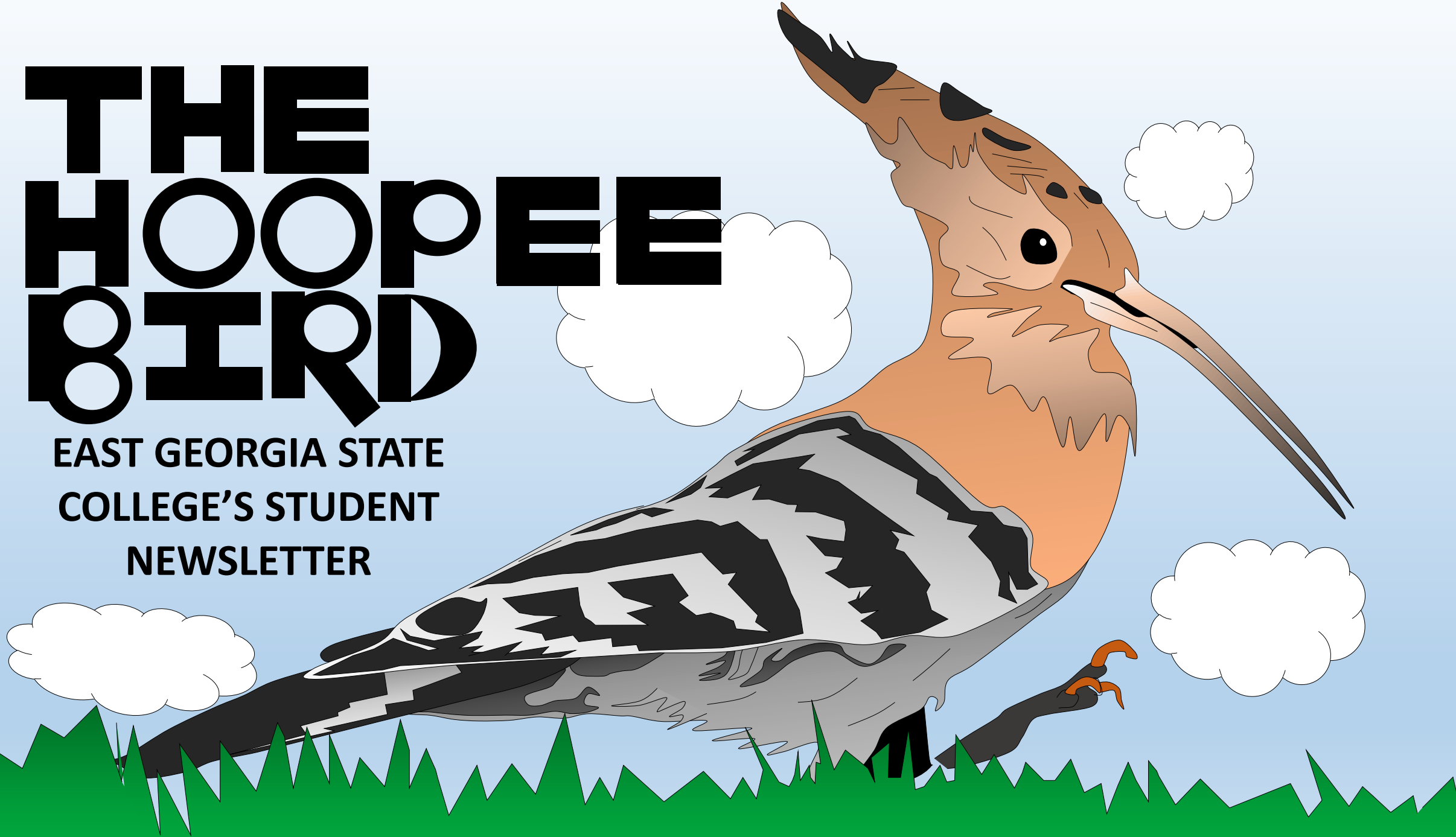


THE HOOP E E BIRD

EAST GEORGIA STATE
COLLEGE'S STUDENT
NEWSLETTER



Hello, my name is Jason Walter, and I am a full-time instructor of English at East Georgia State College on Augusta University's Summerville Campus.

It is an absolute honor to have been granted the task of managing East Georgia's newsletter The Hoopee Bird, and I'd like to thank James Brady, Christian Kraus, Nick Kelch, Courtney Joiner, Ren Cordova, Krystal Hayes, Caroline Jackson, Annis Rassekh, John Colston, Essence Jackson, Jayden Thomas, and Yasmine Leon for all of their incredible contributions to this issue.

