



UK Dow Jones Workshop 2009

Profile of Amanda Wilkerson
By: Rachel Cunningham

Amanda Wilkerson is exciting, silly, spontaneous, genuine, and strives to challenge herself every day.

Amanda, 16, born July 23, 1992, is a junior at Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School in Lexington, Ky. Amanda is one of four children who include her two older brothers (ages 22 and 18) and younger brother (age 12). During her spare time, she enjoys playing with her dog, Lucy, who she considers to be more her child than a canine companion.

At her high school, she enjoys doing activities such as color guard. As vice president of the yearbook committee, she gained some journalism experience that has helped her in the Dow Jones workshop. The reason Amanda decided she would attend this particular workshop is that she was inquisitive about looking into journalism as a possible career choice.

Along with the possibility of becoming a journalist, she also has aspirations of becoming a meteorologist. “I’m a really good guesser,” Amanda said. This skill will be very helpful in this profession. As far as plans after high school, she hopes to attend UK and get a degree in meteorology and broadcast journalism.

Amanda is the type of young woman who inspires laughter wherever she goes. The main thing that I have learned from being around her is that she gets spooked extremely easy. “I’m so jumpy. Everything scares me,” Wilkerson said.

It’s entertaining watching her flail around if anyone or anything makes a sudden movement. She is truly one of a kind. Silly and spontaneous, her personality brightens up the workshop.

The most interesting thing that’s ever happened to her was being honored as Miss Lexington Belle in the 2005 pageant. Amanda is very proud of this achievement. Other than being a good friend through these few days of journalism camp, she has proven to be a genuinely good person and she hopes to continue to succeed in life.

RIGHTS

By: Amanda Wilkerson

First Amendment. When you hear that, what comes to mind? Perhaps it's freedom or maybe rights or to a handful of Americans, nothing. Most Americans are absent minded about this momentous amendment and quite frankly, take it for granted. Having the Amendments or even just the history of America taught in grade school during this time period is more or less liable for young adults', kids' and/or teenagers' perspective on how they view the First Amendment.

The First Amendment states the "freedom of speech, of press, of religion, to petition the government and the right to assemble peaceably." It was not called the First Amendment because it was the most important of the Bill Of Rights but because it was the first Amendment adopted. It was added to the Constitution after it was ratified in 1791. This Amendment is so essential because it can protect what you say or what you do to voice or act on your opinion (without harming a person physically or damaging a place). This right, or any right for that matter, was not handed down to us (America) so unproblematically. Our brothers, dads, men that worked at the local grocery store down the street had to fight for these rights that we take so for granted.

The group of citizens that takes more or less these rights for granted looks negatively at the group of citizens who will be leading our country in the future -- our youth. Why is this? Why is it that we have enough energy to sing our favorite songs but do not have enough energy to stand up in the morning for thirty seconds in school and say the Pledge of Allegiance? There are many reasons as to why we take our freedom and liberty for granted. The youth are naïve about what had to be done, what had to be said, who had to be killed to get those freedoms that we have. We cannot change the year we were born in. Maybe if we were born in an "earlier time" we could be more prideful, jubilant, and triumphant about what freedom, justice, and liberty we have because we would have gone through and endured what had to be done to get them.

Having been to many sporting events, particularly baseball games, there's a tradition that has been going on for years now, singing the national anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner." One thing that has made me appreciate the tradition was the generation it appealed to the most. Understandably, it appealed to the elderly more than anyone else. Why was that? Why did it seem that when the national anthem was being sung they were a little bit more emotional, a little bit more touched, a little bit more moved? The reason behind this is simply because they had to endure what had to be done to have their freedom, liberty, justice and none the less their rights.