



VITAVEA

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WHAT IS A STATISTIC THAT YOU WANT TO CHANGE?

Less than 0.7 percent of students enrolled at the University of Washington identify as Polynesian, yet Polynesian athletes make up more than 8 percent of the UW football team.*

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE REMEMBERED FOR AT UW? WHAT ARE YOUR NEXT STEPS AFTER THIS CLASS TO CREATE YOUR LEGACY?

I want to be remembered as someone who is very respectful and caring. Growing up in the Tongan culture has taught to me how to love my neighbor. During my time here I have created a lifetime of friendships with my teammates on the football team and when we depart into our separate lives, I want to be remembered as the person who always cared for his brothers.

In a way, I feel that treating everyone with respect, love, and care is a way of me spreading my culture to the different ethnicities

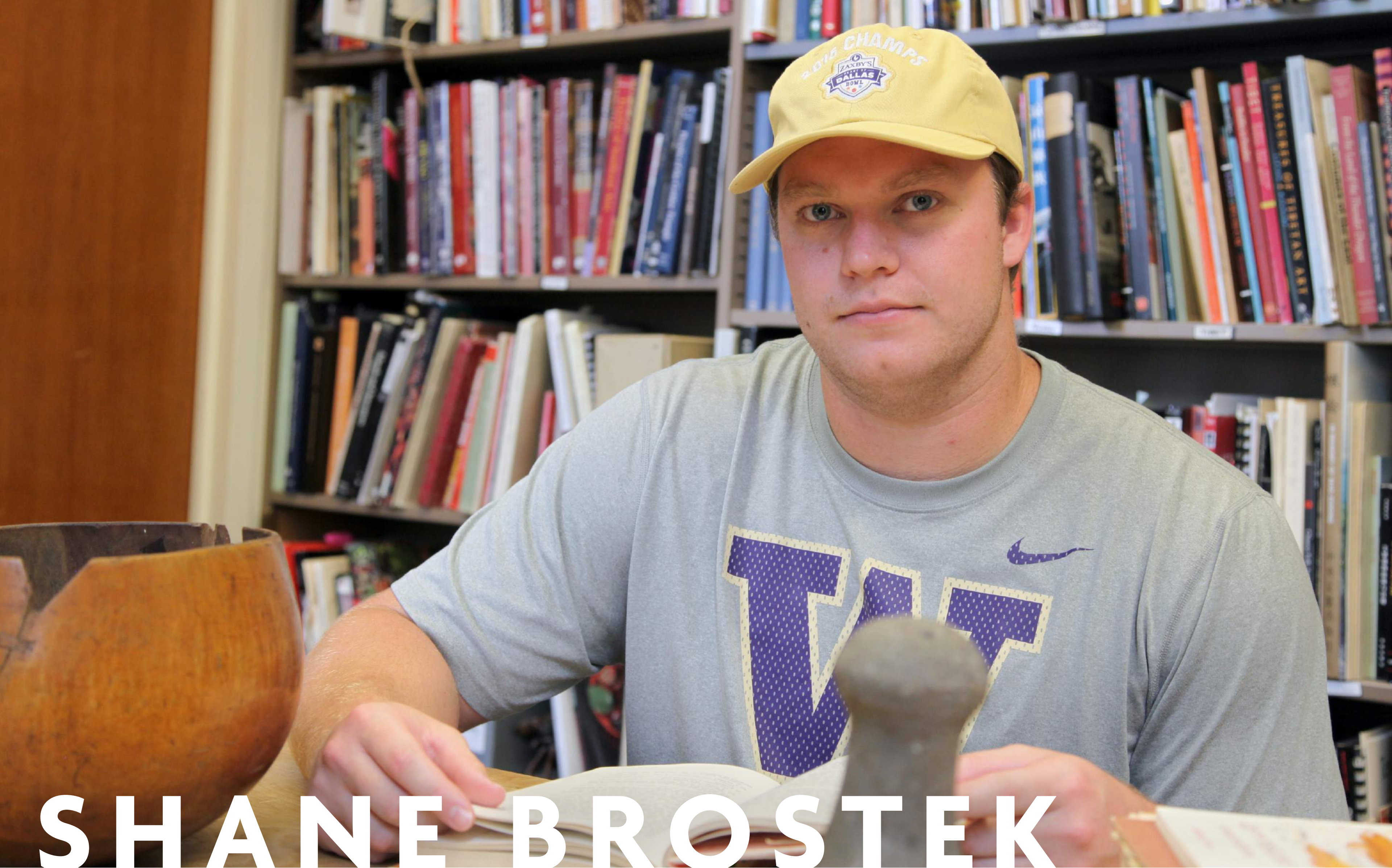


I come across. With that said. I will continue to spread my culture to the future relationships I build and the new people that I come across.

As a student and researcher, studying my culture has opened my eyes to the importance of what culture is. Academically, it is an honor to have experienced my culture and I am pleased that there are people who want to study my culture.

“NEVER WAIT FOR SOMETHING YOU WANT OR REGRET ANYTHING YOU’VE DONE BECAUSE YOU LIVE AND LEARN FROM EVERY MISTAKE YOU MAKE.”

* Source: UW Office of Minority affairs and diversity (website)



SHANE BROSTEK

WHAT IS A STATISTIC THAT YOU WANT TO CHANGE?

"According to the four-year federal numbers, only 47 percent of men's basketball players and 58 percent of FBS football players graduated. Football Championship Subdivision players came in at 56 percent." *

While the graduation rates for student-athletes are portrayed to be relatively high, the percentage for football players is actually much lower. This is a problem because every football player should be able to graduate, given that they don't leave early for the draft. Most people don't realize that football players struggle to make it to graduation. All they see is us playing on the field.

HAS THERE BEEN A TIME WHEN A PERSON MADE A FALSE ASSUMPTION ABOUT YOU?

