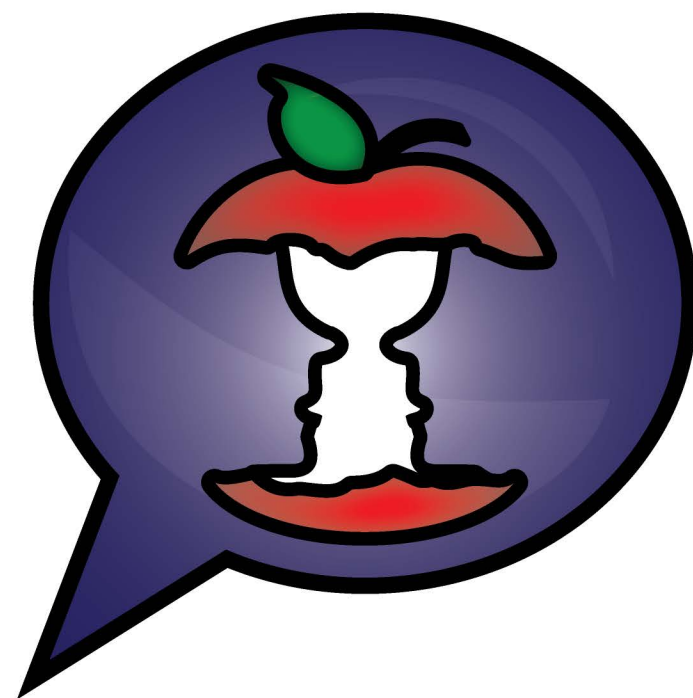
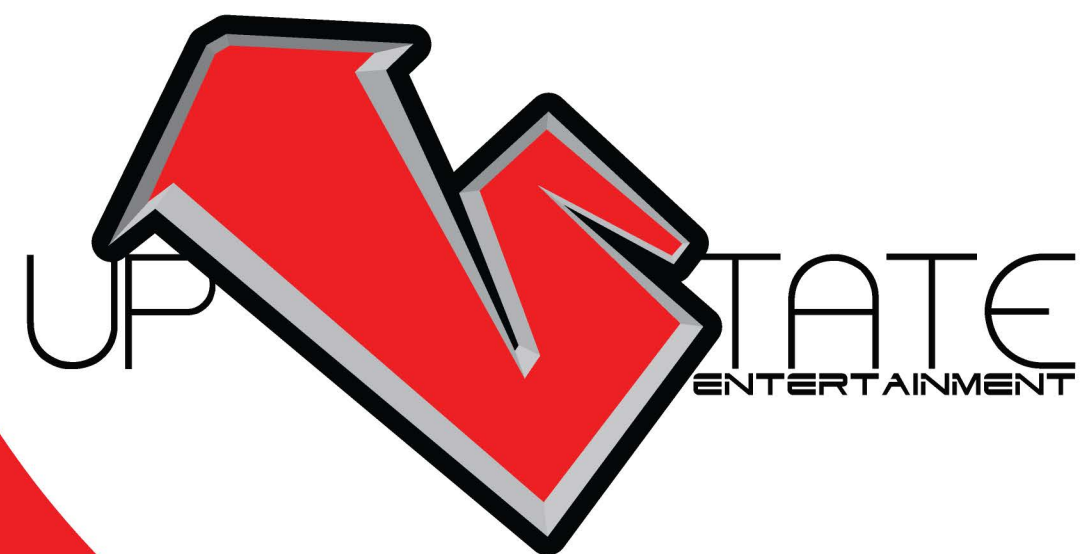
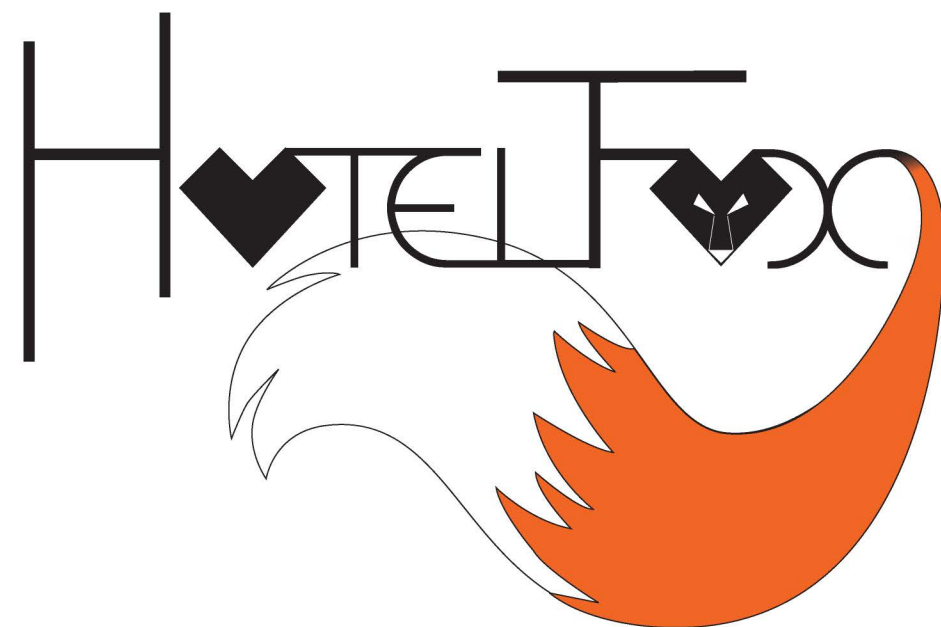
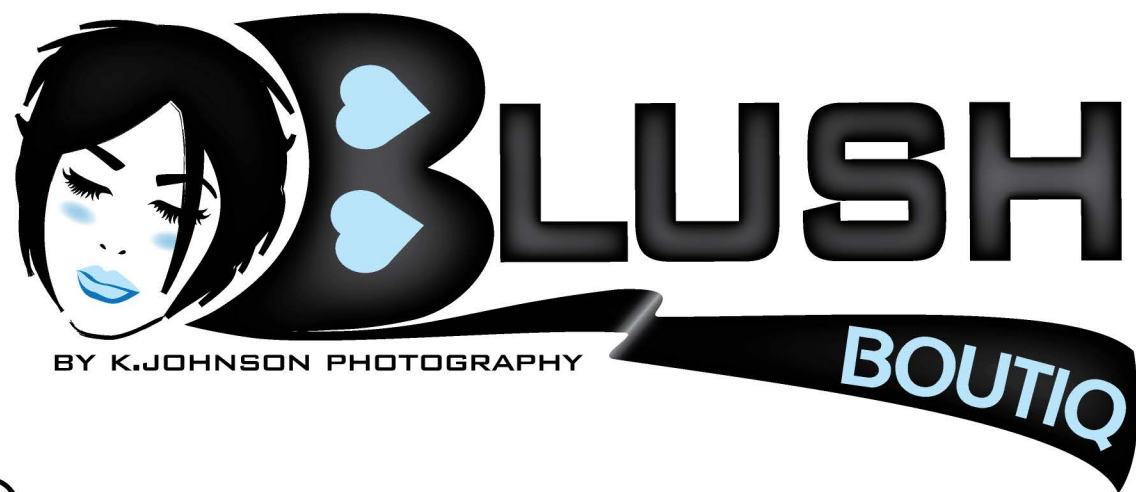


