

# PHOENIX



*Augusta University*

*Spring 2025*

*Outside the Lines*







## Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

It has been my great and distinct pleasure to serve as the editor-in-chief of the Phoenix magazine. In the last year, I have learned more about editing and design than I could have ever dreamed. I hope you will appreciate the detail of this issue and the content thereof.

It means many things to be "outside the lines." It's going against the flow or doing your own thing. It's the definition of creativity. It's noticing that it's okay to be different and it's feeling comfortable in one's own shoes. For some, it's looking past wrinkles or remembering fond words of a lost loved one. To others, it's a movie quote that always makes us laugh.

Lines are boundaries and guides, long and short, phone calls and mailed letters. To exist outside them means defining your life with the crayons you choose to color with. Sometimes, your path goes where the scribbles go, into uncharted territory. And that's okay.

To me, it means I take the narrow path, the road less traveled. The physical earth is full of lines: nervous systems, maps, power sources. The spiritual, however, lives outside them and for that I am grateful. I will never comprehend the depth of love God has for me. If He loves me just one fraction of how much I love my son, then His love is grander than the entire universe. And nothing can separate me from it.

Nor can it separate you. I pray you all know the love that I feel from my Heavenly Father and my savior Jesus Christ. I am perfectly fine if some think that's crazy. I will continue to stay outside the lines and cheer you on as you find your own.

Thank you to all the faculty who've been so kind and gracious to me during my time at Augusta University. Thank you to my peers who've taught me so much. I am blown away by the caliber of the people I have met these past few years. Thank you for making my college experience a wonderful and cherished memory. I can't wait to see where we go from here!

CM Wahl

Romans 8:38-39



# Table of Contents

*Red Bricks and Yellow Pages* 2

Isabel Brown

*Beyond the Traditional* 4

Henry J. Garrick

*Redefining Fashion* 6

Daniela Harris

*Making Your Own Path* 10

Kelyisha Hayden

*Connecting Through Culture* 12

Tylikah Mosley

*Behind the Blue* 14

Leanne Dudash

*Crossing the Finish* 16

CM Wahl

**WINGSPAN** 18

Twin Vision | Heart of Gold 19

Dinner Time 20

Jinxed | Astrid 21

Graffiti 22

Tree on a Lake 23

2025



# RED BRICKS AND YELLOW PAGES

By Isabel Brown

In 1935, Austrian physicist Erwin Schrödinger theorized that something can be two things at once. His theory, known as “Schrödinger’s Cat,” suggested that a cat placed in a sealed box with poison was both alive and dead until the box was opened and the outcome was revealed. Similarly, Augusta University is both old and new at the same time. Although the school is rich with history, it will only be celebrating its 10th anniversary in December 2025.

According to the university website, AU’s history began in 1828 with the founding of the Medical College of Georgia (MCG). In 1996, Augusta College gained university status and became Augusta State University. MCG became Georgia Health Sciences University in 2011 and two years later,

it merged with Augusta State to build “on the legacies of its parent institutions.” At the end of 2015, the school was renamed Augusta University.

Summerville campus also has a grand history. During World War II, many men and women impacted the war efforts by providing guns and ammunition from the Augusta Arsenal. The arsenal was moved from the Savannah River in 1826 after former Augusta mayor, Freeman Walker, donated 72 acres of land to relocate it. Now Summerville campus, this area has several buildings left over from when the arsenal was still active, including the Quad and the Guard House Museum.

preservation and interpretation of Augusta University history,” said Stacey Thompson, director of the Guard House Museum and professor of anthropology and museum studies. “[It’s] the history of the campus grounds and the history of the neighborhoods of Sand Hills and Summerville.”

The Guard House Museum, also called the Arsenal Museum, is located by the Walker family cemetery at the corner of campus near Arsenal Avenue. This brick building is a small but informative museum filled to the brim with the history of the Summerville area.

However, this almost wasn’t the case. Before the museum was established in 2004, plans were announced to tear the historic building down.

“There were community members who thought that was a terrible idea,” said Thompson. “So, they gave money for the building to be saved and used as a community museum.”