The biggest assumption people make about me is that because I play football I'm not a good student. During one of my first classes here at UW, I had a professor ask me if I would need extra help just because he knew I was a football player. I was thankful that he had offered me help, but he made an assumption about my intellect based on my appearance, rather than my understanding of course material.

DESCRIBE YOUR PHOTO REPRESENTATION.

I took a picture of me with two objects and books about Polynesia around me to represent my interest in Pacific Islander culture. By pursuing anthropology, I've been able to learn so much about my own culture here at UW. The objects I chose were the kava bowl and poi pounder because I've studied both objects very thoroughly, and they are integral pieces of my Hawaiian culture.

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE ORIGINAL RESEARCH YOU DID THIS QUARTER.

The research we did this quarter is important because it gives Pacific Islanders an opportunity to learn about their history and culture in an academic setting. Growing up in America, most Pacific Islanders don't get the opportunity to learn about their own history in the classroom. They become disconnected from their culture and traditions.

IF THERE IS A YOUNG PERSON SOMEWHERE WHO LOOKS TO YOU AS A ROLE MODEL, WHAT MESSAGE DO YOU WANT TO GIVE TO THEM?

My advice to young people trying to go to college would be to have an attitude that nothing is going to stop you. If you want to go to college then pursue it with 100% effort and give it your all. You will be faced with adversity along the way but don't back down from it. Be relentless in your endeavors and you will never fail.



"THE BEST WAY I CAN HELP CHANGE THE STEREOTYPES SURROUNDING STUDENT-ATHLETES IS BY SUCCEEDING IN THE CLASSROOM, AND MAKING PEOPLE REALIZE THAT WE CAN EXCEL ON AND OFF THE FIELD."

* Source: http://espn.go.com/college-sports/story/_/id/9873192/notre-dame-comes-winner-graduation-rates



BENNING TAMATANE POTOA'E

WHAT IS A STATISTIC THAT YOU WANT TO CHANGE?

In 2009-10, 7.3 percent of Pacific Islanders had their degrees and 54.5 percent of them were females.*

HAS THERE BEEN A TIME A PERSON MADE A FALSE ASSUMPTION ABOUT YOU BASED ON A STEREOTYPE?