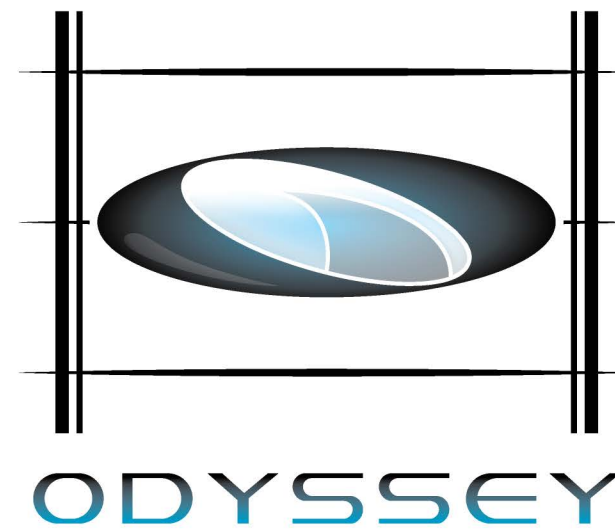
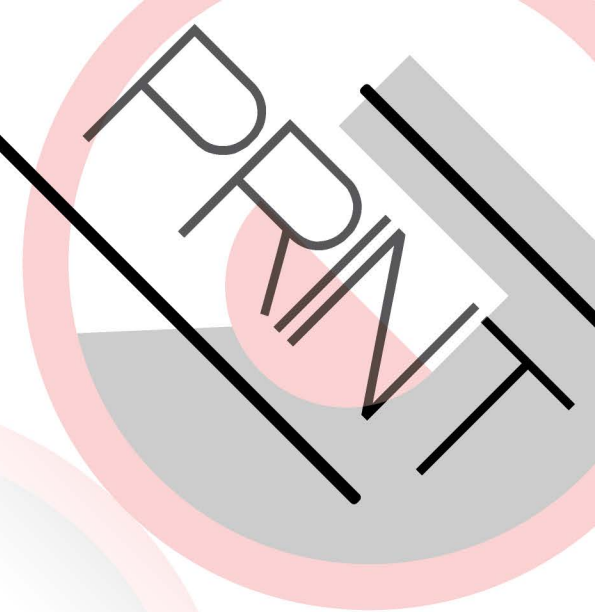
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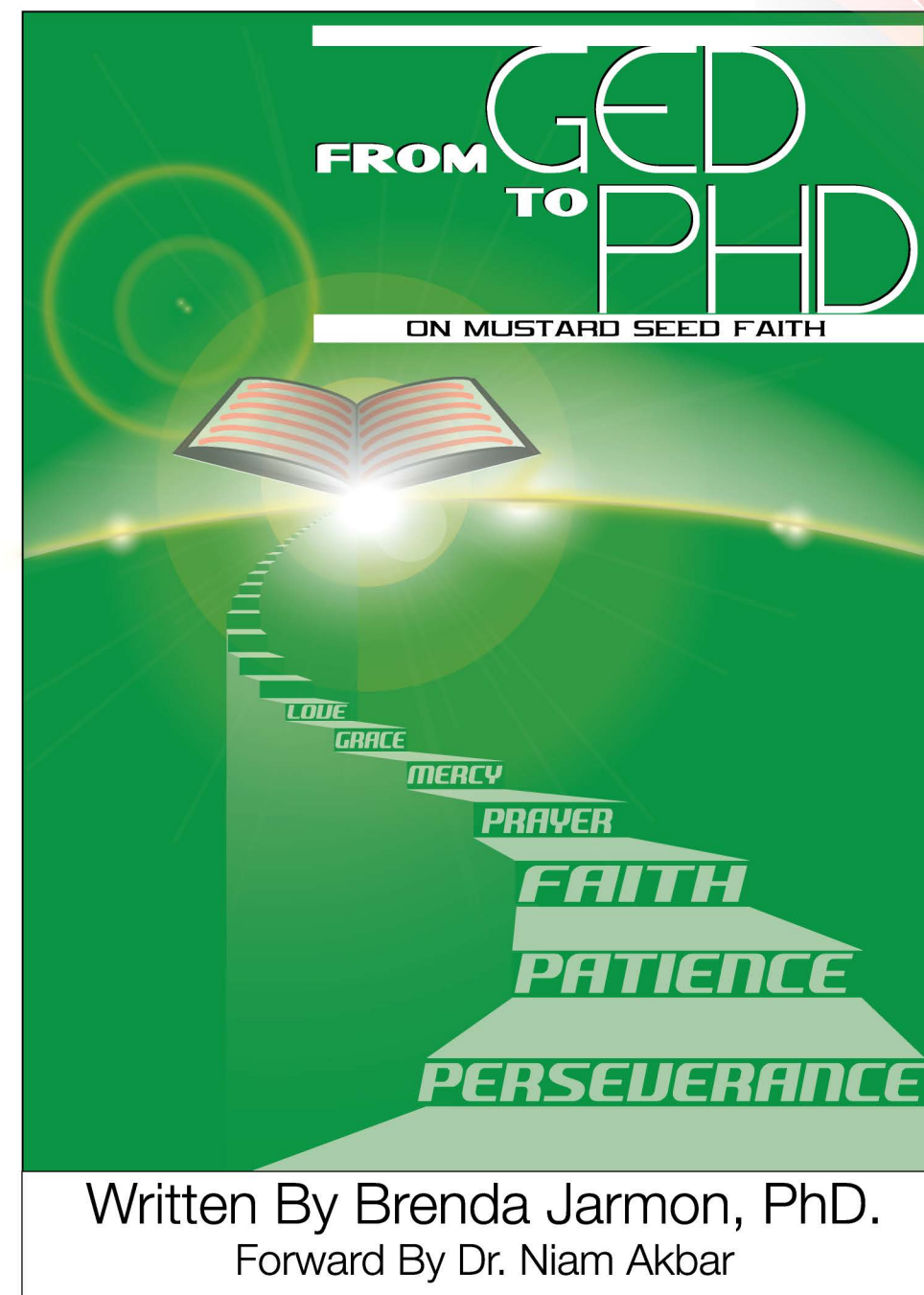
THE Food Conversation



