

# ATKINS LIVING-LEARNING CENTER NEWSLETTER

## Meet the Media Committee

by Staff



Ashlee Cousin



Ernest Wilkins

Hey Atkins my name is Ashlee Cousin and I am a Criminal Justice major and my goal is to become a defense attorney. Some of my hobbies include watching anime, watching true crime documentaries, going on walks, and listening to music. I am glad to be here and I hope y'all are too!

Hello Atkins, my name is Ernest R. Wilkins III and I am a second generation college student from Indianapolis, Indiana. I am also a graduate of Pike High School. I am currently studying History in preparation for Law School. Currently, at Indiana University, I am a member of the Marching Hundred and The Big Red Basketball Band. I am also the Vice President of the Atkins Executive Council. Something Interesting about me is that I am an Eagle Scout. I look forward to keeping you all informed on the Pop Culture News.

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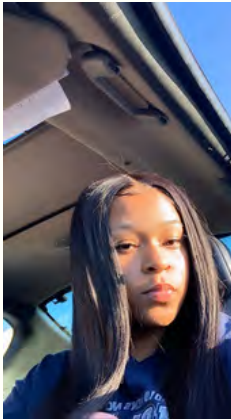
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## ABOUT THE ATKINS LIVING-LEARNING CENTER

Atkins Living-Learning Center (LLC) is a welcoming home away from home designed to build community through interaction about contemporary issues and life experiences. We promote academic excellence, community and leadership engagement, cultural awareness, and social justice participation.



Ayanna Wright



Brooklyn Akin



Larry McDowell



London Rascoe

Hello, my name is Ayannah Wright and I am a part of the media committee. I am a pre-med college student inspired to become a doctor. I love music and hanging out with my friends. A fun fact is that I am born on Halloween. I love being a part of the Atkins LLC it is really amazing.

My name is Brooklyn Akin, I am from Indianapolis, Indiana. I am currently a freshman living at Atkins Living Learning Center. I am the middle child of five kids; with that comes great support from my siblings. I am considered a loud outgoing person with a positive attitude. In my free time I like to spend it with my friends or getting dressed up. I am a early childhood education major with the dreams of inspiring the future generations. I have always had a passion for children. I love to travel and hope to study abroad senior year with the plans of traveling years after that. I have lived in Houston, Texas and plan on moving back after I finish School.

My name is Larry McDowell, I am a freshman from Fort Wayne, Indiana. I am studying Law and Public Policy with minors in Germanic Studies and Psychology here at IU. I take major interest in fiscal and social policy, and linguistics. I am a Groups Scholar and I have had an awesome experience at IU, with ample opportunities to get involved! I was just recently nominated and confirmed as an Associate Justice on the IU Student Government Supreme Court. In addition to that I currently serve as the chair of the IU Residential Programs and Services Conduct Board, a member of the Dean's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, a Sub-Committee head for Philanthropy in IU Student Foundation, a member of Elkhart County's branch of the NAACP, a member of the IU Human Rights Awareness Council, as well as the Governor of the Atkins Living Learning Community. I am also a Jane Jorgensen Intern for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion with IU's OVPDEMA, as well as a IU Student Ambassador through the Office of Admissions.

Hello, my name is London Rascoe and I am new to the Media Committee this semester. I am from Indianapolis, Indiana. Currently, my major is undecided, but I am enjoying exploring different class options. I previously worked on the Trip Committee and enjoyed it and the members of my group. A fun fact about me is that my favorite food is Chicken Alfredo!

# Atkins Fall 2021 Wall of Honor and Awardees

by Staff

Each semester, Atkins students who earn a 3.0 or above are added to the Wall of Honor. This plaque is displayed in the Atkins common room to serve as a source of motivation and pride. Let's congratulate the Atkins students who made the Wall of Honor for the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semester.

## Fall 2021

- Laila Dixon
- Whitney Marshall
- Seyra Galadima
- Emma Smith
- Claire Namalomba
- Rylie Dixon
- Ceina Navarre
- Larry McDowell
- Amonie Briner
- Ayannah Wright
- Tianna Crim
- Deleecia Griffin
- London Rascoe
- Mwai Mandiwa
- Emmanuel Ufuah



On April 29, 2022, several members of the Atkins community were recognized at the AAADS awards ceremony. Let's congratulate the following Atkins members on their achievements!

