10 UNDER 10 BIOS - 2019



AneSia Newton

AneSia Newston is a 2012 graduate of Virginia State University. She graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Family Consumer Sciences with a concentration in Fashion Merchandising and a minor in Business Marketing. In December 2015, she graduated with a Master's in Business Administration with a concentration in Project Management from Averett University.

To expand upon her love for fashion, AneSia opened a clothing and personal styling company called "Kedere's Closet." Kedere's Closet has been featured at the Virginia Full Figured Fashion Week and the Southern Women's Show at Richmond Raceway International. It is still open today as a mobile Pop Up Shop. Her Pop Up Shop locations included Fort Lee, VA, Richmond, Maryland, North Carolina, and various locations in the Tidewater area. For her shops, AneSia partners with different schools such as Virginia State, ECPI, Richard Bland College and Petersburg High to employ interns who gain on-hands experience in Fashion and Marketing.

AneSia has landed her dream job as a high school fashion and design teacher. Prior to teaching, she was a member of the Department of Student Activities at VSU. AneSia is an active member of the VSUAA Chesterfield Alumni Chapter and in 2018 was awarded the VSUAA Young Trojan Award. She instills to her mentees and students that it is not how you start or where you come from but where you can go doing what you love if you believe in yourself.

Jahliel Thurman



Jahliel Thurman is a 2014 graduate of Virginia State University with a bachelor's in Mass Communications and a concentration in Television and Broadcast. While attending VSU on a full academic scholarship, Jahliel served as President of the SGA and Nu Psi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated. Having a love for HBCUs, Jahliel combined his desire to broadcast and love for HBCUs and Yard Talk 101 was born.

Yard Talk 101 is a platform to exhibit the talents, programs, community projects, helpful resources, as well as other successes of

fellow HBCU students and alumni. With the future of Yard Talk 101 looking extremely promising, Jahliel is constantly working with other brands to help elevate the HBCU community and show them in the positive light they were all meant to be represented in. Today, Yard Talk 101 can be found on Aspire TV's digital platform.

Joy Hickman



Joy Hickman is a 2017 graduate of Virginia State University with a bachelor's degree in electrical electronics engineering and technology with a minor in information and logistics technology. As a student, she was a member of the student senate, president of Student-Athlete Advisory Council. In addition to her many extracurricular activities on campus, Joy also was a member of the Trojan women's basketball team addition to all my unofficial roles of carrying myself herself as "basketball goddess", and "The real

Ms. VSU". Joy is a member of the VSUAA Varsity Club and is an ambassador for the chapter.

Deloitte Consulting Joy...She loves to give back to her university and established one year after graduating the Joy Hickman Scholarship Award.

Mr. Keith L. Granderson, Jr.



Keith Lamont Granderson, Jr. is a 2017 graduate of Virginia State University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. During his tenure at Virginia State University, Keith was extremely active in disability services and student affairs. He is highly esteemed for his work with the New Student Orientation Program, interning in the President's Office and serving in numerous clubs and organizations.

Keith will continue pursuing his education as he works to obtain a Masters of Education in Special Education at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. He is a licensed minister and a Special Education Teacher for students with disabilities in Hopewell, Virginia.

Chelsea Jackson



Chelsea S. Jackson is a 2012 graduate of Virginia State University with a bachelor's degree in management information systems from the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business. While at VSU, she tutored fellow classmates and was active in the Betterment of Brothers and Sisters, the National Association of Black Accountants, the VSU Gospel Chorale and a Provost Scholar Intern assigned to Student Activities.

She is now working on her Master's degree in Cybersecurity from Liberty University. An IT enthusiast, a public servant, and non-profit

advocate, Chelsea began her formal IT career at the Virginia Department of Transportation as a Jr. Enterprise Architect in 2016. She recently graduated from a rotating leadership program for young professionals, and during her last rotation provided IT support to The Honorable Shannon Valentine, Secretary of Transportation. She currently serves as the Enterprise Security Architect for VDOT's IT Division, the agency's first staff member to hold this title.

She continues to tutor and mentor students at Virginia State and in her community and volunteers with several non-profits.

