

# The Sole of Personality

STORY AND PHOTOS  
By Abby Appleman

## FATIMA SOTO



Freshman Fatima Soto is a current kinesiology major hoping to one day become a pediatrician, because of her love of working with kids.

Thinking several steps ahead, she stated, "I plan on going into pre-med so I'm doing a concentration in medical professions in hopes to get the requirements done."

Soto often wears lavender custom-made Converse Chuck Taylor All-Star shoes and stated her favorite color is purple.

"Most people associate feelings with colors," said Soto, "and I feel like purple is really neutral."



While many people select their shoes based on their outfit, Soto likes to base her outfits off her shoes because "it makes them stand out more." She also owns another pair of Converse in pink with silver hearts.

Soto stated her friends would describe her as fun, kind and friendly, tending to put others before herself. Due to her quiet and introverted personality, she feels that her shoes are a way for people to get to know her.

She said, "I feel like when people get to know me, I become less shy and quiet."

Outside of academics, Soto enjoys going out with friends. She is an avid nature-lover who enjoys being outside and going hiking. Her personal goals include attending or finding out more about medical clubs on campus.

Soto is currently participating in the Treehouse Book Club, where they are focused on the book "Atomic Habits," written by author James Clear.



# DAVID BATTS



Batts is regularly seen wearing Nike Air Jordan sneakers. While he stated he did not look up to Michael Jordan as a role model, he said if given the chance to ever meet LeBron James, he would take that opportunity in a heartbeat.

Batts described himself as “a LeBron type of guy.” He said, “You can’t wear LeBrons with [an outfit]; you got to hoop in them. Jordans you can’t hoop in.”



According to David Batts, his friends would describe him as “a good guy to be around” who is laid back and always has a smile on his face. Batts is a sophomore communication major at Augusta University with an interest in pursuing sports broadcasting in the future.

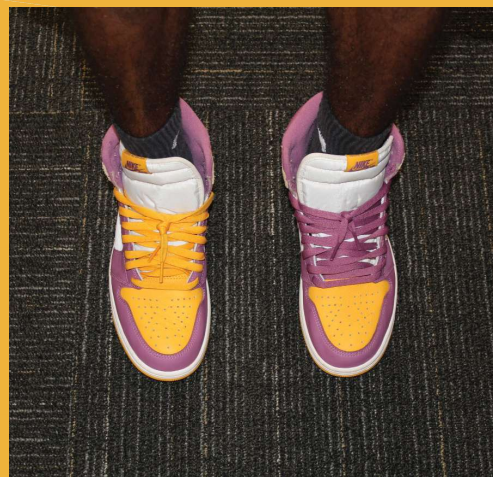
When asked why he wanted to be a communication major, he said, “A lot of people told me that I should do something with my voice.”

Batt’s interest in sports broadcasting stems from his love for several sports. The sport that started it all was football. He began playing football around the age of two.

“Football was my first love,” he said.

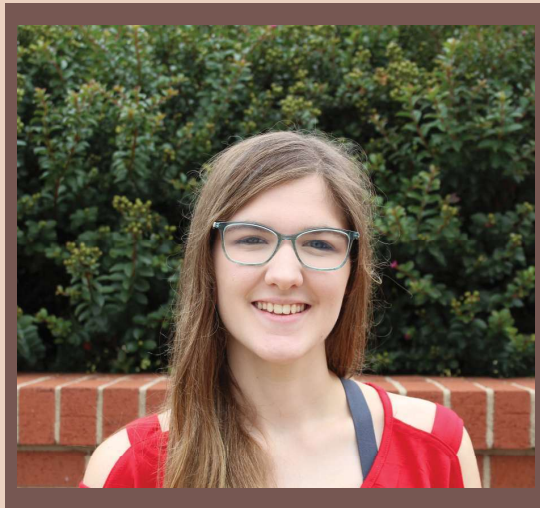
Now, he likes to play basketball in his free time and competes in track at AU.

Batts tries to get pairs that many people do not have because he likes to stand out from the crowd. He makes decisions based on fashion, trends and social media, while also utilizing online shopping websites such as GOAT and StockX to browse through shoes that might interest him.





# LAURA OGDEN



Ogden's formal cowboy boots are an everyday staple. With a love for country style, she feels comfortable and able to work in them. She sometimes visits her cousins' farm in Virginia and helps with the horses, sheep and cows.

Aiming to earn a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Secondary Teacher Certification, Laura Ogden dreams of becoming a role model for younger students. Inspired by her teachers in elementary and middle school, she hopes to "help the younger generation and be a guide for them." These role models helped Ogden when she was struggling.

"If it weren't for those teachers," she said, "I probably wouldn't be here today."