There were a couple of times when people would automatically think I played football because I was Samoan. They asked if I played and I answered, 'yes, why?' and they answered that they thought all Samoans play football. It made me feel like people limited our talents to football.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO CHANGE THAT STEREOTYPE?

I can become more focused on my school so that I can excel academically, proving wrong to people who don't understand our culture about who we are and that we're not only made to play football. As a whole, the Samoan culture needs to pursue more than just sports opportunities for the future of our culture and proving the stereotypes false.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE REMEMBERED FOR AT UW?

I want to be remembered as a passionate, driven young man that finds the good in everything and continuously expresses the importance of family.



IF THERE IS A YOUNG PERSON SOMEWHERE WHO LOOKS TO YOU AS A ROLE MODEL, WHAT MESSAGE DO YOU WANT TO GIVE TO THEM?

Be yourself and go against the grain when you are put into a false stereotype—it does not feel good to be boxed into an image that society creates. For the high schoolers out there: continue to persevere through the struggles you encounter because who you are is the brand you represent and it should not change for anybody.

“EMBRACE WHO YOU ARE AND TAKE PRIDE IN WHERE YOU COME FROM BECAUSE WHEN IT'S ALL SAID AND DONE, YOUR NAME AND CULTURE IS ALL YOU HAVE.”

* Source: 2012 American community survey, <http://factfinder.census.gov>



RICKY S. MCCOY

WHAT IS A STATISTIC THAT YOU WANT TO CHANGE?

1% make-up of American Indians on college campuses.*

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE REMEMBERED FOR AT UW? WHAT ARE YOUR NEXT STEPS AFTER THIS CLASS TO CREATE YOUR LEGACY?

I want to be a resource and a role model/mentor for Native kids as I study hard to learn more about my culture and hopefully become an expert in the field.

HAS THERE BEEN A TIME WHEN A PERSON MADE A FALSE ASSUMPTION ABOUT YOU BASED ON A STEREOTYPE?

As African Americans and Native Americans walking through the streets, my brother, cousin and I received negative and unnecessary attention from an older white gentleman. He urged us to move away from his truck or we would regret it, not knowing we were just passing through to get home. He was reacting to the stereotype of all minorities being criminals of some sort, especially in a low income area. We laughed it off, sadly, since it was not the first time this happened to us. Deep down it hurt and pushed me to continue to show that I was not truly a part of the stereotype.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO CHANGE A STEREOTYPE YOU HAVE ENCOUNTERED?

Sadly, I do not believe it is the action of the minority that will change stereotypes, rather it will take the actions of others coming out against these stereotypes to affect the outcome.

DESCRIBE YOUR PHOTO REPRESENTATION. WHAT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO CONVEY TO OTHERS ABOUT WHO YOU ARE?

There is no specific appearance for intelligence. No special dress code or skin color... just a will to learn!

IF THERE IS A YOUNG PERSON SOMEWHERE WHO LOOKS TO YOU AS A ROLE MODEL, WHAT MESSAGE DO YOU WANT TO GIVE TO THEM?

There is no shortcut to success, just a long road of hard work and discipline.

“DO NOT LET ANYONE CHEAT YOU OUT OF YOUR RIGHT TO LEARN AND GROW AS A STUDENT. WHATEVER YOU FEEL IS IMPORTANT AND FUN TO LEARN ABOUT, KNOW THAT THERE ARE OTHERS WHO FEEL THE SAME WAY. SO LEARN AND HAVE FUN DOING IT!”

* Source: http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2008/nativetrends/ind_6_1.asp



MAX RYAN MASEL

WHAT IS A STATISTIC THAT YOU WANT TO CHANGE?

In Division-I, approximately 27 percent of student-athletes have either studied abroad or plan to do so.*

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO YOU TO CHANGE THIS STATISTIC?