AU’s students of history, anthropology and museum studies are actively involved with the museum, helping plan and attending events to bring in the public. Honors students help create strategic plans and temporary exhibits. Once a month, the museum hosts a donuts and coffee event to draw members of the community.

“The museum is a byproduct of the community’s interest



Visitors at the Guard House Museum sign in before entering. (photo by Isabel Brown)

“The museum’s mission is to educate students and the community through the





*Stacey Thompson, PhD., spoke to students and visitors in the Guard House Museum. (photo by Isabel Brown)*

and engagement,” said Thompson. “With the history of this campus of the University, the Augusta Arsenal, and these neighborhoods, the museum’s most important quality is community engagement. It’s a symbol of our connection with our community and our history.”

The Guard House Museum is not the only connection to campus history. On the third floor of the Reese Library, tucked in the far-left corner from the stairway entrance, is the Reese Special Collections and Archives section. Inside these archives are countless pages of manuscripts, books and more that showcase the history of the Central Savannah River Area, or CSRA.

“Archives are the historical record,” said Courtney Berge, special collections librarian. “Without them, we would be left to memory, which as generations pass, becomes even more faulty because it becomes hearsay.”

Since “hearsay” is spoken information that can’t be substantiated, it is vital that communities maintain accurate historical records. Though choices and assignments may feel insignificant in the moment, future students may look back at present day pictures, writings

and projects and use them for their own assignments and projects. Without knowing campus history, its significance is lost. Likewise, there is no AU without new “Jaguars” paving a new future.

“We preserve documents that can give insight into how life used to be,” said Berge. “[It] will hopefully do that for future generations as well. To help explain why things were done in specific ways or how things were done. Or just give some context to what was before.”

Students of different majors frequent the special collections to do research for various assignments. Professors sometimes visit the collection with their classes to showcase its resources and members of the community can also access it for their own research purposes.

The span of the collection runs from a few centuries ago to modern day. A large part of it is campus history, including student publications. The Bell Ringer newspaper, Phoenix magazine and Sandhills magazine have

designated spots on the archival shelves for future researchers to use.

“If student organizations wanted to have their records come into the archive,” said Berge. “I’d happily work with them.”

The student fingerprint grows more distinct with each passing year. AU is the culmination of our voices built upon centuries. AU is full of history and new possibilities, and it is home to many fascinating traditions. Students can create new ones by leaving their own marks on campus. Knowing the roots of the school and how it affects day-to-day life adds history to a student’s every step, every day.



*The Reese Library is located in the Jaguars Student Activity Center on Summerville campus. (photo by Isabel Brown)*



# Beyond The Traditional

By Henry J. Garrick

When someone thinks about college majors, they seldom consider how they can break outside the lines.

After all, college degrees are a structured course of study for a student over the course of four years. However, there is now a degree offered at a growing number of American universities that not only fills the book of knowledge but

also allows students to thrive on their terms with untold freedom during their academic study. The program, most widely known as, "Integrated Studies," boldly goes where few degree programs have gone before, into the realm of limitless creativity.

Augusta University is no exception. Pamela Hayward, PhD., is the program director for the school's Integrated Studies program. Every day, she, alongside various students who have joined the undertaking of this comprehensive major, journey into an adventure like no other.

"Our [program] is a lot more flexible than most of them," said Hayward.

Although she could not provide specific statistics on comparable programs at other universities, Hayward said it was "far more difficult to get accepted" at USC Aiken, since

their program requires that students work on a long-term end project to gain approval for admission.

Hayward also noted that the career paths following the program are as varied as the stars and shapes in the night's sky.

"A lot of our majors like going further into education following their bachelor's," she said, "and they often take master's degrees in the education field following their integrated studies degree."

Hayward said that when interviewing perspective students who are interested in the program, she always asks them how they learned about the major and what their timeline is for graduation.

"There are many reasons people come into our program," she said, adding that many are "trying to build their own path."

Hayward said that some students in the program have to pause their studies for a prolonged time in order to work, but return years later to earn their degree and advance in their careers.



*Pamela Hayward is the Integrated Studies program director at Augusta University. (photo by CM Wahl)*



“All of our Integrated Studies majors go through a mock interview process,” she said. “We want to ensure, because this degree is not as standard, that people can discuss it and advertise themselves while explaining the relevancy of their degree.”

