

The highroad to Highway 76

FSU student, Marcus Uzzell, embarks on a new journey after having his book, "Highway 76," published.

by Cimmeon Terry
Voice Staff Writer

Living in a time where arts and literature seem to be outdone by the world of technology, it's nice to see how some artists manage to keep culture alive and valued.

Marcus Uzzell a 22-year old senior is already an esteemed writer, poet and published author. He is an English major and Psychology minor.

Inspired by famous writer and poet Langston Hughes, he attributes "Weary Blues" and "To Artina" among his favorite works.

Mr. Uzzell says that he enjoys listening to audiotapes of Mr. Hughes reading his writings aloud.

"Listening to him on audio gives Hughes' own voice to the story. Who better to read Langston Hughes works than himself?"

Mr. Uzzell feels that poetry should be "A reflection of life."

"I base my writings from my imagination and experience."

His new book, "HIGHWAY 76" is a book composed of 50 poems that all talk about different stories and themes. Mr. Uzzell describes "Highway 76" as his own journal.

"I always knew that I would write a book, but I didn't plan on this collection of poems to be the first one."

The name Highway 76 is a metaphor, meaning the route taken in his journey over the last four or five years of his life. The number "76" was his jersey number during his years of playing college football.

This book is truly for anyone who loves poetry. Mr. Uzzell says one of the most rewarding things is hearing the exciting feedback from his peers.

"One of the greatest feelings for me is when one of my classmates ran up to me and she even bought a copy for her mom. It was strange but wonderful. If you like this collection, I guarantee more to come."

Other than his love for writing, Mr. Uzzell is involved in a lot on campus. He played right tackle for FSU's football team. He is also a

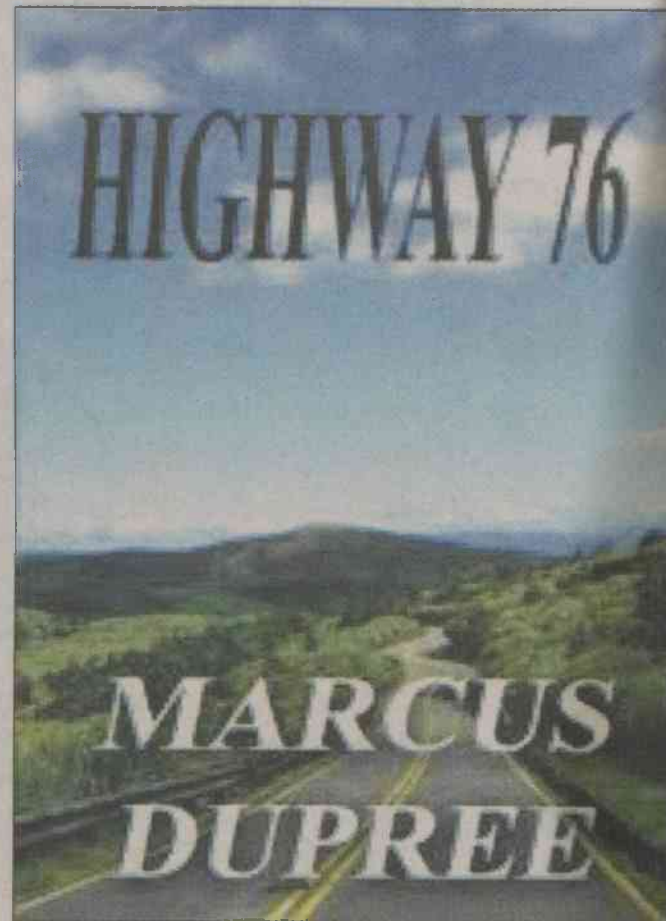
new member of The Voice writing staff. He is also the founder and president of the literary society "Accendo Literary-Arts Society" where students are given the opportunity to create literature and art. He is also featured on the Bronco-iRadio Cypher Part 2 as a lyricist.

The book "Highway 76" is available for purchase on Amazon.com, Barnes&noble.com, and PublishAmerica.com.

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After he graduates, Mr. Uzzell hopes to write full time and pursue professional sports. For inspiring writers he feels that they should write about the things they care about it and, what means the most to them.

"People don't appreciate anything. You have to write for you. You must protect your dreams because people won't hesitate to crush them. You must believe in



your work and that God will help you along the way. Russell Simmons said 'There are no failures in life, just quitters.' And he was right.

As far as I'm concerned as long as I don't quit, it's impossible for me to fail."

Famous alumni that you should know

by JayInn Jones
Voice News Editor

Everyone has their own specific reasons to go to college. In a typical freshman student's mind, the simple fact that one made it into college is enough to motivate one through their daily endeavors; when a student makes it to their senior year, the real goal is making it out of college successfully. However, there are always students who go above and beyond the call of duty.

We live in a United States where Historical Black Colleges and Universities are questioned for their relevance in the learning arena. Well, Fayetteville State has a rich history of producing successful athletes, entertainers, businessmen and businesswomen. While there is a long list of notable alumni, we also have famous alumni that are recognized on an international level.

Most recently the 2008 Mass Communication graduate Jamel Austin is working as a famous Professional Basketball Player. According to HBCUBuzz.com, he started in 24 out of 25 games in his final season as a Bronco. He has traveled across the world and has worked with various players in the NBA including Gary Forbes and Ty Lawson. He recently signed with RBA Sports Agency for Above Average Basketball Training. In the article posted on January 5th, 2012 Jamel says that "Just going to North Carolina and to Fayetteville State changed everything for me. It helped me mature so quickly. Lord knows where I'd be if I didn't go to Fayetteville State."

Another amazing athlete is Richard Medlin. In his 2008 sophomore year, Medlin was honored as the CIAA Special Teams Player of the Year here at Fayetteville State University. He signed with the New England Patriots in August 2011 as a rookie free agent but currently plays for the Miami Dolphins. He is a prime example that being in college is more than just

an education. He had a dream of making it to the NFL and he used the powerful tool of education to get him to the next level.

Other Famous Alumni:

Jerry C. Johnson – Former Head Basketball Coach
Chris Armstrong – Former Canadian Football League Player

Darrell Armstrong – Former professional Basketball Player; played for multiple teams in the NBA including the Nets, Pistons and the Mavericks.

Jim Bibby - Former MLB Player; played for teams such as the St. Louis Cardinals, Texas Rangers, Cleveland Indians, and Pittsburgh Pirates.

Sylvester Ritter – former NFL player and professional wrestler; played for the Green Bay Packers

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