I'm working on publishing four issues a year, so if you're an East Georgia student, then please consider submitting:

- *interviews with EGSC faculty, students, professors, or administrators
- *articles about anything related to the EGSC community, including events on campus or the culture of our school in general
- *surveys or polls in which you ask East Georgia students about how to improve the East Georgia experience
- *personal testimonies about the East Georgia experience from you or other students

Email your work to jwalter@ega.edu to be featured in the Spring 2022 issue of The Hoopee Bird.



Professor Spotlight Interview by Caroline Jackson

Caroline: I had the pleasure of interviewing my English professor Mr. Walter. Jason Allen Walter obtained his B.A. in English literature from Clemson University in 2004 and his M.A. in English literature from Clemson University in 2006. He has taught at Clemson University, Seneca High School, and University of South Carolina in Aiken. He is a full-time English professor at East Georgia State College. In addition to over ten years of teaching experience, Walter has written and drawn several graphic novels; he has written, voiced, and animated eight episodes of an animated cartoon; and he has released numerous records of underground music.

Caroline: Who are your top 3 favorite authors?

Professor Walter: For the past year, I've been going down a rabbit hole of audio books about music scenes. It all started last summer when I listened to *Our Band Could Be Your Life* by Michael Azerrad. This past summer, I also listened to Azerrad's book about the band Nirvana called *Come As You Are*. He's definitely at the top of my list, but I would also include Grace Elizabeth Hale because her book *Cool Town* about the music and culture of Athens, Georgia is one of the best books that I have ever read about the South. My third favorite author right now is Lizzy Goodman because her book *Meet Me in the Bathroom* about NYC's indie rock scene between 2000 and 2010 is incredible as well. The Strokes were one of my favorite bands when I was in college, and I loved reading about the behind-the-scenes fanfare about that entire music scene.

Caroline: What inspired you to start teaching?

Professor Walter: For as long as I can remember, I have loved reading. By the time I was in high school, I was reading Shakespeare and Sophocles for fun. Going to college was a complete joy for me because reading and writing became my workload, but I also had the opportunity to play in bands and occasionally make art.

I have always loved the college environment because I don't think there's more of an intellectually-stimulating environment than a college campus. Being able to talk about literature as part of my job while also having the free-time to write creatively, record and perform music, and make art is a circumstance that's unique to academia. Living off of one's Art is extremely difficult, but teaching has allowed me to have the best of both worlds.

Caroline: What mistakes have you noticed students make?

Professor Walter: Using vague pronouns in writing is definitely by far the biggest problem I notice in students' writing. Students tend not to include the names of characters when they're writing about literature, and thus, it's difficult for a reader to understand what students are talking about.

Caroline: What is the most challenging aspect about teaching?

Professor Walter: For me, the most challenging aspect about teaching is keeping students from playing on their cell phones during class. I'm starting to learn, however, to implement cell phones as a teaching tool in my class instead of having a zero tolerance policy with them. The quarantine is partly responsible for my newfound approach to cell phones in class, and I think as time goes on, I'm going to be able to get my students to use their phones primarily for the classwork we're doing during the period instead of the devices being a major distraction from learning.

Caroline: What is the easiest aspect about teaching?

Professor Walter: For me, the easiest aspect part of teaching is the in-class discussions. I feel like I'm a pretty social individual, and literature is one of the greatest ice breakers, so I don't think it's terribly difficult for me to talk about literature while also sparking conversation among my students. I feel like getting to have in-class English discussions is like getting to have a

well-organized conversation among a large group of friends, and it's a lot of fun to get to hear people's different perspectives on the variety of interesting topics that literature generates.

Caroline: What five qualities do students need to succeed in college?

Professor Walter: I defer to Angela Duckworth's research on the five qualities that students need to succeed in college that she discusses in-depth in her book *Grit*. First off, students need to put in the hard work. Time and hard work definitely make a big difference when you're in college.

Secondly, students need to put what they're learning into practice. Students need to practice what they learn. If you study for a long time and make a good grade on your test, you might still forget what you learned after the fact if you don't practice or put the knowledge to use. For example, I took an Art History class in college; because of what I learned in the Art History class, I was able to be an unofficial tour guide for my parents when it came to Roman architecture.

