

## New campaign honors Sons and Daughters

By Amber Hagin

Professor Moses T. Alexander Greene, instructor of the head of Public Relations Problem Solving class (COMM 430), has launched a class project that aims to recognize some of St. Augustine's University's finest students who don't get much recognition.

The class was given a task to find students who rarely are in the spotlight yet display school spirit, leadership and the ability to positively reflect good character. Professor Greene is calling this SONSSAU and DAUGHTERSAU.

The campaign is a partnership between Professor Greene's class and the Office of Marketing & Communications. The students chosen are showcased

on social media platforms like Facebook and on Instagram, as well as on the Good Morning SAU Webmail blast.

The first "Son of SAU" was Zamir Andrews, a junior from Philadelphia, majoring in elementary education. Andrews is Mr. Junior and a resident assistant in the male freshmen residential hall.

Fellow Falcon Adonica Stewart, a senior in Professor Greene's class stated, "Zamir Andrews was chosen not only because he excels academically, but he also reflects the best of what it means to be a Son of Saint Augustine's University. This is definitely seen through the expanse of his style and his commitment to leadership."

The second week's Saint Augustine's



Zamir Andrews, left, Dondre Banks, right, are the first selected as "Sons of SAU"



University "Son of the Week" is Dondre Banks, 21, a senior from Emporia, Va., majoring in Criminal Justice. Dondre is the senior class vice president, a Freemason, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and a U.S. Marine.

Stewart stated, "Dondre Banks was

selected because of his quiet leadership. He not only serves the student body through his role as senior class vice president, but has also played a vital role in protecting our country and the rights of all citizens through his service as a U.S. Marine."

## Donation from tennis legend will go in new weight room

Marketing & Communications

A company co-owned by former tennis great Andre Agassi made a heavy donation to the Saint Augustine's University athletic department on Jan. 25.

The donation of weight equipment from BILT by Agassi & Reyes is worth approximately \$100,000 and includes quad pulley machines, tricep presses, biceps curls, Olympic benches, a hip flexor and abdominal machine.

The donation will help support the athletic program at the university, according to Athletic Director George Williams.

"This is a whole new life for us as far as athletics and training," Williams said. "We are trying to make sure that our student-athletes have the best weight



training possible. With this equipment, I am certain that they will have the best weight training of any school our size."

The student-athletes will now have strength training options. A weight room with the new machines will open in Lynch Hall in two to three weeks.

The current weight room in Atkinson Hall will consist of free weights. The Taylor Wellness Center also has area for weight training.

The donation stemmed from the friendship between Williams and Steve Miller, the CEO of Agassi Graf Holdings and Andre Agassi Foundation for Education. Miller runs the Las Vegas-based company started in 2012 by Agassi and Gil Reyes, who was Agassi's long-time trainer.

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dergraduate and graduate public health programs," according to a statement released by Dr. Sauls.

"While educating and training future public health workers, the facility will be utilized as a think tank for public health students to study health disparities in Raleigh and globally," the statement said. "They will actively participate in Community Based Organizations to develop programs and understand health policies."

Dr. Sauls added that the Center will facilitate partnerships and collaborations between Saint Augustine's and nonprofit organizations in the Raleigh area. "Public health seminars will be developed to address the needs of the community, as well as serving the students of Saint Augustine's University campus," Dr. Sauls' statement added.

Last fall, the Tuttle Group was

formed as an advisory board, consisting of several community-based organizations, community activists, and foundations. The Tuttle Group will meet in the facility to discuss ways and means to support and finance programs in the center, according to Dr. Sauls.

The Center will also help eliminate health disparities abroad, his statement said, noting that the university already has met with officials from Bomet County in Kenya. "Our public health students will discuss, plan, and initiate programs to alleviate health disparities in Bomet County," he said.

Although currently vacant, the building is considered to be an institution of local historical relevance and Saint Augustine's University has long been involved with preserving it. The Center once housed a black-owned day care center and Dr. Ward has said that he used the day-care center himself while



Dignitaries at the ribbon-cutting included (L to R): Rev. Dr. William T. Newkirk, Board of Trustees member, Dr. Ward, Dr. John Mitchell Johnson, Owner/Founder of Hamlin Drug Company, a supporter of health care in the community and Saint Augustine's University. Jaquan Leary

growing up in the area.

According to Wake County records, the 5,800-square-foot building was constructed in 1970 and acquired by Saint

Augustine's University in 1978. The university has used it recently to host a summer program in partnership with the YMCA of the Triangle.

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The show's first episode aired Nov. 11, a second episode aired Dec. 5, and a third Feb. 1.

The shows are broadcast over WAUG as well as on YouTube, or livestreamed into Emery Gymnasium during breaks in basketball games. Panel participants have included current and former students Lee Richardson, Jamaal Owens, Howard Walker, Johna Mitchell, Avon Thomas, Imani Baughn-Mitchell, Adonica Stewart, Brittany Peay, Jaquan Leary and Issa Glivens.

The fact that the shows can be seen

around the world through YouTube is especially exciting to some students. "I have family in different parts the United States that want to see some of the work that I have been doing and to know that they get to see the show feels good," Baughn-Mitchell said.

Thomas hinted that exciting changes are in store for the show. "We will be receiving a variety of sponsors but unfortunately I can not disclose from where at this time," he said. He did share that we should be looking for big things from the people over at the "College Code" set.



Adonica Stewart and Brittany Peay have their say on the "College Code" show.

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duties generally consist of being an assistant and runner, tending to all the needs of her bosses – the producers and writers of "Empire." She loves it.

"This is my dream job," Qualls said. She's given the opportunity each day to sit with the producers on set as they film, and see how they interact with the directors and make decisions. Qualls said she has gained a wealth of valuable knowledge, especially from working with the show's creator, Lee Daniels.

"Of course, I expect to be a lot more successful in life in the near future, but where I am in my life right now, this is the best job ever," Qualls said. "I was so happy that I was actually hired to work on my favorite show. I didn't even know for sure what I was really going to be do-

ing. I was just happy to have a real industry job. Either way, I could never have imagined how awesome it would be."

Qualls said her education at Saint Augustine's University helped prepared her for the job. She credited Janet Gustafson, the Media and Communications Department instructor better known as Ms. G, for instilling in her the desire to produce high-quality content and for stoking her passion for education

when circumstances – particularly the death of her mother from cancer during her junior year – were causing it to dwindle.

"She would let me stay overnight in

the editing suite working on personal projects and even a project she had for WAUG," Qualls said. "I'll never forget that as long as I live."

A passionate filmmaker, Ms. G would "literally be in the editing suite 24 hours, nonstop, teaching herself new things, watching YouTube tutorials on editing and trying them out. Lugging all of that camera equipment around campus – and people would always crack

jokes, saying she looked homeless pushing that basket, but she had a plan and by any means necessary, she was getting the job done."

Qualls' advice to current students

would be to push through your circumstances.

"A casting director once told me that I'd get 50 no's before I get my first yes, and that advice alone is what pushed me to keep going," Qualls said. "When one thing or even five things don't work out for you, that doesn't mean the sixth try will fail, too. That's what sets the successful people apart from people who never make it... they never give up! They never take 'no' for an answer, find your yes."

Asked what advice she had for Falcons who will follow in her footsteps, Qualls had a mix of practical and inspirational. "Don't accumulate debt and loans for no reason. Strive to be CEOs, or own your own business. Your goal shouldn't be to work for somebody else. It should be for people to work for you."

*Never take no  
for an answer.  
Find your yes.*  
April Qualls