LOGOS



ILLUSTRATIONS



ILLUSTRATIONS



LAYOUTS







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**RETENTION**  
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**RELATIONS**  
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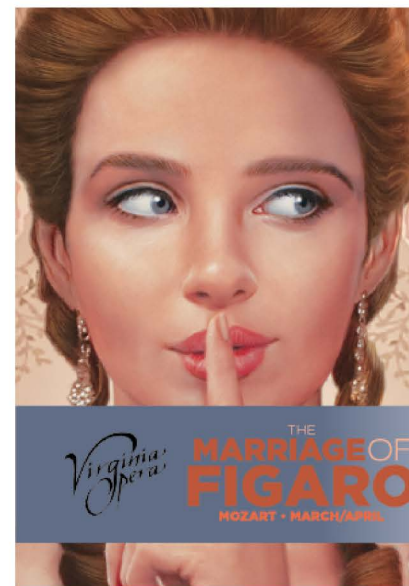


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## FAMU AND FLORIDA FAMILY NETWORK TO FIGHT CHILD OBESITY IN TALLAHASSEE

Florida A&M University's (FAMU) Institute of Public Health (IPH) in the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (CoPPS) is receiving an \$80,000 grant from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida's (BCBSF) Foundation, The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida. According to IPH professor and director, **Cynthia M. Harris, Ph.D., DABT**, the project is designed to build a multisectoral coalition in Leon County to address childhood obesity.

Pharmacy professor and Acting VP for Research, **K. Ken Redda, Ph.D.**, said, "We are excited that one of our productive principal investigators (PIs), Dr. Cynthia M. Harris, will be funded for the 'Healthy Children! Healthy Future! Healthy Tallahassee! Hope thru Childhood Obesity Prevention Education (COPE) Coalition' Project. The FAMU Division of Research will provide the

PI full support and cooperation in executing this grant, and assures the BCBSF Foundation's confidence in its selecting FAMU as a good steward of this gift."