Scott Hamby, a student at AU enrolled in the program, explained that he chose Integrated Studies as his major of choice because he did not want to be “tied down” to any specific major.

“I have always liked the idea of a liberal arts education,” he said. “You know, learning for learning’s sake, not just to fulfill some box on a job application.”

Hamby wanted the freedom to explore many different subjects that interested him. Since enrolling in the specialized program, he’s gotten to take classes in music, film, theatre, history, sociology, political science and anthropology. He stated he believes this is what contributed to him becoming a “well-rounded and educated person.”

Hamby said he likes to think of Integrated Studies as what college was like hundreds of years ago before there were such things as “majors.” To him, learning a host of different disciplines helps



*Scott Hamby is an Integrated Studies major at Augusta University. (photo by CM Wahl)*

people become well-rounded members of society.

“You can apply everything you have learned to many different careers,” said Hamby. “It’s basically teaching you how to think, instead of what to think.”

Planning is also a key part of the program.

Hamby noted the importance of preparation for his semesters as an Integrated Studies student. He said that every semester, he gathers his syllabi and makes an Excel spreadsheet of his assignments with due dates.

“This helps me visualize the week’s assignments and what needs to be turned in,” he said, “and it gives me a sense

of accomplishment when I’m able to cross an assignment off my list.”

Hamby also said that he tries to examine everyday life since it was Socrates who said, “The unexamined life is not worth living.” Hamby said he tries to live by this every day.


“Emphasizing political science and anthropology, as well as every other subject I have taken,” he said, “has given me so much perspective that I probably would not have gained had I gone through a more ‘traditional’ major.”


Hamby said he is happy he selected the program, and he encouraged anyone with a thirst for knowledge to also pursue this degree.

As Hayward said, “The sky is the limit when you choose the Integrated Studies program at Augusta University.”

## Contact Us


### Integrated Studies

 Summerville Campus

 Allgood Hall

 Office- E118

 Dr. Pamela Hayward

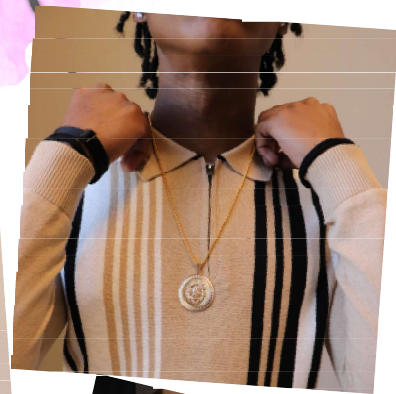
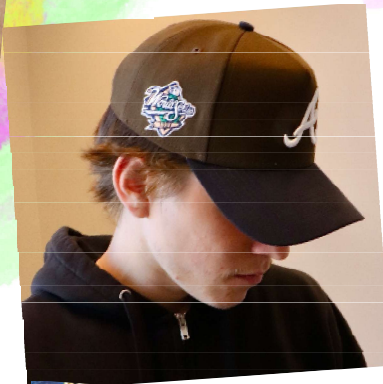
 706-667-4437

 [phayward@augusta.edu](mailto:phayward@augusta.edu)



# Redefining Fashion

Story and photos by Daniela Harris  
Background art by Emerson Hudson



For college students, fashion is more than just clothing. It is a powerful form of self-expression that allows individuals to showcase their personality, creativity and unique sense of style. In a time when independence and self-discovery are prominent, many students use fashion as a canvas to break away from traditional norms and explore new trends, blending different influences to create looks that reflect their personal journeys. Whether it's bold colors, eclectic accessories or mixing vintage pieces with modern aesthetics, college students are increasingly stepping outside the lines to redefine what it means to dress for themselves.





## BREANAH MCGROGGAN

Breannah McGroggan, a sophomore and psychology major, enjoys art, reading, Broadway shows and spending time with loved ones. She works at the Maxwell Theatre, controlling lighting and visual cues for performances. She is currently writing her own novel.

“College is a time in most young people’s lives where they are introduced to new things,” she said. “They seek a better awareness of who they are, and what they want to represent. I feel that fashion, to me, is essentially the same.”