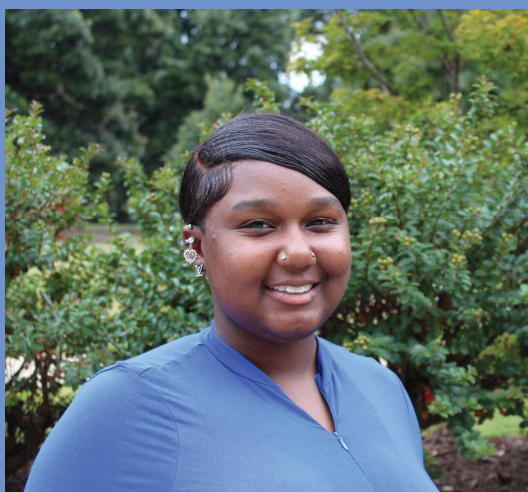
Ogden said her unwavering loyalty is a vital characteristic of who she is.

She said, "When you have my trust, I will literally do anything for you within reason. However, the second you lose that trust, I [will] never look at you the same again."

Ogden said that although she almost always wears cowboy boots, she does like to dress up and occasionally wears heels, "even though they kill me."



# EMILY HARRIS



Emily Harris is a current nursing major with aspirations of becoming a labor and delivery nurse. She said she has “always wanted to work with babies,” but is also considering becoming a NICU, or neonatal, nurse, ultrasound tech, or radiology tech in the future.



Harris described herself as “a fun person to be around” who loves to laugh while cracking jokes with her friends. She stated that since she is “a quiet, easy-going introvert,” fashion is a way of expressing herself.

In a comfortable blue jumpsuit, she strutted around campus in fur boots. Like Batts, Harris utilizes the online website GOAT to shop for shoes.

Outside of college, Harris spends her time as a hair stylist.

She started out in high school and explained, “I started doing my hair in ninth grade.”

She went on to help a friend by doing their hair too.

After posting her work, Harris stated, “Other people wanted me to do their hair. I got better at it over time.”







# INGSPAN





# TONGUE-TIED

BY FRANCES PUJEH (Excerpt from "Wine Glass")

These days are silent.

The kind of silence that betrays our unwillingness to express to each other how grieving has consumed us whole. The kind that, more so, reaffirms how far apart we've grown each day. We walk past each other silently, almost afraid a gaze into the other's eyes would expose the secret of how neither of us expected such a decorum to become of us.

I know you no longer look forward to Friday nights, when I wouldn't hesitate to share the couch with you. When I would lean into your arm, outstretched to the split in the couch, and fall asleep in that position, head resting on your chest. Neither of us would have anticipated such coldness. Not in the years we had shared. Not in the year we became husband and wife and Sia came into our lives. Not in the few years she shared with us. Not ever.

But remember when the days weren't tongue-tied and the nights echoed laughter that soon faded into kisses as we barely made it from her room to ours? I let the question roam free in my head now, these nights when I walk through the door to our bedroom without my arms around your neck. You had insisted we tuck her in together ever since she was born, starting her first night at the

hospital. When she wasn't asleep before her bedtime, she would insist that you carry her on your back up the staircase... doing your best to keep a promise you had made even without her being awake enough to scold you if you hadn't?

You see, those days had gone by so fast, I don't remember taking a moment to catch my breath. I couldn't even if I wanted to. Because then each time, I would be compelled to remember how in those days, yet still before she was born, she was all you could dream of. Those days in high school. The many Saturday evenings we spent at James' house.

A best friend of yours, your close-knittedness gave you a kind of ownership of his home... I would have to bring my friend Lafi along. First he'd let us stay over for only a few hours after school and then all Saturday evenings. Him with Lafi in his room and you and I in the guest room. Your parents turned a blind eye to your delayed home trips from school and overly frequent visits to your friend's house. And my mother, she was barely home enough to question my whereabouts.

It was there in that guest room that I let your lips trace past my neck for the first time.



# CONNECTING DOTS

## BY CHRIS FUSSELL

I have come a long way and have a lot to say, so listen closely to understand  
Here I stand tall and proud, speaking of my truth  
This version of me is more complete than yesterday, yet the picture is partially drawn  
Come journey as I journal, detailing the path to becoming this man