- **All3 Atkins Foundational Course Highest Performance:** Fall 2021 - Emmanuel Ufuah, Spring 2022 - Kiya Priest
- **Thomas I. Atkins LLC Engaged Citizen Practioners** - Dre Caudle and Emmanuel Ufuah
- **Thomas I. Atkins LLC Program Creator for Campus/Community-Wide Engagement** - LaTavia Brown and Larry McDowell





## City Spotlight - Indianapolis, IN

*by Ayannah Wright*

With so many Atkins residents hailing from Indianapolis, I choose to do a brief city spotlight so that more people can get to know all about Indianapolis, and what it has to offer the Black community.

Indianapolis also known as Indy or Nap Town, is the state capital and the most popular city in Indiana. Black people have a rich and complicated history not only in the city of Indianapolis but throughout the state. Indy is home to a strong Black Arts scene ranging from jazz and bebop to modern hip-hop. There is something for everyone. There are a number of fantastic festivals that showcase the best talent this city has to offer, such as Open Bite Night. There is also The Landmark for Peace in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on the northside of town. The memorial is named after the famous civil rights leader and spans 14 acres in central Indy Township. In 1968, Robert F. Kennedy visited the park initially to the campaign, however, instead had to deliver the news of Dr. King's assassination. Landmark for Peace was dedicated by former President Bill Clinton in 1995 to honor both Dr. King and the late Mr. Kennedy for their dedication to our nation.

If you plan to travel to Indianapolis and are looking for Black cultural things to do, check out the following:

- Visit the Center for Black Literature and Culture
- Eat at Negril's
- Visit the Crispus Attucks Museum
- Visit the Madame C.J. Walker Legacy Center
- Explore African Dance with the Epiphany Dance Company
- See the Jazz Masters of Indiana Avenue Mural
- Get your hair braided at any number of braid shops
- Explore the numerous Black owned restaurants



# Jordan Avenue is Renamed to Honor Bloomington Black Family

by London Rascoe



Indiana University has made its final decision on renaming Jordan Avenue, a Street located in Bloomington. Trustees voted in October of 2020 on the removal of the Street name. Jordan Avenue was named after IU's Seventh President, David Starr Jordan. The Street is north of 17th Street near the railroad tracks. Jordan Hall, Jordan Avenue Parking Garage, and Jordan River will also no longer be named after David Starr Jordan. Eagleson Avenue was chosen as the new name for Jordan Avenue.

From the article, "According to IU, "The Eaglesons have a long history in Bloomington and made significant contributions to the city, Indiana University, the state of Indiana, and the nation." Halson Vashon Eagleson was born into slavery, he had moved to Bloomington in the 1880s and became a remarkable barber. During this time, it was one of the few occupations open to African Americans. In 1910 he opened Industrial City and a home for Black orphans in Unionville. Halson Vashon Eagleson had five children who attended Indiana University. Preston E. Eagleson, Wilson Vashon Eagleson, Frances Marshall Eagleson, Halson V. Eagleson Jr., and Elizabeth Eagleson Bridgwaters. All of his children have incredible historic stories which make The Eagleson's family truly significant. These stories can be found within the Neal Marshall Black Culture Center.

President Michael McRobbie was the person who recommended removing David Starr Jordan's name from several places on the campus and in the city. David Starr Jordan was someone who promoted racism, selective breeding, sterilization of people with disabilities, and he was an influential eugenicist. Although Indiana University has made its final decision on renaming Jordan Avenue, a street located in Bloomington. The new names for Jordan Hall, Jordan Avenue Parking Garage, and Jordan River have yet to be confirmed. Currently, Jordan Hall is referred to as the Biology Building, and the Jordan Parking Garage is now the East Parking Garage. Jordan's views conflicted with the university's values in diversity, equity, and inclusion. Indiana University's decision on renaming Jordan Avenue was the best decision to be made.

# Public Policy: Russia and Ukraine

by Larry McDowell and Staff



Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a “Special Military Operation” to demilitarize Ukraine. This military operation has caused many European countries and the United States to take a very hands on military and sanction approach in combatting this effort. This comes after a formal speech was given in early 2022 by Chinese President Xi Jinping alongside President Putin stating that the friendship between Russia and China has no limits.

China’s relationship with the U.S. has taken a turn for the worse in more recent years. This is mainly due to President Xi Jinping expressing strong and outward opposition to Western Democracy-which politically aligns Russia and China. However, many question how this aggression toward Ukraine will affect the limitless relationship between Russia. China has historically been viewed as a peace loving, conflict-avoiding nation, and presumably has no intention of changing the world’s perception. What China’s response will look like entirely is still very much unknown, but will have a major impact on the UN and international relations more broadly.

Update:

Since the article was initially written, Russia has invaded Ukraine, and the invasion is entering its second month. Numerous Ukrainian citizens have fled to neighboring countries for safety. However, Africans living in Ukraine are experiencing challenges and roadblocks to being able to leave the country, which highlights how anti-blackness is global. On March 24th, students within African Studies held a Teach In to raise awareness of this issue.

