Fall 2016

Research Locally, Share Globally

Andrews University
Jeffrey Emile

His website, jeffreymile.com, is a vast collection of stunning portraits of clients, and short clips from a recent gig with Israel Houghton and New Breed. He speaks with enthusiasm about his business and relays confidence in his upcoming work. As a design major steadily moving through his senior year, Jeffrey Emile is busy running his growing business of photography and filmmaking. “I had no interest in photography whatsoever,” he recounts. “It just took an intro to photography class that was it.” That was his second year and since then, Jeffrey plunged headlong into the newfound love of taking pictures and began to build his network and portfolio. “I started asking everyone ‘hey, you would like to do a photoshoot? Then, I would take the pictures and post them.’”

Dave Jones, his first intern, suggested that he set up a website where he could display his work. This is a stage that helped in propelling the new business and helped to reaching an unsolicited audience. His second platform is social media. “I helped in propelling the new business and helped to reaching this new audience. His second platform is social media. “I helped in propelling the new business and helped to reaching an unsolicited audience. His second platform is social media. “I helped in propelling the new business and helped to reaching an unsolicited audience. His second platform is social media.

He says, “I took pictures and I started pushing them through [the networks] and I would start getting calls.” Each call landed Jeffrey a photo shoot with an advertising company and another request got him working backstage at a sold-out concert by Israel Houghton in summer 2015. New projects and experience like these are what he says keep him motivated. When asked what constitutes most to his success, he responded, “using social media a lot and networking.” Out of his major attributes to his success is a genuine interaction with everyone, rather than being an opportunist. However, he’s not short on challenges when it comes to actively running a photography business while trying to dash through the final leg of his schooling journey. “My biggest problem is trying to determine which gets priority and at which time?” Emile says. “Sometimes there are major photo projects and I put school on the backburner.” He does acknowledge that his schoolwork is crucial yet sees a great benefit in first-hand experience in the business he hopes to grow.

Wandile Mthiyane

Wandile Mthiyane, a South African fourth-year architecture student at Andrews, the president of the school’s chapter of American Institute of Architecture Students, and the founder of Ubuntu Design Group, is jumping at every opportunity to advance his career.

In Fall 2015, he was presented with the opportunity to attend the One Young World summit in Bangkok, Thailand—an annual summit where “valuable young talent” gather to formulate and share innovative solutions for the most pressing problems the world faces, according to the official event website.

“I got an email talking about an opportunity to pitch a business plan at One Young World, and, actually, it was accidentally forwarded to me because it had someone else’s name. It was an opportunity to implement an idea that I had, so I put together a team of two architecture students, one architecture professor and one of my friends who works in administration. We worked on a project of developing shanti-towns into desirable neighborhoods, using low-cost materials; patterning and collaborating with the community to design spaces which would be desirable to them and fit their culture.

“Once I got there [One Young World] everyone was somewhat important, whether it was feminists fighting for women’s rights in countries where men are superior, [or] young people who are working on projects on combating climate change. Social entrepreneurs were very popular. What was even more interesting was that all these people were within my age range so that was really inspiring for me. I had people who actually think like me; idealists, optimists, people who saw the world in a different perspective, who saw what the world could be rather than what the world is. You need to go out of your circle, go out of your bubble, go out of the Andrews bubble and look for opportunities and see what you can do and, you have to have mentors who are good people, who also share the same mindset to want to make a difference.”

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers over eighty percent of employers say they look for signs of leadership skills and teamwork over academics. Other key standouts are problem-solving skills and having a strong work ethic. We interviewed two savvy students who are successfully navigating their futures while balancing the demands of school.