The most important thing about going off to college is to do things that are out of your comfort zone so that you can learn more about yourself. By getting out of your comfort zone you are able to find out what your limits are and areas in which you can improve.

The opportunity to study abroad was the best thing that could have happened to me while in college because it gave me an opportunity to connect with other student-athletes on a different level. By combining different sports, it gives student-athletes the opportunity to connect with people that have similar goals and aspirations, but don't usually have the chance to bond with.

Being able to study a culture that is far different from your own gives you a broader perspective on where people come from and their heritage. Doing so in a study abroad environment gives the opportunity to do research in a hands-on style and the things that you learn have much more significance.

WHY DOES THE RESEARCH THAT YOU DID THIS QUARTER MATTER?

Doing hands-on research makes it memorable and fun. Research is more enjoyable when you're having a blast doing it.

DESCRIBE YOUR PHOTO REPRESENTATION.

I decided to do my photo in front of the Pacific Island voyage section in the Burke gallery with the cowrie shell octopus lure and the Hawaiiki Rising book. I chose the location because I find that ocean voyage is very interesting and I like understanding how Polynesians and other Pacific Islanders navigated the oceans before compasses and GPS, which is quite an extraordinary skill.

IF THERE IS A YOUNG PERSON SOMEWHERE WHO LOOKS TO YOU AS A ROLE MODEL, WHAT MESSAGE DO YOU WANT TO GIVE TO THEM?

Being a college football player, there is so much emphasis on school and football. Football players and other athletes should explore a range of opportunities even if it seems like there's no room for missing team workouts and practices.



“STUDYING ABROAD HAD THE BIGGEST IMPACT ON MY EDUCATION WHILE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON BECAUSE IT ALLOWED ME TO SEE ANOTHER PART OF THE WORLD AND FIND A NEW STYLE OF RESEARCHING.”

* Source: <http://www.ncaa.org/champion/summer-success>



LARRY MOSE

IF THERE IS A YOUNG PERSON SOMEWHERE WHO LOOKS TO YOU AS A ROLE MODEL, WHAT MESSAGE DO YOU WANT TO GIVE TO THEM?

Gear yourself for the long haul. Whatever path you choose—business, science, arts—you are going to have some setbacks. You are going to occasionally deal with some foolish people. You'll be frustrated and you won't get everything you want. Or at least not as fast as you want it.

Yet you have to be persistent. In this journey, you'll need to assemble a team that will help you towards success. Find mentors, tutors, study groups and be best friends with advisors and teachers. This team should help you reach your academic goals. They'll help you succeed. Most importantly, however small or incomplete the success may be—it's still success. This is how progress happens.

WHAT IS A STATISTIC THAT YOU WANT TO CHANGE?

Over the past half century, the number of blacks enrolled in medical school has steadily increased. At traditionally white U.S. medical schools, the number of graduates increased from 153 in 1969 to 571 in 1974. This progress peaked in 1996 where there were 3,524 graduates. By 2004 the number of black applicants to U.S. med schools dropped to 2,803 and only 1,034 blacks graduated.*

The STEM and medical fields are often dominated with white people and not people of color. As a person of color pursuing a career in medicine, I want to challenge these stereotypes.

HAS THERE BEEN A TIME WHEN A PERSON MADE A FALSE ASSUMPTION ABOUT YOU BASED ON A STEREOTYPE?

As an African American, I was assumed to be a person who would cause trouble for others. Standing in line to use the ATM machine, an old white woman assumed that I would rob her. She took necessary precautions by asking a white male to stand by as protection while she used the ATM machine. Having experienced this, I felt the stereotype that African Americans are deemed as violent people. I felt embarrassed, ashamed and violated.

WHY DOES THE RESEARCH THAT YOU DID THIS QUARTER MATTER?

Research matters because it is a great tool for graduate school. Through research, one is able to focus on anything of interest. Research offers more knowledge that is not learned in a classroom setting.



“SUCCESS IS SUCCESS. NO MATTER HOW SMALL, IT’S STILL SUCCESS. THAT’S HOW PROGRESS IS MADE.”