As a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Americans are experiencing higher than usual gas prices. At this time, President Biden has not sent military support to Ukraine to assist. However, the United States has approved a large humanitarian aid package. For those still confused about the origin and nature of the conflict in Ukraine, consider checking out @iamlegallyhype on Tik Tok.

# Guest Column: How to Pimp a Butterfly Changed My Life

by Emmanuel Ufuah



If you didn't know this thing about me, I love Kendrick Lamar. I love his music a lot. I wouldn't say I have much experience with the kinds of things that Kendrick Lamar dealt with during his upbringing because I am a kid from Brownsburg. I am a kid raised in a suburban neighborhood. However, some of Kendrick Lamar's lyrics resonate with me on some levels. Growing up back in the hometown of Brownsburg, I was introduced to Kendrick Lamar by my older brother. The introduction all started back when I was sitting on his bed while he was doing work on his desktop monitor. He was listening to a song which kept on repeating the lyrics "We gon' be alright, We gon' be alright, We gon' be alright". Curious, I asked my brother what song he was playing. He said the song he was playing was Alright, by Kendrick Lamar. That first introduction was what introduced me to Kendrick Lamar's music. I would play Alright 24/7. After playing the song a few more times, I decided to take it upon myself to listen to other songs by Kendrick Lamar. I did not regret that decision.

Section.80, Good Kid MAAD City, To Pimp a Butterfly, all of them were great listens. Out of all of those albums, To Pimp a Butterfly stood out to me the most. The upbeat music, the storytelling, the lyrics all spoke to me. Back then when I was younger I didn't always view the world in a positive light. I still don't sometimes even now, but I do consider myself to have more faith in people. I was pessimistic. I believed that good things couldn't happen in the world. But, that changed when I listened to Kendrick Lamar's To Pimp a Butterfly. After listening to his last three songs, You Ain't Gotta Lie (Momma Said), I, and Mortal Man. That album changed my outlook on life. I experienced something like never before in my life. I never knew that a musical artist like Kendrick Lamar could make me into an even more positive person. I was happy waking up the next morning and I felt at peace with myself. Listening to that album is one experience I will never forget. The experience changed me for the better. There's a saying of "you can't touch music, but music can touch you." Kendrick Lamar's album, To Pimp a Butterfly, taught me the value of loving myself and not conforming to what other people think I should be.

It is important to live everyday loving yourself. You're not going to love yourself everyday. Some days you'll hate yourself. Some days you won't even want to exist. Those feelings are okay. Those feelings are normal. You just have to keep the train going. At the end of the day, we're all Mortal Man.

# What's Happening in Atkins?

by Brooklyn Akin

Last semester was stressful for all students but that does not stop the Atkins floor. This is the time we come together and have floor events. We had a fantastic Halloween themed game night that ended with a few crushed hearts. The B team did not take the victory but they were good sports about it. We also have had a few study sessions, just us talking vibing to music, and getting our work done. It is something you don't want to miss. It is always good to work with others and support and uplift each other through these stressful times. Here on the Atkins floor we are a community, a family that will rise through whatever situation we are put through. To close the semester, we had a wonderful culinary arts showcase! See below for events coming up to close out the Spring 2022 semester!



## Spring 2022 Events

# 50+1 ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN  
DIASPORA STUDIES

<p><b>FEBRUARY 26</b> 1:30-3:00PM</p> <p><b>PACE: Issue Forum</b> Panel on Reparations</p>	<p><b>MARCH 21</b> 5:00-6:30PM</p> <p><b>Elena Guzman</b> Black Feminist Film as Ritual: Visualizing African Diaspora Geographies</p>	<p><b>MARCH 29</b> 6:30-8:00PM</p> <p><b>Jayna Brown</b> Black Utopias: Speculative Life and the Music of Other Worlds</p>
<p><b>APRIL 7</b> 11:30AM-1:30PM</p> <p><b>Quito Swan</b> Pasifika Black: Oceania, Anticolonialism, and the African World</p>	<p><b>APRIL 19</b> 9:00AM-5:00PM</p> <p><b>Herman C Hudson</b> Graduate Symposium</p>	<p><b>APRIL 20</b> 5:30-8:00PM</p> <p><b>AAADS 50+1 RECEPTION</b> UNIVERSITY CLUB</p>
<p><b>APRIL 21</b> 9:00AM-5:00PM</p> <p><b>AAADS SYMPOSIUM</b> COOK CENTER</p>		