Pharmacy Dean **Henry Lewis III, PharmD**, indicated, "this is another significant collaboration between BCBSF and the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. The BCBSF Auditorium, is funded by Blue Cross and Blue Shield, and located in the New Pharmacy Building, has provided the venue for thousands of students, faculty, staff and the community at large to receive education and health information provided by the numerous programs that have been hosted in the Auditorium."

Dr. Harris is encouraged by the impact this award will bring to the community. "We are very excited about this award and the wonderful collaboration of partners united to combat childhood obesity in Leon County," said Harris.

Tallahassee is one of five Florida cities collaborating with The Blue Foundation through Embrace a Healthy Florida - The Blue Foundation's childhood obesity initiative.

"Childhood obesity's widespread threat to children, families, communities and the health care system compels us to take action," said Susan Towler, vice president, The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida. "Through Embrace a Healthy Florida, we hope to work side-by-side with the Tallahassee coalition to stop the epidemic before more of our children develop diabetes, heart disease and other obesity-related health problems."

These concerted efforts may help to parallel and promote similar endeavors in Jacksonville, Orlando, Tampa and Miami.



The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida, Inc. is a separate, philanthropic affiliate of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida (BCBSF) incorporated in the state of Florida. The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida, and its parent, BCBSF, are independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies. For more information on The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida, please visit [www.bluefoundationfl.com](http://www.bluefoundationfl.com).

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# THE LEGACY OF DR. VICTORIA E. WARNER

Rona Thompson, M.S.W.

Excerpted from the Council On Social Work Education:

Dr. Victoria Efferson Warner, a retired Florida A&M University professor and founder of the Department of Social Work, passed away over the summer of 2006 after a short illness. Dr. Warner was born and practically raised on the campus of Florida A&M. She lived the life of a social worker; she was a friend to those in need and cherished the opportunities to be of service to others. She was not only a professor, but also a counselor to hundreds of students at Florida A&M University. She has touched the lives of many students and faculty members who have been privileged to be in her presence and has played a key role in shaping them into the professionals they have grown to be.

"Dr. Warner was an amazing educator and mentor." Dr. Hych-Jackson said, the Interim Director of the Masters of Social Work program and former student of Dr. Warner. "She was a strong vibrant woman, whose presence was felt by anyone who she came into contact with her, whether it was direct or indirect; everyone knew who she was." She was very special to me; she influenced me to become a social worker. Therefore, she guided me in that direction."

"I met Dr. Warner at Career Day at my high school," Dr. Harris said, a Social Work professor and a former student of Dr. Warner from the University of Washington. "It was very interesting that I met Dr. Warner because there was no question about me going to college. I just didn't know what career path I was going to take. My father told me I had to become a teacher, nurse, or social worker. I didn't want to become a teacher and I certainly didn't want to become a nurse, and to be honest, I didn't know what a social worker was. At Career Day, Dr. Warner talked about the social work profession and I



RATTLER CONNECTIONS

## VISIONARY AND FOUNDER OF SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION AT FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY

decided I was going to attend Florida A&M University and become a social worker.

After graduating from Florida A&M University, and Atlanta University School of Social Work, Dr. Warner was hired in 1950 to teach the first social work course ever offered at FAMU. Along with social work courses, she taught required Sociology courses. "As a teacher, she made the classroom come alive and with her skills and knowledge, she helped us visualize what the real world was like. She gave us understanding," says Dr. Hych-Jackson. "From Dr. Warner, I learned how to be a professional," says Dr. Harris. "I learned different types of practice situations and populations that one could work with in social work." "Dr. Warner taught me patience, understanding, and tolerance of other people," says La Lisa Shudder, a Correctional Officer in New York, who is a former social work student Dr. Warner advised. "She was always being helpful and never saying no, she wanted us to be over achievers."

Dr. Warner successfully petitioned the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) to recognize undergraduate social work. Therefore, a Bachelor's degree in social work was first offered in 1997 under the outstanding leadership of Dr. Victoria Warner. Dr. Warner then became the director of the program in social work to chair of Department of Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Social Work, and finally chair of the Department of Social Work. Under her direction, the program achieved departmental status in the FY 1990-91 academic year. She then envisioned a master's degree in social work at Florida A&M University and took steps within the University and CSWE to make her dream a reality. "Social work was her brainchild," says Dr. Hych-Jackson. "It was her hard work and deter-

mination that made this happen."

In the year of 1997, when she retired, Dr. Warner accomplished her goal and the MSW program was established in the 1997-98 academic year. The MSW program prepares students to solve human, organizational, policy and social problems, particularly those affecting improvised and historically oppressed communities.

Not only did Dr. Warner touch the lives of her students but also the lives of her co-workers. "She was an individual that was always helping students, I seen her many times write a check because a student needed books or needed some kind of financial help," says Mary Howard, office manager for the department of Social Work, who was Dr. Warner's office manager in the late 80's. "She was just a very caring compassionate true social worker and a very laid back and soft spoken person; Dr. Warner taught me a lot about history and how to keep track of files that contained history. I still have addresses of social work graduates from 1979 to present", says Howard. "One a more personal note, Dr. Warner was like a second mother to me."