To McGroggan, high school is more about conformity, while the goal of

college is breaking out of that, including how one dresses. She feels fashion is “the first thing you can gauge about someone.”

McGroggan said there’s been a huge development in fashion subcultures with the rise of social media. People are now getting used to the idea of dressing differently and wearing what they want.

“I feel like I’m someone who appreciates and likes a lot of different styles of fashion,” she said, “and I don’t really stick to just one. So, I wouldn’t consider myself someone who is outside of the lines, because I feel that those lines are quickly dissipating.”

## CALEB WASHINGTON

Caleb Washington is a freshman, undecided. He enjoys hanging out with friends and family, watching cartoons and playing football. He loves “going on adventures,” whether trying new restaurants, picking up new skills or experimenting with different style choices. Washington is currently building his presence on social media with mid-week encouragement videos about his faith.

“Fashion to me is a way to boost my self-esteem,” he said, “and some people don’t realize that. The way I dress also depends on the occasion. If I don’t have a workout, I plan to put on a smooth fit... If I

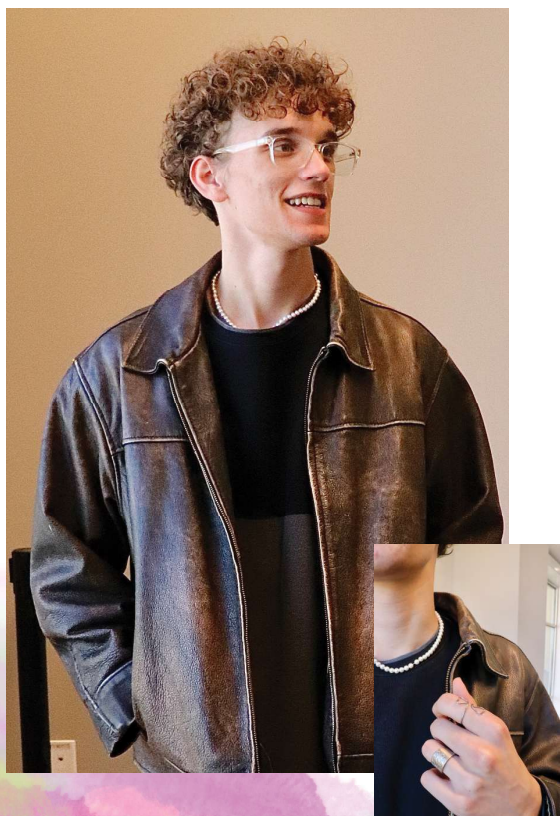
am going out, wearing a nice fit is very important to me.”

Washington’s “fits,” a common slang term for “outfits,” starts with what he calls “mildly outrageous” socks. He stated that people love his socks because they are so different from everyone else’s.

“I think fashion absolutely is an outward expression of myself on the inside,” he said. “I only pick out clothes and outfits that match my personality. If I am not dressed up, you can usually find me in cartoon shirts and socks, because these items of clothing allow me to express my creativity and childlikeness.”







## BRETT HALLAM

Brett Hallam, a sophomore and music major, enjoys spending time with friends, family and his girlfriend. He loves learning new skills and taught himself how to play the piano. He plays on the worship team at his church and works as a barista at Rooted Coffeehouse. He enjoys playing and watching sports, especially basketball.

"Fashion to me means expressing parts of my personality in some small way," he said. "I also sometimes view it almost as 'dress up,' where I can portray whatever I want with what I'm wearing. It makes it fun and keeps life interesting."

Hallam said he doesn't think the way he dresses is "outside the lines," partly because living in Augusta has limited his access to more eclectic clothing and also, because of social media and influencers, individuality is "becoming a more mainstream concept."

"I think in some ways fashion is an outward expression of myself on the inside," said Hallam. "Even though I don't have the money to buy all that I would like to buy, in some ways, my style does reflect me as of now. I definitely see myself as creative in different ways, and fashion is an outlet for me to express that side of myself."