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Maurer School of Law  
Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society (CRRES)  
Office of the Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion  
The College of Arts & Sciences, Office of Diversity and Inclusion

For more information, visit [www.aaads.org/indiana](http://www.aaads.org/indiana)

- On April 6th from 10 am - 4 pm there is a housing fair taking place in Dunn Meadow. This is a great opportunity to figure out housing for the 2022 - 2023 school year.
- AAADS is celebrating its 50+1 Anniversary throughout March and April. See the flyer for the full list of events.
- In April, the African American Dance Company, African American Coral Ensemble, and the IU Soul Revue are having their Spring Concerts. Visit [www.aaai.indiana.edu](http://www.aaai.indiana.edu) for showtimes and tickets!
- The Hospitality and Showcase Committees are teaming up for the end of the year field day and talent show. Stay tuned for the dates, times, and locations.

**INDIANA DAILY STUDENT  
Housing Fair  
SPRING 2022**

**10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
April 6  
Dunn Meadow**

Your journey to a new home starts here.

For more information, visit [www.aaads.org/indiana](http://www.aaads.org/indiana)



# What's Happening in Atkins?: Atkins Student Showcase Re-Cap

by Staff

At the end of the semester, the Showcase Committee teamed up with the Hospitality Committee to produce the Atkins Student Showcase which was held in the Neal Marshall Black Culture Center Grand Hall. It was a great turnout from the Atkins and IU Community. The evening was filled with performances of spoken word, music, and original songs. The evening concluded with a performance by Trumusiq Group, led by IU Alum Troy T. Thomas Jr. There were also vendors present highlighting the Black entrepreneurship at IU. See below for photos from this engaging night!





Celebrating the showcase winners!







Special Guests: Trumusiq Group



## Catching Up With Atkins 2020 - 2021

by Staff

Those living in Atkins for the 2020 - 2021 academic year had a unique experience. Due to social distancing guidelines, they did not have roommates. Also, classes were still online though the campus was technically open. Nevertheless, they persisted and made Atkins a home and continued to create a community in spite of the challenges posed by COVID-19. Now as sophomores, they are getting a chance to reconnect and explore with IU has to offer. This picture below was captured of several Atkins 2020 - 2021 members coming out to support one of their own, Briana Miller, at her new member presentation for the Delta Epsilon Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.



Pictured from left to right: Brittany Sanders, Desiree Taylor (Spring 2022 initiate of Sigma Lambda Gamma Sorority, Inc.) Brianna Miller (Spring 2022 initiate of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.), Graduate Mentor Taylor Ajéwole Duckett, and Shiloh Royal-Thomas.



## Guest Column: Five Reasons I Love Living in Atkins

by Emmanuel Ufuah

1. Dr. Grim calls us Atkinites. I always thought the name Atkinites was kind of cool. It's like a King bestowing a title to a Knight in one of those fictional novels. "I hereby deem you, the Atkinite!"
2. The people on the floor are really nice. I didn't know what to expect when moving to Bloomington. While times on the floor weren't always good, they weren't always bad either. On the floor I've met some of the most awesome people. There's also a lot of vibrant personalities.
3. The floor is located in Forest Quadrangle. I think Forest Quadrangle is one of the best dorms to live in if you're an incoming Freshman (depending on the type of major you're pursuing). If you live on Atkins you'll have one of the best views in Forest on the fourth floor. There's also Mother Bear's Pizza, so that's an added bonus.
4. The activities are nice. Part of the fun of living in a Living Learning Center is that you get to do some awesome activities with people on the floor. I recall when there was a game night and a Halloween party on the floor. I had a great time. A lot of people arrived and started playing, talking, and having fun with each other.
5. The Village Meetings. I am not usually a fan of mandatory meetings, but I do enjoy attending them. I get to see everyone on the floor all gathered in one place. We go over the updates for each committee and then Dr. Grim asks everyone how they are doing. She is a really caring person, tough, but really caring!

## Affirmations

by Ashlee Cousin

For many, it has been a difficult school year adjusting to be on a college campus and being back in person after COVID-19. Here are some positive affirmations to carry you through to the end of the semester. Also, check out this helpful Tik Tok if you need additional affirmation and a reminder that self-care is crucial!

<https://vm.tiktok.com/ZTd5TrJWp/>

- It is okay to ask for help. Everyone needs help once in a while so make sure you're not going through things alone.
- I am capable of being a great student (you are capable of doing anything you put your mind to; push yourself).
- If I fall I can get back up (don't let bad days weigh you down, the best is yet to come).
- Self-care is not selfish!
- I deserve the best in life and will receive it.
- I am a valuable part of my community.