"As I worked on my Doctoral at Florida State, I didn't want to just go to school, I needed a job, even though I was funded by the McKnight program someone suggested that I go and talk to Dr. Warner who was the chair of the department of social work", Dr. Brenda Jamon who is now the chairperson of the department of social work.

"When I first met her, I found her to be a warm intriguing person who was very open and very excited about my resume and that I was a McKnight fellow," says Dr. Jamon.

"By the fall of 87, I was an adjunct professor under Dr. Warner and I learned so much from her, different teaching techniques, working with students and how to advise them," says Jamon.



LAYOUTS



**JAMES** Bland

Strong. Determined. Fearless. Any young man would be proud to be described as such. But not every man deserves such accolades. James Bland, however, lives up to and surpasses these characteristics.

While everyone dreams, not everyone takes their dreams seriously. They believe their dreams are just that, lofty ideals that will remain unattainable visions. Bland rebels against that conformity. Instead of just dreaming, he produced a movie titled *Dreaming in Color*. Living in Los Angeles, among other aspiring artists, this product of hard work is earning him respect in the world of filmmaking.

"I thought I would have come to LA and be behind because I didn't go to film school and didn't study theatre," Bland said. "I found that I was actually ahead of people because I had completed my own feature length film."

*Dreaming in Color*, which premiered in 2008, actually started as a short play inspired by the death of his cousin Devon Hayes.

"We grew up in the church together," Bland recalled. "Devon was my partner in crime when it came to performing plays in my church."

Sadly, Hayes died of a malignant brain tumor during Bland's freshman year of college at Florida A&M University. The play, which was dedicated to and inspired by Hayes, was called *Amazing Grace*. In the play, Grace — based on Devon — impacts the lives of the people around her and eventually dies of cancer. Unlike the movie, the play was never produced.

Whitney Reed, 23, played the role of Grace in the movie.

"My character just showed people that they could live out their dreams and always do what you know you were set on in this earth to do," Reed said.

Although Reed felt a lot of pressure playing the main character in

Dreaming in Color, a role she didn't intend to audition for, she felt honored to portray someone so close to Devon's heart.

"Grace is similar [to me] because no matter what anyone tells her she is going to do what she knows is right in her heart," Reed said.

Currently Reed is in California pursuing her dream, music and entertainment. While playing Grace and developing a greater understanding of the character, Reed learned an important lesson: Anything is possible.

"You never know what life you can change just by showing others the gift that God has given you," she said.

Bland exemplified both faith and fervor by packing his belongings and moving to LA without so much as a job, a car, or any family in the area. Aside from the clothes on his back, all Bland had was his gift.

"I feel like, granted, times right now are hard but James has the favor of God on his side," Monique said. "Not only does he have creative ability but he has faith."

As a child, Bland always showed his creative and artistic side to his family. He would spend all day creating talent shows for his family. Monique Bland, James' sister, remembers participating in the events alongside her big brother.

"He'd always want to put together a talent show for Mother's Day or Father's Day," Monique said. "He'd want to present them with it as a gift. He'd design the costumes, make up the program and everything."

At church, he wrote, directed and produced plays. But at that time, James had no idea that his skills and talents would lead him to LA to be an actor and

film maker. Monique is not surprised by her brother's aspirations.

"He's always had creative ideas," Monique said. "Growing up, I always saw him being in something where he could use his creative talents."

And now, James can't see himself in another career field.

"If I wasn't a film maker, I would probably be a filmmaker," he said proudly. "For me, there is no back up plan."

In addition to film, James intends to pursue a career in acting. He admires the likes of Tyler Perry and Spike Lee who write, direct, produce, and perform. The difference is however, he does not want to perform in his own work. James truly believes in staying true to the art in order to create a better product. Separating himself from his work, affords him the opportunity to do just that.

Staying true to the craft also involves taking classes, reading appropriate literature, and studying other films — all of which James is doing.

"If I wasn't a film maker, I would probably be a filmmaker," he said proudly. "For me, there is no back up plan."

**ESI** NEWS
 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES INSTITUTE  
at FLORIDA A & M UNIVERSITY

Vol. 1 Issue 4
 Spring/Summer 2007

ESI Shines at Rattler Pride Awards

ESI students made a strong showing at the 2007 Bernard D. Hendricks "Rattler Pride" Awards. Of the 8 award categories which recognized outstanding leadership and performance, ESI students came away with four.

"That is indeed phenomenal," states Henry N. Williams, Director. "ESI, perhaps the smallest academic unit on the campus, had more award winners than any other school or college." Toni-Ann Hylton, a graduating senior, won the Bernard D. Hendricks Student Leadership Award, winning over popular SGA President Phillip Agnew. "When I saw his name in the same category, I knew I didn't stand a chance," stated Ms. Hylton. "Phillip is a great student leader and his role as president of SGA provides many platforms for public interactions." Ms. Hylton attributes her award to the "very flattering" nomination submitted by ESI

Academic Advisor, Jacqueline D. Hightower. "Mrs. Hightower really captured the essence of everything that I've done and added some really nice sentiments about me. I am really grateful that she took the time to nominate me." Other winners were: Sherrita Conney, Outstanding Sophomore; Aaron White, Outstanding Graduate Student; and Ariana Marshal, Rattler Community Leadership Award. ESI junior Jessica Wise was also nominated. "I think this speaks so much about ESI and the quality of our students," said Dr. Williams. "Now others know what we've known all along - all of ESI students are winners."

