home with straight A's on their report card, the first thing that parent is inclined to do is to say is 'that's my boy' but the first time your child gets caught in some type of drive by shooting or [some other negative experience], the first thing we say is 'boy,

if it wasn't for them no good guys you was hanging with'... we separate ourselves from the fact the we are responsible for everything. Are U Wasting Time looks to meet these young people on their ground. We have lost the right to tell young people [what they should and should not do]... we betray their trust, we demonstrate hypocrisy... and your child is watching this behavior... with that being said Are U Wasting Time uses art."

If you could go back in time, what would be one thing you would say to the younger you?

Dexter Smiles: "I would tell myself to concentrate more in my academics and my future and to eat properly."

Asim Ali: "I would tell my younger self that everything matters. Even the things you think are insignificant. And I would also tell my younger self that every person matters. We are all fibers of one fabric. Everything is interdependent [on one other]. There is no independence. Independence is a false sense of security... because even if you were the greatest brain surgeon, you wouldn't perform your procedure on yourself."

For teens without family ties and other necessities, what would be the best alternative to keep them out trouble?

Asim Ali: "Well, the first thing I would say is that if you have to think about it, don't do it... as spiritual creatures, we all have the goodness of God inside of us. That inner voice that prompts us to pause is a gift intended to help guide us in the world. If we spent more time listening to that voice, that could go a long way towards guiding you."

Poetri: "Well, I'm an old fashion church boy so I think [one should] definitely turn to the church. If you give God that second, that first step, God will come and meet and pull you in."

Dexter Smiles: "I found a person in my life that I didn't want to disappoint and that was my grandmother, if I thought what I was doing was going to disappoint my grandmother, it wasn't good for me. Just to see a smile on her face was always great for me. Anything I did out in the streets could get back to my grandmother and I didn't want to disappoint her. I found that human that I thought was the greatest person point. So, find a focal point to guide you. God is your focus but there may be someone on earth that can guide you... you can have God as your spiritual leader and then you can have a person here in the flesh that you can look up to."