



PROFILES

Patrick Easley

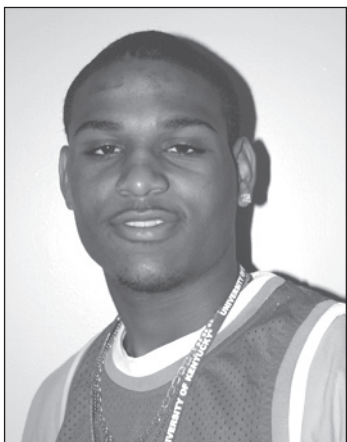
By Samantha C. Pointer

Confidence doesn't come easily to other people, but for Patrick Easley, it's something that was always there.

"I know I can do it..." said Easley, a senior at Henry Clay High School, Lexington, about his goals. He describes himself in four simple words: "I keep it real..."

Easley was born in Chicago, and his family left for Lexington when he was on his way to the eighth grade. He moved in with his grandmother when he was 7 years old, causing him to miss out on being with his immediate family.

But he has still been successful with anything he touched. He has been awarded "Kid of The Year" for writing at his church and honored for a speech commemorating former Chicago Mayor Harold Washington. For the speech he was awarded a first place trophy as well as a \$100 savings bond.



He played football at his former school in Chicago.

He credited his success with the fact that he was raised in the church and the guidance his grandmother provided to help him along the way as he tried to mend the broken relationships with his parents. However, he said that his obstacles and broken relationships made him stronger.

But he really dislikes Lexington, loves writing, is outgoing, isn't intimidated by much, is strong willed, and most of all, independent. "I know who I am and where I want to go in life. I won't let anyone else tell me different, but God."

Among the many important values he was taught by his grandmother, there is one quote that will always stick with him: "God grant me the serenity to deal with things I can't change, courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference."

Asia Payne

By Donedra Montgomery

Asia Payne is an outspoken individual with an opinion on many subjects, and there's always someone there to hear what she has to say.

Asia shares her opinion on politics and sports whether others agree or not. "I will not back away from sharing my opinion in controversial discussions," Asia said.

What stands out is her lively personality, which keeps you guessing, and leaves you wanting to know more about her.

Born in Louisville, she is a 16-year-old senior at duPont Manual High School. She believes achievement is setting your mind on something, taking any opportunities that are associated with it, and offering them your best effort.

Asia attended a private Christian elementary school then transferred to public education in middle and high school. Asia said, "My transition was hard because I was more focused on impressing and appealing to my peers and not focused enough on schoolwork." Once she decided others' opinion of her was irrelevant, she embraced a new goal: achieving her best potential in the classroom.

She takes part in a number of student activities including the marching band, the council that arranges pep rallies and a steering committee that oversees class activities.

Outside of school she enjoys taking pictures and



increasing her knowledge of sports.

Asia said she hasn't faced many obstacles, but she did lose her uncle from the effects of cancer. He was one of two uncles on her mother's side to whom she was extremely close. "Overcoming such a tragedy was tough for me, but support from my family allowed me to get through it."

"Focusing on his memory and the Godly comfort I received from family were what enabled me to move on with a brighter outlook," she said.

Her parents, among the most successful people Asia knows, have motivated and helped strengthen her character, inspiring her goal to attend college. Her mother, Tammye Payne, is a human resources representative for Brown-Forman. Her father, Kevin Payne, is an operating room technician.

She plans to attend the University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville or the University of Tennessee. If she chooses to pursue journalism it will be in communications and sports administration. She may also become a sports columnist. Asia aspires to be the next black woman to be an athletic director at a Division I-A school.

Faith Clark

By Norma Solis

Faith Marie Clark has dreams and aspirations, many of which are determined by her experiences. Faith was born in Decatur, Ga., on September 18, 1988. She is 16, and she attends Holmes High School in Covington, Ky.

Her inspiration and the reason she desires to be a writer is her Aunt Karla Dejean. She is a journalist from Florida. Karla has been an influence in Faith's life ever since she can remember. "My Aunt Karla," recalled Faith, "just was fortunate enough to find what she wanted to do with her life, and just went for it. I want to be like that. It takes real courage."

Faith's wisdom paired with her ability to connect with an audience is what helps her when she is confronted by new situations. She said she enjoys motivating people. She wants to be either a news anchor or a motivational speaker. "I'm a very informative person; I like to share my knowledge with

people and vice versa. I like to learn new things," Faith said.

She has been attracted to creative writing, especially poetry, since she was younger. "Poems," Faith said, "have always been a part of my life. My poems don't necessarily have a particular rhyme scheme, but they have distinct rhythms. I don't think people would understand them if they picked one up and read it. They are performance pieces. You must listen, and most importantly, allow yourself to feel the emotion. Timing is everything."

Her poetry deals with specific issues and obstacles in her daily life, one of which is the way she is viewed by others. She believes that her determination makes her a stronger person.

Faith desires to make the world a better place. "I am trying to discover myself. I'm just trying to find something that accommodates everything I love," Faith said. "As long as I make a difference and inspire others, it is worth it."