Vincent Pierson



Vince is a 2011 graduate of Virginia State University with a bachelor degree in Sport Management. During his time at Virginia State, he was an active member and leader within the Sports Management Majors Club and credits much of his success to the development this group provided under the leadership of Dr. Leon Bey. Since graduating from VSU, Vince has gone on to earn Masters Degrees in Business Administration and Sport Business Management from the University of Central Florida's DeVos Sport Business Management Program.

Vince joined the Minor League Baseball (MiLB) staff in February of 2015 and manages the development and implementation of MiLB's league-wide diversity initiative, which focuses on workforce, education and culture, multicultural marketing and much more. As Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Vince sets the strategy and leads all efforts related to the expansion of the diversity initiative.

Vince is a self-described sports diversity and inclusion enthusiast and focuses on using his platform and influence to advocate for marginalized groups with a focus on sport business. He spends much of

his free time mentoring young people who are interested in breaking into sports and building a community of support for those currently in the industry. In addition to his role with MiLB, he facilitates workshops with the Institute for Sport and Social Justice and serves on the board for the DeVos Sport Business Management program (UCF) and the National Sport Forum's Business of Diversity in Sports and Entertainment committee.

Jhadee Gordon



Jhadee Gordon is a 2017 graduate of Virginia State University with a bachelor's degree in Accounting and Finance. While at VSU, she served on class council for three years, Freshman class sergeant at arms, Sophomore class president and Junior class president. I was also the Vice- President of the Caribbean Students Association and the secretary of The National Association of Black Accountants, two organizations she holds dear to her heart. During the 2016-2017 academic year, Jhadee was titled Miss Virginia State University 2nd runner up and a member of the royal court, and served as a mentor in the Trojan Leadership Program.

Currently, Jhadee works as an Audit Associate at KPMG, one of the big four auditors and professional service companies. As an active alumna, she serves as chair of the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business Industry Young Alumni Council. She also is an active member of her local Alumni Association Chapter.

Brianna C. J. Clark



Brianna C.J. Clark, is a 2012 graduate of Virginia State University with a bachelor's degree in Family and Consumer Sciences. After attending VSU, she went on to obtain a master's degree in counseling from Old Dominion University and currently is a second year PhD student in the inaugural cohort of the Higher Education Leadership and Policy Studies Program at Howard University. Brianna offers over 7 years of experience in post-secondary education. These experiences have prepared her to be an energetic leader who thrives on connection, collaboration, and authentic engagement with others.

She is a firm believer in the concept "It takes a village" and it is her goal to assist and advocate for students as they navigate through their personal story. Within student affairs she has worked in a variety of functional areas such as orientation, academic advising, career development, residence life, and athletics.

Brianna currently serves as the Graduate Assistant (GA) in the Office of the President at Howard University and Assistant Volleyball Coach at Trinity Washington University. Brianna's focus is to build a learning community among all HBCU leadership and provide a centralized space that encourages a consistent exchange of resources, best practices, opportunities, and innovation.

Domica Winstead, J.D.



Domica Winstead is a 2008 graduate of Virginia State University majoring in history. While at VSU, she became a member of the Alpha Eta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

After graduating she attended the Appalachian School of Law in 2012. While in law school Domica served as a Student Bar Association Senator, was founder of the Appalachian School of Law International Law Society, and received numerous academic awards.

Post law school Domica began working at Brown Greer, a Richmond based firm that handled the multibillion Deepwater Horizon settlement

claim. In 2016, she began working at the Virginia Department of Health as a Policy Analyst and in 2018, was promoted to Senior Policy Analyst in Legislative Services with the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

Shardae' Holmes



Shardae' Holmes is a 2009 graduate of Virginia State University with a bachelor's degree in Biological Science.

Shardae' is a Medical Scientist in Molecular Diagnostics at Duke University Medical Center. Her responsibilities include complex technical DNA/RNA extraction methods and Bone Marrow Engraftment Analysis whereby she evaluates immunocompromised patients while helping doctors make informed decisions on how to improve the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

Prior to her contributions at Duke University, LabCorp was privy to her expertise as she was the lead to their Next Generation Sequencing initiative where she was a pivotal asset to the prenatal genomic screening program. Shardae's commitment to being a change agent in this capacity is one of the many pillars to her personal mission of service with impact. To name a few, Shardae' dedicates her time consistently to Connor's Heroes in Richmond, VA, where she has helped children battling cancer for the past seven years. Shardae' served as the liaison for the John Tyler Community College Board, a sponsor for Race for the Cure and the American Diabetes Association, and mentor with SOHO (Space of Her Own).