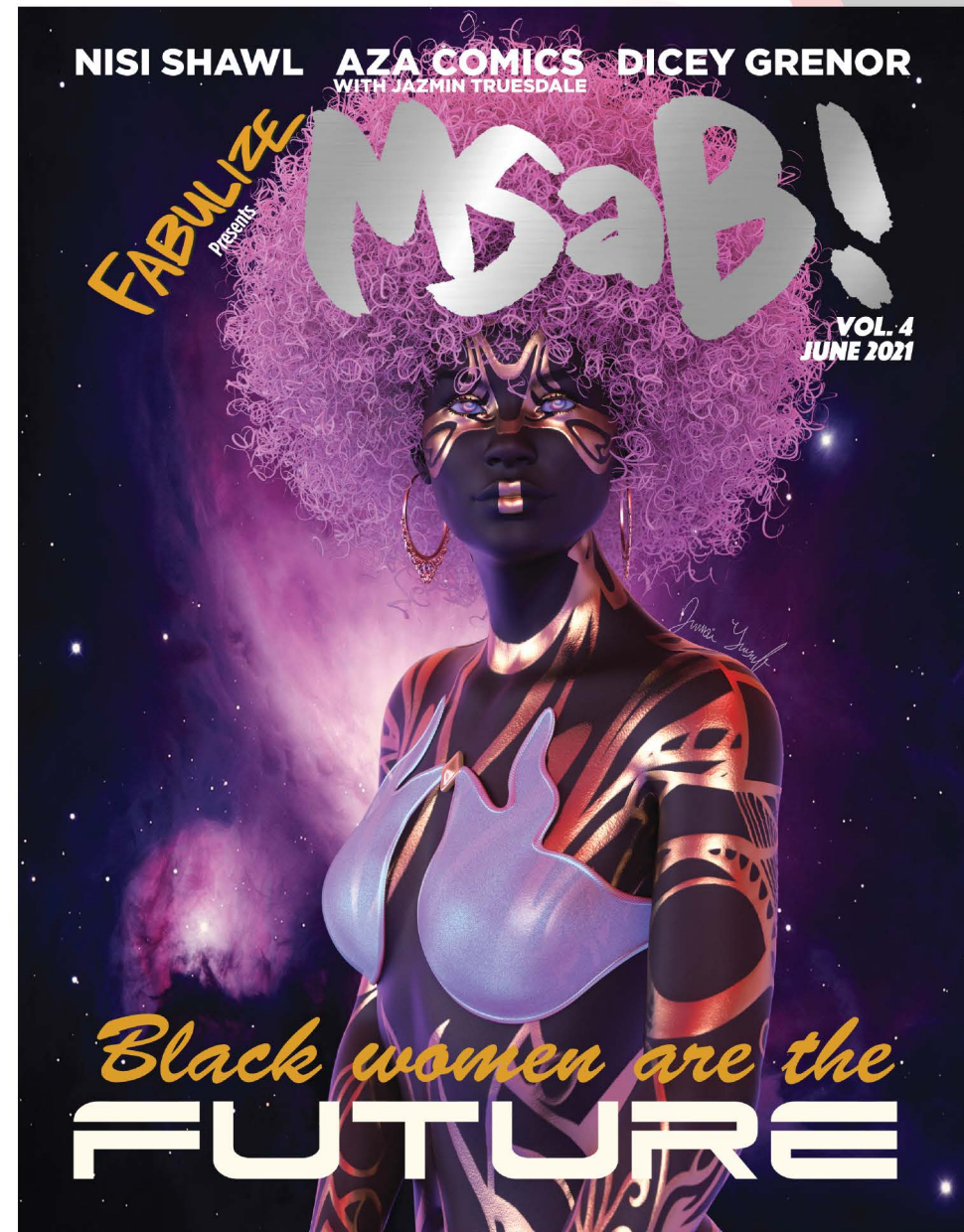
**FAMU TAPP**  
RAIN GARDEN  
MEDIA DAY

(See Rain Garden on page 7)