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE REMEMBERED FOR AT UW?

I want to be remembered as a person who was humble, kind and hardworking. I want people to know me as a person who took advantage of every opportunity that would shift me closer towards my goals no matter the odds. I want to be remembered as a person who loved storming through challenges.

* Source: Journal of Blacks in Higher Education



MALIK GEESAY

WHAT IS A STATISTIC THAT YOU WANT TO CHANGE?

Approximately 2.73% of African Americans enrolled at the University of Washington-Seattle campus.*

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE REMEMBERED FOR AT UW?

I want to be remembered as the guy with the kind heart.

WHAT DID YOU RESEARCH AND WHY?

I chose to research Micronesian clubs because I am passionate about war materials. Last quarter I had the chance to learn about Micronesia and was fascinated by the people and the culture.

HAS THERE BEEN A TIME WHEN A PERSON MADE A FALSE ASSUMPTION ABOUT YOU BASED ON A STEREOTYPE?

I've been asked several times on campus if I am on the football team (I am not) due to the color of my skin. People tend to assume that the only way I could attend the UW is if I was on a sports team. It makes me feel as though I don't have the skills to attend this school without being on a sports team.



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO CHANGE A STEREOTYPE YOU'VE ENCOUNTERED?

To change the stereotypes I have encountered in the past, I hope to provide insight on my past and current academic achievements to show people that I am more than a guy with an athletic build.

“DO NOT LET THE CRITICISM OF OTHERS PREVENT YOU FROM ASPIRING TO BE THE PERSON YOU WANT TO BE TODAY.”

* Source: UW Office of Minority affairs and diversity (website)



KEISHAWN BIERRIA

WHAT IS A STATISTIC THAT YOU WANT TO CHANGE?

I want to see an increase in the number of student-athletes who leave college with a degree, not just a few credits toward one. "5,000 Division-I teams reported graduation success rates of 80 percent or higher, while fewer than 4 percent of teams reported rates of 50 percent or lower."*

This statistic is a lot better than the student's graduation percentages but athletes coming out of college also often have injuries and other problems and didn't have opportunities to connect with enough people to really brighten their futures after school.

HAS THERE BEEN A TIME WHEN A PERSON MADE A FALSE ASSUMPTION ABOUT YOU BASED ON A STEREOTYPE?

In a class, when we were asked to introduce ourselves and give a little background, I didn't mention anything about football. Once I was done, the teacher asked if I played any sports since I didn't mention anything about sports. I just smiled, and said 'yes I play football here at UW.' I showed up every day,



asked questions, and tried to excel in everything that we worked on.

DESCRIBE YOUR PHOTO REPRESENTATION.

I always want to remain connected to my community. Being comfortable and knowing who I am is a true goal for me. The location, expression, and object all represent who I am as a student and my desire to learn and continue to educate myself.

"DON'T JUDGE A MAN BY HOW LOW HE FALLS, JUDGE HIM BY HOW HIGH HE BOUNCES ONCE HE HAS HIT THE BOTTOM."

* Source: [chronicle.com/article/Athletes-Continue-to-Graduate/129529/](https://www.chronicle.com/article/Athletes-Continue-to-Graduate/129529/)



SHANE BOWMAN

HAS THERE BEEN A TIME WHEN A PERSON MADE A FALSE ASSUMPTION ABOUT YOU BASED ON A STEREOTYPE?

I was in a class where the teacher treated me differently than the other students because I was an athlete. I ended up doing really well in the class and from that point forward she started treating me as a regular student. I imagine she pictured me as a dumb jock before and this perception changed when she saw my work and my writing skills. It made me feel motivated.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO CHANGE THE STEREOTYPES YOU ENCOUNTER?

Sit in the front of the classroom and carry myself with confidence. My personal image will show people that I walk with purpose and I'm not just some big dumb guy. By doing so, people's perspectives of me will change.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE REMEMBERED FOR AT UW?

A great student and football player. A person that everyone says they can trust, and an all-around great son, brother, teammate, and husband when the time comes.