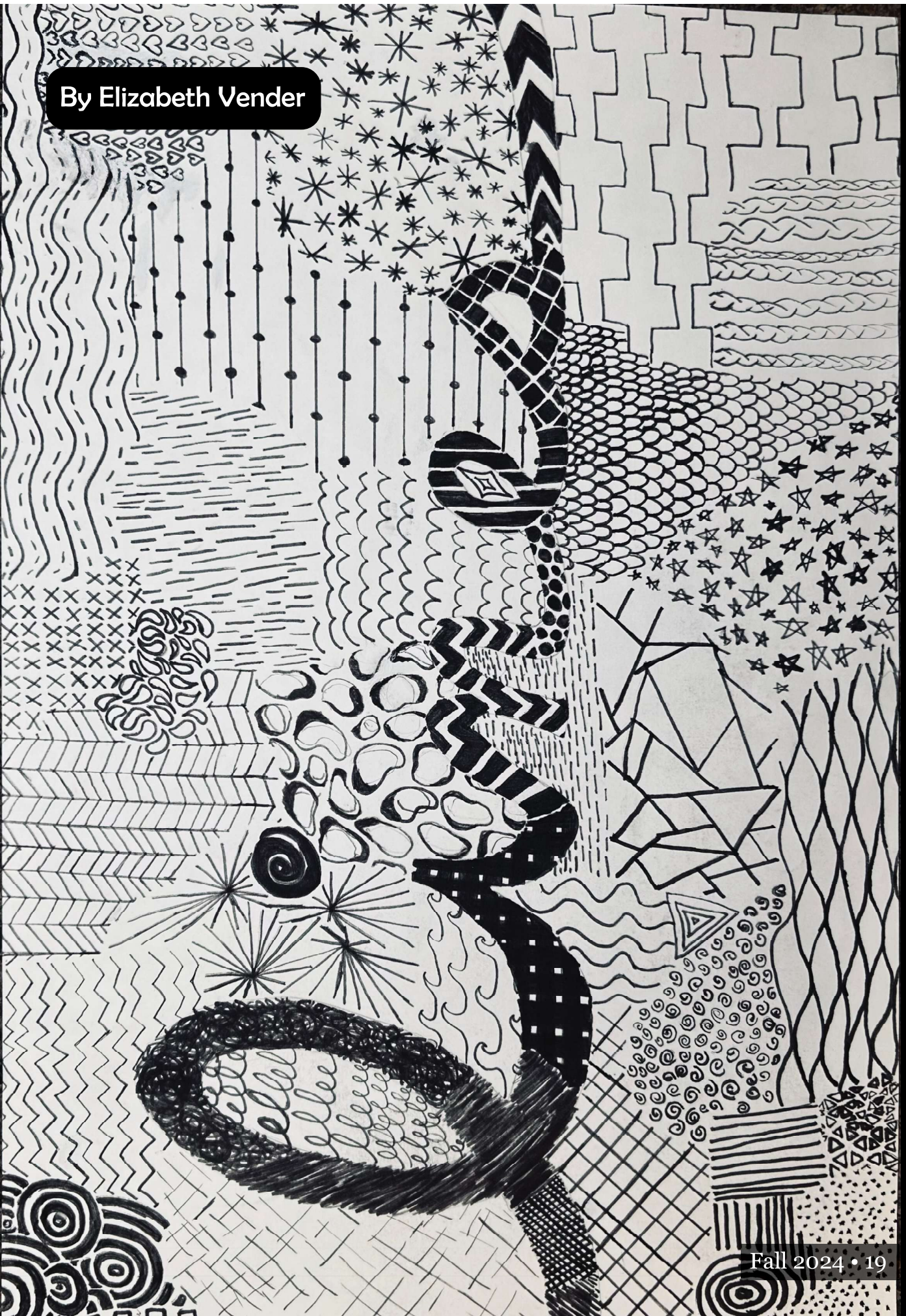
Life was simple and happy in the days of my youth  
Family and communal love was strong no matter in which house I'd gone  
Even such strong support couldn't stop my youthful insecurities from making me feel less than  
My rural upbringing was truly a blessing, and of that I am proof  
Young me couldn't be convinced of that because it's all I had known  
Urban kids' teasing was often, but it was something I did withstand

After graduation, friends parted ways, disappearing like a magician's poof  
I didn't see a bright hometown future, so I went off to forge my own  
I wanted more for myself than dirt roads and country sand  
That led me to the Air Force, complete with training and a uniform to boot  
Confidence grew as my urban experiences dispelled the previously unknown  
When I left the service, it was time for me alone to stand  
I worked hard to live under my own, and not my mother's roof  
Years later, that roof protected my newborn son, and under it many lessons he was shown

As a father and husband, it's important to provide for them and do what I can  
I eventually came to appreciate the slowness of country living, right down to the pine tree root  
Now, I marvel at the ripening fruits that my once dreaded country life has grown  
That life guided my values, made me strong and made me proud to be pecan tan  
The dots have been laid, and no point on this page is moot  
The path to the next dot connects me to AU, where more seeds will be sewn



By Elizabeth Vender





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