Shardae' volunteers at "A Place at the Table" and ensures healthy foods are distributed to the community. She also volunteers at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences where she works with families teaching safe lab practices, and serves as a host to a litany of events that are held there.

An active member of Virginia State Alumni Association, Shardae' serves as the National Board Liaison for VSUAA-GTAC as the chapter representative to the VSUAA Board of Directors. She also serves as the Recruitment Committee Chair to the VSUAA Board of Directors and is also a member of the Powell Society. In her spare time, Shardae' enjoys interior decorating, planning events, reading, styling, traveling, learning about other cultures, modeling, photography, and the arts.

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Shawna Brown



Shawna Brown is a 2012 graduate, with a Bachelors of Fine Arts degree, concentration in web graphics. She is the third generation to receive a degree at Virginia State University. While at VSU, Shawna managed to balance classwork and social organizations as she became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in 2010 and was the president of the campus group of the American Institute of Graphic Arts in 2011.

While employed at VSU as a web developer for web services, Shawna assisted with rebranding the University website. She has also successfully developed and designed several major brands for the university such as;

"Out in 4", The University Identification Card, VSU Information Technology Brand "We Make IT Work", University Charging Stations and President Abdullah Inauguration Banners.

Shawna resides in Richmond, Virginia where she works for the Department of Housing and Community Development as the State Agency Graphics & Web Designer. In one of her many roles at the agency, she has successfully designed for the 2018 & 2019 Virginia's Governor Housing Conference and currently planning on the designing for the 2020 Virginia Governor's Housing Conference scheduled for this fall.

In other activities, Shawna was a part of the YardTalk101 team as a designer helping developed the company website and special flyers for the social media platform to raise awareness about going to a HBCU. She continued to pursue art in her spare time and became a PaintNite Instructor in the Richmond Area for a local company in 2017. To view some of her designs, please view her portfolio at http://www.shawnabrown.net.

Jason Daniels



Jason Daniels is a May 2018 graduate of the Virginia State University. Jason graduated with honors while obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and a minor in Mathematics. During his tenure at VSU, Jason held the roles of Mr. Langston, Freshman and Sophomore class senator, and Mr. NAACP. Jason helped to bring Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. back to the land of Troy, as a Spring 2016 initiate of the Alpha Alpha Alpha chapter. As a Sigma, Jason served as Chapter President, Step and Stroll Master, and a voting board member of VSU's NPHC. After graduation, Jason went to work with IBM in Washington, DC as a Federal Technology

Consultant. He has also chosen to pursue his Master of Business Administration at the University of Maryland.

Tarik A. Floyd



Washington, D.C. native, Tarik A. Floyd, graduated from Virginia State University (VSU) in 2016, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communications with an established foundation in Finance. Upon arriving to VSU as a transfer student, Tarik was eager to hit the ground running and make history for his family, literally. As a former collegiate athlete, his ambition and work ethic was unrivaled. He used his upbringing, what set him apart from the crowd and his uncanny ability to code switch as a springboard to "change the game" for minorities hailing from his hometown. After achieving a longstanding aspiration

of interning with Marcus and Millichap, Tarik was accepted into Harvard University's 2017 Leading Finance Program. The opportunity of working with clients and brokers unearthed a real passion for real estate and diverse business opportunities.

At the heart of his work ethic, Tarik desired to transform the image of success and to do so, he understood the significance of mentoring—both gifting and receiving. Tarik was granted the esteemed fortune of being mentored in sales by several accomplished figureheads. One, Stacey Milam, impressed the importance of diligence, character and navigating the precise balance of integrity, energy and tenacity in every effort made Tarik has honed his skillset to build strong relationships across the board to provide unprecedented service to clients and companies alike. Shortly thereafter, in 2019, Tarik launch his own private equity firm, "For The Fam" Investments (FTF). Through FTF, Tarik is committed to curating unconventional partnerships to pursue and procure real estate investments that mimic the same cosmopolitan synergy in urban communities that continue to revolutionize the world around us. Tarik has cultivated the core values of FTF Investments to mirror that which he credits his success—integrity, loyalty, authenticity, service and work ethic.