WHAT DID YOU RESEARCH THIS QUARTER?

I researched kava ceremonies, Samurai swords, and Chinese Jian swords. This research taught me how some of the things that we might think of as strange or unorthodox in American culture is normal in other cultures. It shows you a different aspect of other cultures and it makes you appreciate them that much more.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO CONVEY TO OTHERS ABOUT WHO YOU ARE?

I want to show others that I am an intelligent young man. I am professional and I take my academics seriously.

IF THERE IS A YOUNG PERSON SOMEWHERE WHO LOOKS TO YOU AS A ROLE MODEL, WHAT MESSAGE DO YOU WANT TO GIVE TO THEM?

Take school seriously and take all of the advice you can get.

“I WANT TO SHOW OTHERS THAT I AM AN INTELLIGENT YOUNG MAN. I AM PROFESSIONAL AND I TAKE MY ACADEMICS SERIOUSLY.”



JOMON DOTSON

HAS THERE BEEN A TIME WHEN A PERSON MADE A FALSE ASSUMPTION ABOUT YOU BASED ON A STEREOTYPE?

There have been many times where people judge me based on the way I look. They've said I look mean or didn't look happy. When you get to know me and just talk to me, I am a very nice person. I like to encourage people and help out in people's lives.

I'm majoring in sociology because I want to study people and the way they interact. When I get a vibe from a person that's just thinking I'm a bad person, all I think is "if only they knew me."

DESCRIBE YOUR PHOTO REPRESENTATION. WHAT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO CONVEY TO OTHERS ABOUT WHO YOU ARE?

I researched a blowgun and poisonous blow darts. I thought the blowgun and blow darts were fascinating because of their cultural significance. It was a very lethal weapon used by many cultures, especially in South East Asia and South America.

I like to learn about different cultures and wanted to represent that athletes are not always solely focused on sports. There are other things out there that are good to experience and research.



IF THERE IS A YOUNG PERSON SOMEWHERE WHO LOOKS TO YOU AS A ROLE MODEL, WHAT MESSAGE DO YOU WANT TO GIVE TO THEM?

I want to inspire younger kids to enjoy school because there is a lot to learn about each and everyday. I can be a leader by showing younger kids that you can become brighter and more knowledgeable through different thinking. If you get stuck in a road block, try to do your best and collect all the knowledge you know. Something is always better than nothing.

"I LIKE TO LEARN ABOUT DIFFERENT CULTURES AND WANT TO REPRESENT THAT ATHLETES ARE NOT ALWAYS SOLELY FOCUSED ON SPORTS."



LAVON COLEMAN

WHAT IS A STATISTIC THAT YOU WANT TO CHANGE?

The statistic I want to change is the violence that is happening nowadays. Every day, 48 teens or children are either injured or killed with a gun.*

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO YOU TO CHANGE THIS STATISTIC?

It's important to change this statistic because I want my children to grow up without having to worry about the dangers of weapons being used against them.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO CHANGE THE STEREOTYPES YOU ENCOUNTER?

I continue to better myself in ways other than athletics. I always try to meet new people outside of football to make future business opportunities for myself. I don't want my life to depend on my athleticism, so I feel the need to show people that athletes excel in multiple ways.

I think my fellow teammates and I are stereotyped every day when it comes to the public. People discriminate against us because they feel we are silver-spooned in college.



WHAT DID YOU RESEARCH THIS QUARTER?

My research into Fijian warriors gave me insight into a type of people who were violent and very demanding as a tribe. They truly lived in fear.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE REMEMBERED FOR AT UW?

I want to be remembered as a guy that stayed in his own lane but would be there in a heartbeat if someone needed me.

“I DON'T WANT MY LIFE TO DEPEND ON MY ATHLETICISM, SO I FEEL THE NEED TO SHOW PEOPLE THAT ATHLETES EXCEL IN MULTIPLE WAYS.”

* Source: <http://www.childrensdefense.org/library/each-day-in-america.html>