## LENA GARRARD

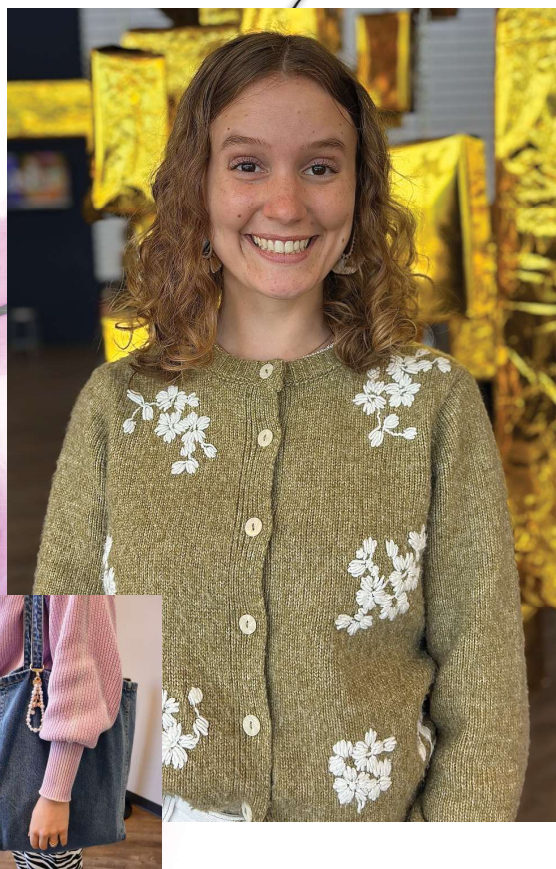
Lena Garrard is a senior majoring in nonprofit administration and leadership, and she has plans to one day concentrate on city planning and community development. She interns with a non-profit called "Turn Back the Block" and works as a barista. Garrard enjoys coffee, spending time with friends in fun and fellowship, shopping, and spending time at her home church.

"I love fashion because it is a way I get to express myself and my uniqueness," she said. "I use it as an outlet for my creativity, as well as to promote body positivity and over-

all confidence in myself as an individual."

Garrard said she won't wear anything controversial or dramatic. She does, however, love to put her own unique spin on trends that make her feel different from the crowd. She is most confident when comfortable.

"I want to stand out," she said, "but not to the point where I turn heads... My fashion choices reflect my personality, my likes, dislikes, my mood that day, and even my season of life. I would say I'm not super creative – but I am to some degree – so, I love to use fashion to express the creativity I do have."







## MEGHAN BLITCHINGTON

Meghan Blitchington, a senior and biology major, currently works at an AU research lab. She values spending time with her family and friends, thrift shopping and picking up new hobbies like crocheting and baking. She describes herself as a “hard-core” Georgia Bulldogs fan, and has a pet axolotl, a member of the tiger salamander family.

“Fashion is a way I express myself,” said Blitchington. “I can give the world around me, including those I don’t know, a peek of my attitude, my personality, my identity through what I wear.”

Blitchington said that her

outfits vary by the kind of week or day she’s having, and she makes sure that the pieces of clothing she chooses reflect who she is. She said she dresses outside the lines “in regard to current pop culture trends” and loves mixing vintage hand-me-downs from her parents’ younger years with current trends.

“I sample different aesthetics, but I don’t confine myself to one,” she said, and added, “I agree wholeheartedly that the way you dress is an outward expression of yourself. I also think I am a little creative, which I can express outwardly through what I choose to wear.”

## ANNA FIELDS

Anna Fields, a non-traditional student majoring in early childhood education, enjoys spending time engrossed in a good book, and loves planning fun events and crafting to satisfy her “creative itch.” Fields is a big sports enthusiast, enjoying anything and everything that is sports-related. She works at a day-care, which gives her the opportunity to pour into the next generation.

“Fashion is a way to express my personality,” she said. “It’s a way to showcase who I am... without actually talking.”

Fields said she is good at taking basic clothing pieces and turning them into something amazing and

making her statement pieces “pop” even more. She said she tries to make sure her outfits are different than other people’s because she sees it as “standing out.”

“I do think that the outfits I wear help me be more creative,” said Fields. “I strive to make my outfits unique to who I am.”

Fields said she tries to enhance her outfits with accessories and she finds it fun to find the right pieces that fit together. Fashion has also been a way she can express who she is and makes her feel confident.

“A great outfit can do a lot for your confidence,” she said.