Lastly, Tarik acutely believes that society's multiple-handicaps have nothing to do with you or your future. Personal success is attainable, and hard work is a character trait in progress. Tarik A. Floyd, CEO of FTF Investments, came to VSU as a transfer student, but left as a TROJAN.

Tiffany Gullins



Tiffany Gullins, is a native of Virginia Beach, VA and began her VSU journey in August 2010. Tiffany majored in Business Marketing and received her Bachelors of Science in May 2014. Currently she is employed with Enterprise Rent-A-Car and a member of the Chesterfield Chapter of the VSU Alumni Association serving as the Chair of Marketing and Communications. Currently, she is enrolled in the graduate double program at Virginia State, receiving her

Graduate Certificate in Project Management, CAPM, and will be completing her Masters of Arts in Economics by May 2020.

Everette Jackson, Jr.



Everette Jackson, Jr. is a 2011 graduate of Virginia State University; graduated with a bachelor's degree in Mass Communications. While at VSU, he was a member of the Betterment of Brothers and Sisters organization where he served as President his senior year, a member of the Mass Communications Club and Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society. After attending VSU, he went on to obtain his Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree from University of Baltimore.

Everette offers over 7 years in post-secondary education and training experience. He currently works as the State Approving Agency (SAA)

Compliance Specialist for the D.C. Higher Education Licensure Commission, which serves as the D.C. State Approving Agency (DC SAA) for veterans' education benefits. His background in higher education is extensive with a focus on GI Bill® education programs.

An active member of the Virginia State University Alumni Association (VSUAA), Everette serves as the President, of the Betterment of Brothers and Sisters Alumni Association Incorporated (BBSIncAA). This organization serves as a professional chapter within VSUAA and Everette is one of the founding members. Through his work with BBSIncAA, Everette hopes to grow the chapter and encourage alumni to give back to the university and complete philanthropic endeavors post-graduation.

Everette embraces the concept of servant leadership, in hopes to set practices and impact policies that enrich the lives of individuals to benefit and foster a more caring world. He believes this is integral in

his daily work supporting veterans in the higher education space and to the community he serves through BBSIncAA.

N'Dea B. Jackson



N'Dea B. Jackson graduated summa cum laude from Virginia State University in May 2018 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Engineering and a minor in Mathematics. While completing her undergraduate studies at VSU, N'Dea was an active force in her campus community, involved in various academic, volunteer, and social organizations including: The National Society of Black Engineers, Kappa Mu Epsilon Mathematics Honors Society, study abroad, as well as both the Trojan Introduction and Trojan Leadership Programs. She served her university in positions such as Student Government Association Vice President of Academic Affairs (2016-2018) and

was a Presidential STEM Scholar in the Honors Program. N'Dea was also initiated as a member of the Alpha Eta chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Upon graduating, N'Dea accepted a full-time offer with IBM as a Technical Solution Specialist in the Summit Program. Through this position, N'Dea continues to give back to her beloved Alma Mater by aiding students in securing internships and full-time offers, preparing the next generation for greatness.

ENS Cody E. Mitchell



ENS Cody E. Mitchell is a 2018, summa cum laude, graduate from Virginia State University, VSU, with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. While attending VSU, he was initiated into the Alpha Phi (E) Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. and was the Student Government Association President and Student Representative on the Board of Visitors, 2017-2018. ENS Mitchell is a lifetime member of Virginia State University's Alumni Association and strong advocate to giving back to his Alma Mater. He is a member of the Virginia State University Powell Society and is a fiscal year 2019 and 2020 University Club Donor with VSU.

Upon graduation at VSU, ENS Mitchell reported to United States Coast Guard Officer Candidate School, OCS, in New London, Connecticut. He is currently stationed

on USCGC KIMBALL, a 418ft National Security Cutter, homeported in Honolulu, Hawaii. He is a Deck Watch Officer and Law Enforcement Division Officer.