Thirdly, students need to be interested in their classes. If you register for classes that are about subjects you're not interested in, then there's no way that you're going to care enough to do well in the class. When I took a Rock 'n' Roll class in college, I was really into it. Definitely make sure to take classes that are about subjects you're interested in opposed to taking them for reasons like wanting to get an easy "A." College is all about learning new things, and people definitely don't learn if they don't care about the topics they're supposed to be studying.

Fourthly, utilizing a community is a major factor to college success. If you surround yourself with a bunch of college students who enjoy learning and who want to make good grades, then you are going to benefit from being part of an intellectually-stimulating community. Your friends and members of your community play a large part in either motivating you or distracting you, depending upon what your group is all about.

Last, but certainly not least, college students need to have hope. If you don't hope that you're going to pass your classes and graduate, then you're probably not going to achieve your goals. Hope is extremely important because it is at the core of motivation. Without hope, work does not get done, goals aren't met, and nothing good happens.

Caroline: What is your proudest moment as a teacher?

Professor Walter: There's been a great deal of moments throughout my teaching career that have made me proud of my students. Honestly, I burst with pride anytime a student talks about literature in class because talking about literature isn't easy nor is it something that people often do in their daily routines. Therefore, whenever I can get students to talk about literature, I feel like something very special takes place as students begin to think about life differently and to see problems from a wider, more informed vantage point. I'm proud of the fact that we're able to have rooms where students and teachers can talk about stories because there are many times throughout history when stories were kept from people as a form of oppression. The quickest way to oppress a group of people is to take away their access to stories. Literature and culture are definitely rights that have been denied to various groups of people all throughout human history, and so I definitely feel blessed to say that discussing literature is my full-time job.

Caroline: Do you think it is important to diversify your curriculum based on the ethnic backgrounds of your students?

Professor Walter: Caroline, that is an excellent question, and I absolutely think that it is essential to diversify my curriculum to best meet the needs of my students. In every class I teach, I always include female writers, Black authors, LGBTQIA writers, Hispanic authors, Native American writers, Asian authors, Jewish authors, and disabled writers. I think it's crucial to introduce students to experiences that differ from their own because many people develop prejudices as a result of not being given the opportunity to listen to a wide range of stories.

Caroline: What have you learned from your professors when you were in school that you have incorporated into your teaching style?

Professor Walter: One of the best things that I learned from my teachers in college is to give examples of what I consider to be good writing. Whenever I assign an essay, I always allow my students to read and discuss my writing on the subject matter because if a student understands how I would approach the subject matter, then they'll have a specific example and experience from which to draw from. The majority of teachers that I had in school never had their students read the teacher's writing for whatever reason, but I like to have my students read my writing on the assigned readings so that by the time the students write about their stance on a topic, they have a great deal of information from which to draw from.

Caroline: What advice do you have for college freshman?

Professor Walter: My advice for college freshman is to quickly find a balance between studying and hanging out with your friends and to not let their friend group become more important than their classes. Likewise, if a student spends every single second of their time studying and never has time to meet new people, then they may have regrets later in life because they never had much fun when they were in college. In my opinion, college is one of the last times in life when a person can spend a good amount of time hanging out with their friends before they have to permanently join the workforce. College is one of the last times in someone's life when they can go out and have fun while still doing a good job with their classwork if they can maintain a good balance between socializing and studying.

Caroline: What suggestions do you have for students who want to maintain good mental health while balancing work and classes?

Professor Walter: I would just suggest finding a balance that works for you so that you can do a good job at both school and work. Just like with balancing out downtime and your workload, each student has to figure out their own personal balance between schoolwork and their nine-to-five job that pays the bills. It's a double-edged-sword because your job might be how you're paying to go to college, but you're in college to ideally be able to obtain a high-paying job once you graduate, so again, I would just suggest finding a balance that works for you so that you can do a good job at both school and work.



Student Spotlight Interview by Caroline Jackson

Caroline Jackson: I also had the pleasure of interviewing one of my friends Annis, a student attending East Georgia State College.

Annis Rassekh is a sophomore who is majoring in the fields of Pre-Med and I.T with a minor in Business. An interesting fact about Annis is that he is Bilingual; he is fluent in two languages: English and Farsi.

Caroline: What is one thing you would change about East Georgia?

Annis Rassekh: One thing I would change about East Georgia is the lack of events on campus. I would like it if there were more activities on campus and if there were more of a campus atmosphere in general.

Caroline: What advice would you give to students balancing school and work?

Annis Rassekh: As a fellow student who works two full-time jobs and goes to school, I would say that time management is extremely important so that you have a healthy balance of school and work.