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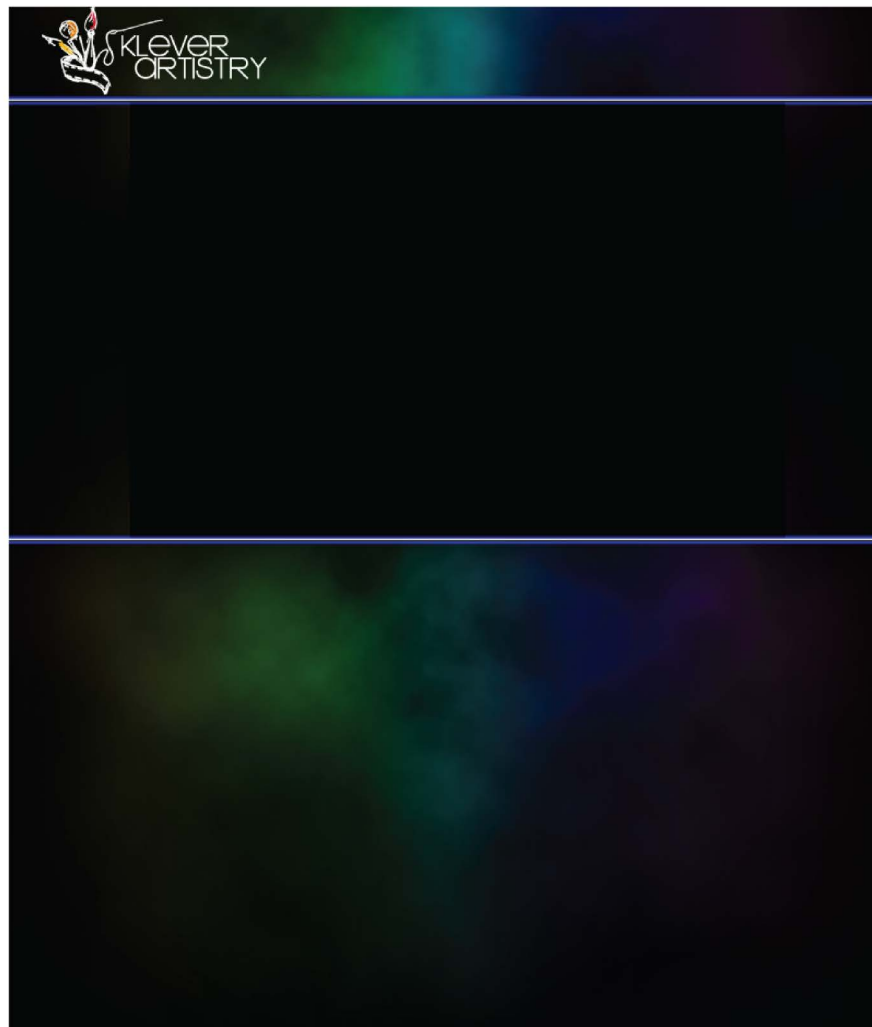
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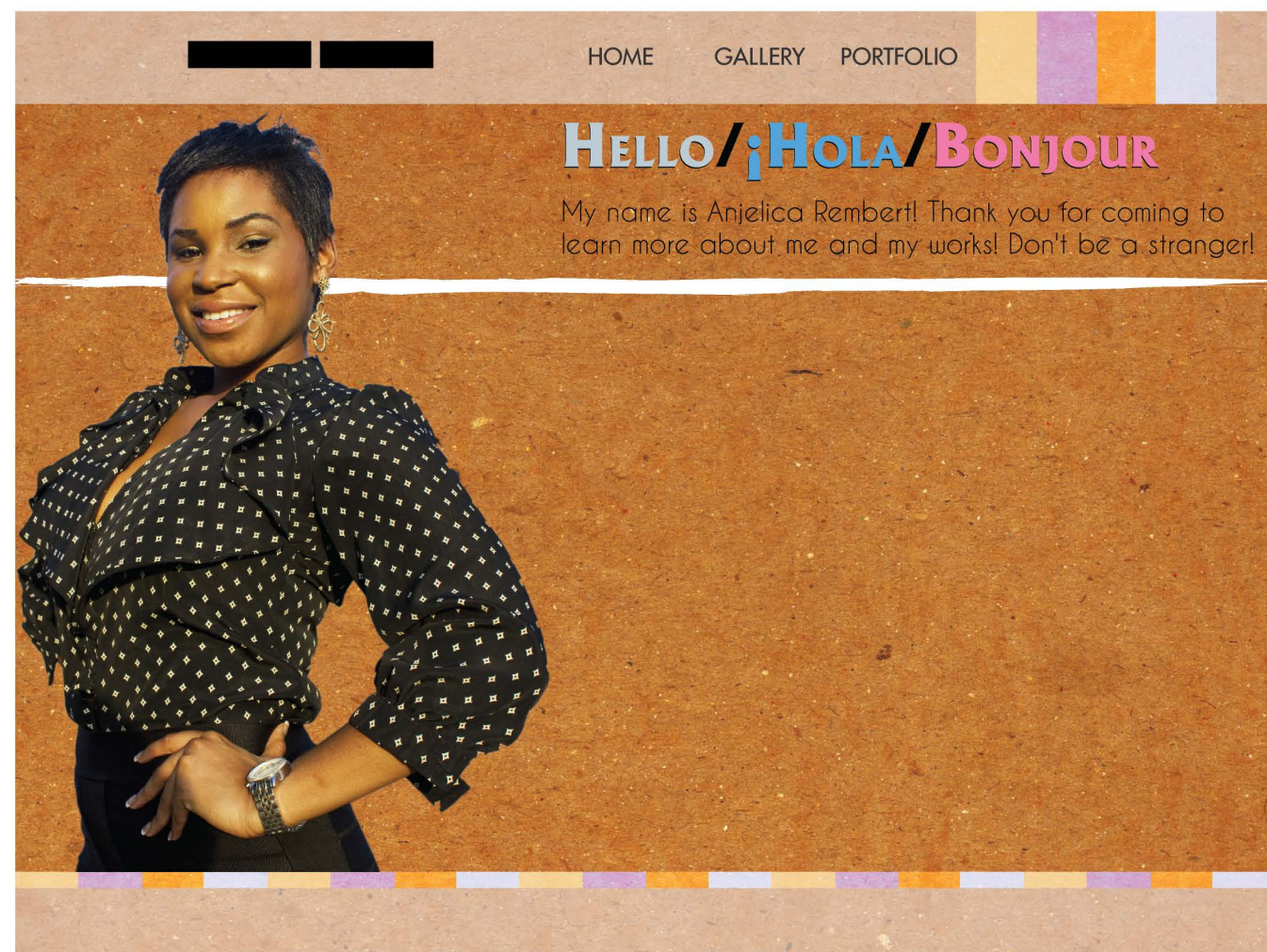