Other organizations of which ENS Mitchell is a member include Mt. Nebo #43 Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons, Inc., Golden Key International Honor Society, Alpha Phi Sigma National Criminal Justice Honor Society, Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society, National Society of Leadership and Success, Association of Naval Service Officers, and National Naval Officers Association.

ENS Cody E. Mitchell is a native of Douglassville, Pennsylvania and is the son of Brian and Stefani Mitchell.

Frednesha Sanders



Frednesha Sanders is a high performing Senior Consultant in Risk and Financial Advisory at Deloitte, and she travels around the country to help leading healthcare companies save money through revenue optimization strategies. She is an active member of the National Association of Black Accountants, and she served as the 2019 Ms. Charlotte, NC Corporate America. Frednesha is an Advisory Board Member of A LOTT of Sista Love Inc., a faith-based women's

empowerment group. Under this organization, she moderated Girlz at the Gate and started a mission-driven group at Virginia State University (VSU) where she encouraged others to walk and pray on campus at 5:30 am. The organization was featured on NBC12 news, promoted by VSU through a professional YouTube video, and recognized as the 2016 Student Organization of the Year by HBCU Digest.

Frednesha modeled in New York Fashion Week, was a debutante, served as Miss Virginia State University 1st Runner-up, and she aspires to serve as Miss USA. She recently won the People's Choice Award and placed in the Top 10 for the Miss North Carolina USA pageant. Frednesha graduated from Virginia State University as the highest-ranking student in the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business, and she is a Harvard Business School SVMP Alumna. Frednesha resides in Charlotte, North Carolina and enjoys mentoring college students, teaching others about finance, and traveling around the world.

Joshua Ruffin



Joshua Ruffin, a native of Wilson, NC, is a May 2019 graduate of Virginia State University with a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice. While attending VSU, Joshua served as Graduate Residence Coordinator in the Department of Residence Life & Housing, President of Alpha Phi Sigma National Criminal Justice Honor Society, President of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice, and a First-Generation Mentor for the Thurgood Marshall College Fund. After completing his studies at VSU, Joshua received the Outstanding Masters Student Award from the Southern Criminal Justice Association at the 2019 annual conference in Nashville, TN.

Joshua currently resides in Norfolk, VA where he is pursuing a Ph.D. in Criminology & Criminal Justice (social inequality and public policy) at Old Dominion University. In addition, he is employed as an Instructor in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at ODU and is a member of the First-Generation Faculty Mentor Program. Aside from this, Joshua spends his time researching areas surrounding police-citizen encounters, corrections, re-entry, and juvenile crime prevention and presents new research, each year, at professional conferences including the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice, American Society of Criminology, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, and the Southern Criminal Justice Association.

Upon graduating, Joshua hopes to be a full-time professor at a Historically Black College or University. In the future, Joshua hopes to start a scholarship fund at both Elizabeth City State University and Virginia State University for first-generation male students pursuing an undergraduate degree in the humanities and social sciences.

Joshua holds active memberships in Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band Fraternity, Inc. and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Shai West



Shai West is proud graduate of the Virginia State University class of 2017. Shai holds a Bachelor of Arts in History with an Endorsement in Spanish. While attending Virginia State University, she was a member of several clubs and organizations to include Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., The Honors Program, The NAACP, Phi Alpha Theta History Honors Society, Thurgood Marshall College Fund, and the Student Government Association. She served as Student Government Association President Fall of 2016 through the spring of 2017. Her diligent and creative executive board created initiatives that remain today

to include The Culture Tour, The Student Organization Office, the singing of The Negro Anthem during athletic game openings and more.

Upon graduating, Shai accepted an offer from Dominion Energy and currently works as a Project Designer. She is also the founder and owner of Shai West & Company, LLC - a life coaching organization whose purpose is to serve millennial college graduates in their efforts to build a better reality. The company's areas of focus include financial literacy and independence, emotional intelligence and wellness, and career readiness and fulfillment. Shai is also a member of the VSU NoVa Alumni Association and serves as a VSU NoVa Chapter representative for the HBCU Alliance. In the future, Shai plans to create a scholarship for VSU students, write financial literacy children's books, and become a real estate and business mogul. She one day hopes to open global-learning schools for African and Asian, and South American orphans.