Caroline: What core values do you stand by in life?

Annis Rassekh: I have a lot of core values, but to me the ones that are the most important are: Unity, Respect, and helping others to achieve their goals.

Caroline: How do you bounce back from setbacks and failures in school?

Annis Rassekh: Whenever I encounter a setback in school, I try to learn from my mistakes so that if I come across the situation again, I am more prepared to handle the problem.

Caroline: What motivates and encourages you to succeed in school?

Annis Rassekh : I want to become a neurosurgeon, so that encourages me to do well in school and achieve my career goals.



**SPRING
2022
Graduation
pics:**

An Interview with Veronica Cheers about EGSC Clubs by John Colston

On January 25, 2022, I interviewed Mrs. Veronica Cheers, the Coordinator of Student Life. Cheers informed me of the importance of having clubs on campus. She said that “it is important to have clubs on campus because it keeps students involved and on track having trained minds.” She believes that if our campus had more active advisors and more students that are actively engaged in learning, then club participation could be improved. Also, Mrs. Cheers stated that if East Georgia State College started a new club, then it should be about Financial Literacy because it would help give students practical advice about how to succeed after they graduate from college. Mrs. Cheers believes that if our campus had a Community/ Campus Service club on campus, then it would be valuable to them. Students could earn Community/ Campus Service Credit for their service seal of distinction, which means that students could receive at least two seals on their college diploma. Cheers also told me that there is twenty-one active clubs on our campus: “There are twenty-one active clubs/ organizations on campus. From student government to beekeeping to AAMI (for African American men on campus). I encourage students to get active on campus by joining clubs. Students should reach out to advisors if they would like to join. Having clubs on your transcript is a way of showing employers that you are a team player.



How Netflix is Changing the TV Industry by Essence Jackson

Netflix usage is at an all-time high, and Netflix is one of the most profitable companies in the TV and movie industry. Originally a service created for people to use to rent movies on DVD, Netflix was founded in 1997 by two software engineers: Reed Hastings and Marc Rudolph. In 1999, the company adopted their monthly subscription model instead of their one-time transactional model. Netflix announced the 1 million dollar *Netflix Prize* in 2006 to order to find anyone who could create a system that is better suited for users' specific viewing needs. Three years after the competition was announced, a seven-man team was deemed the winner of the contest due to their creating an extremely complicated algorithm, even though Netflix never actually used their idea.

The company adopted the concept of streaming in 2007, which is the reason that Netflix is so popular today. By 2010, Netflix accumulated over 20 million subscribers after only existing for eleven years. One year later, Netflix attempted to divide its DVD rental and streaming businesses. They created Qwikster for DVD distribution, but within a month, it was dropped due to protests from consumers. In 2012, Netflix started launching its own content, and *Lily Hammer* and *House of Cards* were two of their first original series. The company invested \$100 million into the first season of *House of Cards*. Several more new shows followed, such as *Arrested Development*, *Hemlock Grove*, and *Derek*. According to viewers, the most popular Netflix original is *Orange is the New Black*. The show's first season received twelve Emmy nominations. By this point in time, Netflix had generated over fifty million subscribers.

Netflix has changed the entertainment industry tremendously. Not only has it changed the way people view movies and television shows, Netflix has given subscribers the power to watch shows anywhere at anytime and on any device. As a result of Netflix's success, other streaming platforms, such as Amazon Prime, Disney Plus, and Hulu, have become more popular than ever as well.

Seven Fashion Trends that are Set to Take 2022 by Storm by Yasmine Leon

For most of the year 2020, people were staying indoors and saw no need to get dressed up. COVID sparked a new line of clothing. People were grabbing up sweat pants, sweatshirts, and PJ's. People were working from the comfort of their own homes. They saw no need to dress professionally since they were lounging on their couches with laptops in their laps. The pandemic created an opportunity for working people to embracing the 24/7 [sweatpants](#) life.

Designers starting creating clothing to meet the demands of the people. They created clothing that was comfortable and colorful. They took the dumpy pants and sweatshirts and created vibrant, comfortable, yet stylish clothes for people who worked from home. This fashion change lifted people out of their grubby, comfy ruts. This year's wardrobe refresh is a blend of nostalgic looks and elevated basics.

Style experts say that trends for 2022 include pleated maxi skirts, explosions of joyful colors, clean-cut collegiate styles, and iridescent pearls that should remind you that the world is your oyster even when you're pretending to walk down a fashion runway in New York City while you're actually walking through the hallway between your home office and kitchen.