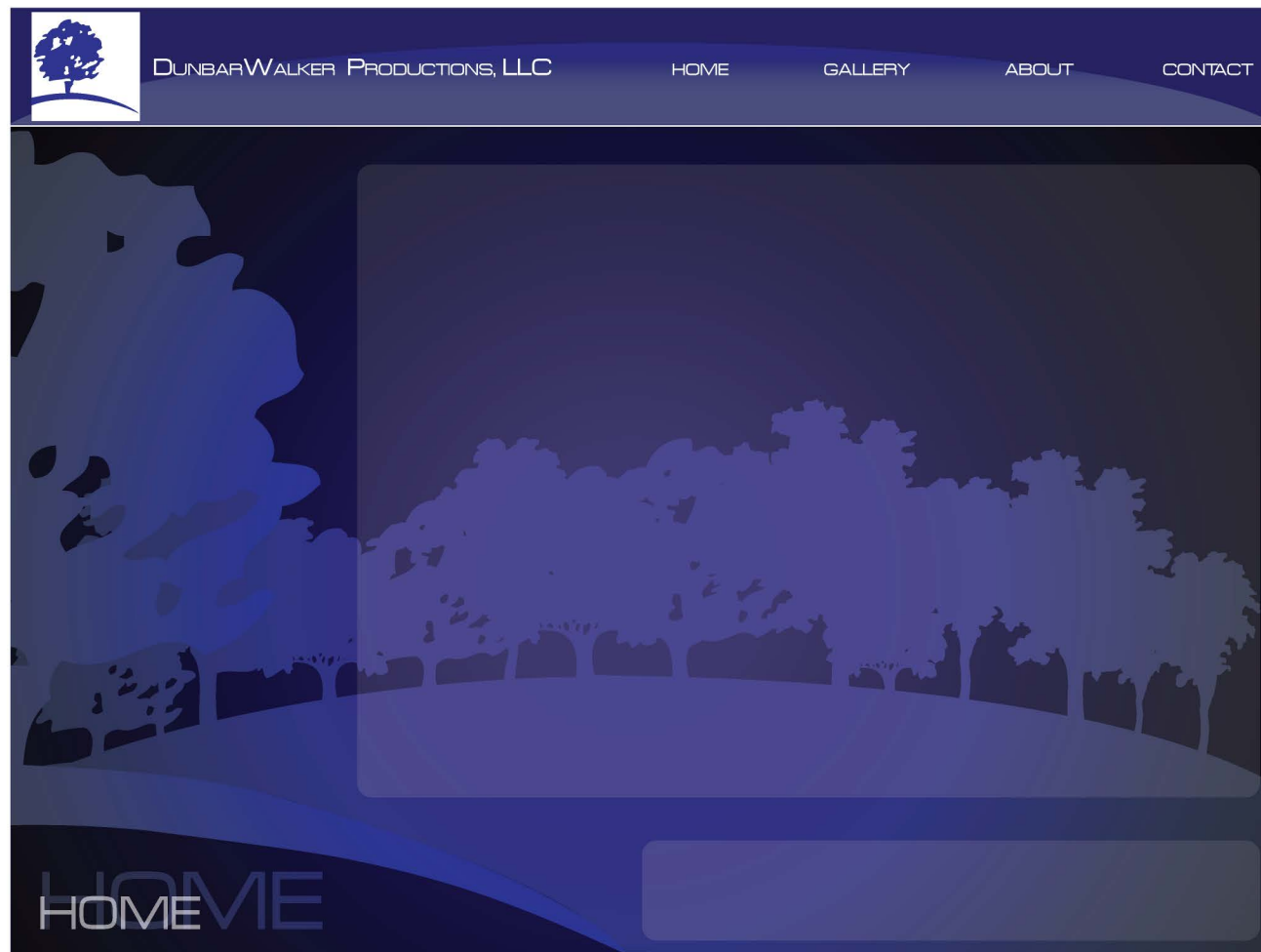


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DESIGNS

# LAYOUTS



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