Lynsey Smith

By Alexis Goodwin

Lynsey Smith is an up-and-coming African American journalist. She is 16 years old and a junior at Bates Creek High School in Lexington. She was born Feb. 6, 1989, to Marilyn and Cleveland Smith.

Her parents are encouraging of her dreams and whatever she does in life. She gets along with them very well, especially her father.

Her hobbies include talking on the phone and hanging out with friends. She is energetic, outgoing and cheerful. While she was growing up, the idea of journalism never came to her mind. Instead, she sought to be in the cosmetology field, doing hair, nails and the works.

Lynsey loves to write poetry and can write about anything that goes on in her life. "I write mainly about my sad moments or just hurtful things people have said." She became interested in poetry in the seventh grade and in journalism in the ninth grade because of the problems that came in her life. "Poetry expresses my feelings." Instead of



talking, she writes her feelings down.

Her sister, Ashley Smith, tried to change her mind from cosmetology to journalism. Even her best male friend told her to choose journalism.

She has not yet achieved her goals, but they're also not where she wants them to be. Even though there aren't any obstacles in her path to becoming a journalist her major in college will be cosmetology. Future plans will be to become a fashion designer/ cosmetologist.

She is proud of getting where she is today. There are many definitions of success but Lynsey's definition of success would be getting to where you need to be in life or completing something you always sought to do.

Michelle Puckett

By Tasia Price

Michelle Puckett wants to be rich and live on a beach.

"I'm going to do something with my life," she said.

Michelle was born and raised in Oregon, but her family moved to Bardstown, Ky., when she was in seventh grade to live with her grandmother.

One obstacle for Michelle to overcome was moving around a lot to different homes and schools. She had to adjust and make new friends each time. Michelle and her family moved nine times before settling in Kentucky.

Michelle, 17, is a senior at Bardstown High School. Michelle is still trying to determine what college she wants to attend. She either wants to go to Western Kentucky University or University of Kentucky. She wants to be a veterinarian.

Michelle plans to open a chain of animal clinics.

When asked her definition of life, Michelle moved her hands with a gentle clap and said "Living life to the fullest, getting what I can out of it... To



have success for life, you basically have to give your all."

Living on a beach where it is peaceful, serene and calm is one of Michelle's dreams.

Michelle said that she values her friends more than family, even family comes first.

A role model for Michelle would be her mother because she looks at her mom and sees how she supported the family through hard times and struggles.

"I want to be remembered for what I do, for being a good person," Michelle said.

Michelle's advice for teenagers is to be yourself and don't play follow the leader because when you do you lose out.

gave me advice about life, growing up and a lot of other topics that nobody else had answers for."

LaToya is determined to be successful. "In my words, success is something that you have to achieve and work hard to get. It just doesn't come overnight."

She has goals for her final two years of high school. "When I graduate from high school, I hope to graduate in the top of my class." Harris said. "I will be very proud of myself if I achieve that goal."

LaToya would like to attend Kentucky State University. While she is there, she would like to be remembered as someone who likes helping others and who is never selfish.

Alexis Goodwin

By Lynsey Smith

Alexis Goodwin communicates her feelings through writing or acting.

"It gives me a way to express myself, instead of talking to someone," she said. "When I am mad, I release the pain."

However, Alexis isn't sure if she wants to act or write. She attended the Dow Jones Workshop at the University of Kentucky hoping to discover if she wants to become a journalist.

"I do not know if journalism is for me, or just acting, but whatever it is, I will strive to do the best," Alexis said.

Alexis is a senior at duPont Manual High School in Louisville. She is a member of the Youth Performing Arts School. One of her proudest moments was performing at the Kentucky Center for the Arts in Louisville in a play that was written in her drama class.

Alexis began acting in fifth grade when she got up in front of her drama class and delivered a monologue. Alexis also has been in plays at her church, Coke Memorial United Methodist Church. She has performed in her church's annual Christmas and Easter plays.



Alexis also enjoys writing poetry, which she says is "letting it all out on paper instead of speaking."

Alexis, 17, is the second of three children. Alexis enjoys a close relationship with her family, but she describes herself as a "daddy's girl."

"I am always with my dad - I'm always following my dad. I just like being with him," Alexis said.

Alexis was born in Nashville and grew up in Barnesville and Atlanta, both in Georgia. She is very outgoing and is determined to get what she wants in life.

After finishing high school, she plans on going to college either in Georgia or New York. She wants to major in theater. Eventually she wants to perform on Broadway and star in commercials and movies.

LaToya Harris

By Danielle McCoy

LaToya Harris has set a high goal for herself: She hopes to earn a degree in medicine and become a psychiatrist.

LaToya grew up in Mt. Sterling, Ky., and attended Mary Todd Elementary. She is a junior at Bates Creek High School in Lexington.

"If I could describe myself in five adjectives, I would have to say I am outgoing, funny, creative, caring and helpful."

She looks up to her aunt as someone who guided and watched over her. Even though her aunt is only five years older, LaToya still looks up to her as someone who has been through it all in life. "My aunt helped me through life when nobody else would. She

