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# Retrospective

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## CHAD JONES

Chad Jones' article, "[\*The Becoming of an Outsider: A Story of How the Molded Clay Was Shaped.\*](#)" was published in *Stylus* 9.2 in Fall 2018 and won the 2018 John C. Hitt Prize for Excellence in First-Year Writing. He also served as assistant editor for Issue 10.2.

Ever since I was encouraged to get involved with *Stylus*, I have truly loved it! Having my writing published is something I will always cherish. For me, being a person who gravitates towards STEM more, I have never prided myself on being a great writer. However, my perspective isn't always the only one. Having my work published in *Stylus* was a step towards greater achievement. To me, it meant I did matter and my voice is heard; as a person, as a student, but most importantly as a Black Male.

Furthering my steps with *Stylus* as a student editor was an amazing experience as well. Being able to read various perspectives about various issues with no two pieces being the same was a bit overwhelming at first, but soon became one of the highlights of my semester. Being able to encounter so many human perspectives was truly beautiful, and it is something that I wouldn't hesitate to do again.

Going forward, I have taken the skills learned and developments made with *Stylus* and implemented them in my involvement in the UCF community. As an Executive Board Member for Men of Integrity, a service-based organization on campus, and as an RSO Liaison in Alpha Kappa Psi Professional Business Fraternity, Inc., I use my ability to effectively communicate, organize, plan, write, and empathize on a daily basis.

From my experiences with *Stylus*, I would advise current students in writing courses at UCF to think of it differently. Yes, it is a course you are taking, but it can also be an opportunity for further growth and development. Yes, it is a course, but it can also be an opportunity for you to express your deepest thoughts in a way that can be transcended to others who share similar experiences to you. Yes, it is a course, but it can be a door of opportunity unimaginable, just like it was for me.

## Chad Jones



Chad Jones is a current sophomore majoring in Integrated Business and planning to graduate in Fall 2022. His plan after graduation is to take up a position with an engineering firm as a hopeful project manager. At this current time, he is working on getting his real estate license and developing a centralized market for young entrepreneurs like himself. He is currently involved with Men of Integrity, a service-based organization, and Alpha Kappa Psi Professional Business Fraternity, Inc. on campus, holding positions in both.