Some clothing trends to look for in the early months of 2022 include: preppy, colorful sweater vests, fleece-lined joggers, soft-knitted flares, and flowy culottes.

Nick Kelch's Ten Tips for East Georgia Student Success:

1. Memorize your student ID number.
2. Check your Catmail account multiple times a day.
3. Show up to class on time and be prepared to learn.
4. Reach out to the Counseling Center if you are having personal difficulties that are hindering you in the classroom.
5. Use on-campus and online resources (Library, Academic Center for Excellence, tutor.com).
6. Get involved with campus life.
7. Complete your FAFSA early! Remember, you must complete a FAFSA each year that you are in college.
8. Don't procrastinate! That assignment will be due before you know it.
9. Get to know your professors and your academic advisor.
10. Purchase or download a planner to help balance your school work, your job, and your social life.



Yasmine Leon Sits Down to Speak with Wonder Woman

Yasmine: When were you born and where are you from?

Wonder Woman: According to the 1976 DC calendar, I was born on March 22nd in the home of The Amazons called *Paradise Island*.

Yasmine: Who are your parents?

Wonder Woman: Hippolyte is my mom, and Zeus is my dad.

Yasmine: What is your real name?

Wonder Woman: Diana Prince

Yasmine: Where do you live now?

Wonder Woman: The nation of Themyscira is my homeland.

Yasmine: When did you start to have superpowers?

Wonder Woman: I started having powers in 1972.



Yasmine: What are your superpowers?

Wonder Woman: I have superhuman strength, super speed, and the ability to fly.

Yasmine: Who do you give superpowers to?

Wonder Woman: The Greek god Hermes

Yasmine: How old are you?

Wonder Woman: I am around 3,000-years-old in the movies, but in the comics, I am 800 years old.

Yasmine: When did your first comic come out?

Wonder Woman: 1941

Yasmine: Who is your love interest in DC comics?

Wonder Woman: Steve Trevor



Yasmine: Who is your best friend in the comics?

Wonder Woman: Etta Candy

Wonder Woman: Ares is my greatest enemy, and he's the main reason for my superhero career because he's the god of war.

Yasmine: When did you start losing your powers?

Wonder Woman: It was during the 1960s

Yasmine: When did your first movie come out?

Wonder Woman: 2017

Yasmine: What's your daughter's name?

Wonder Woman: Hippolyta "Lyta" Trevor is me and Steve's daughter.



Seven Useful Apps for Bobcats to Download by Essence Jackson

Students at EGSC lean increasingly towards technological devices such as modern cellphones and tablets. Via the Apple App Store or Google Play, there are many programs available to help students organize their schedules, keep from getting distracted while working, and study.

1. **MyEGSC Mobile** helps students receive key notifications; search for staff, peers, and systems groups; and access Banner Web, D2L, and announcements. The app is available for iOS in the Apple App Store and for Android phones via the Google Play store.
2. **Google Calendar** helps students organize their busy schedules and keep track of their classes, deadlines, and club meetings. It's available for iOS in the Apple App Store and for Android phones via the Google Play store.
3. **Khan Academy** is an instructional nonprofit website that offers videos and practice problems for most school subjects. Points are awarded upon completion of a video or a set of problems, and step-by step instructions are shown if a user does not understand how to solve a problem. It's available for iOS in the Apple App Store and for Android phones via the Google Play store.

4. **Quizlet** is an online flashcard maker that makes studying for exams simple. It's available for IOS in the Apple App Store and for Android phones via the Google Play store.

5. **Evernote** helps students organize their notes and keep their media in one place. You can use its recorder to remember dates and facts, and the app can take photos of the Smartboard in your class to store in your Evernotes folder. It's available for IOS in the Apple App Store and for Android phones via the Google Play store.

6. **My Homework** keeps all your assignments organized in one planner, it can send you reminders about upcoming due dates, and it syncs notifications across devices. It's available for IOS in the Apple App Store and for Android via the Google Play store.

7. **Venmo** allows any college student to transfer funds or to receive money from any of their friends, which makes it easier to split the cost of meals, drinks, and gas. It's available for IOS in the Apple App Store and for Android phones via the Google Play store.



**SUCCESS COACHING
INVITATION**

**You're Invited to schedule an
appointment!**

Monday-Friday

<https://direc.to/hzTM>

8:30AM-4:30PM

**Class schedule, syllabi, professor
office hours, academic resources**

**– Library, ACE, Tutor.com, time
management, academic
mindset, materials, etc.**

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