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Edwin B. Smith

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Student's Photos are Picture-Perfect

Yasmine Malone among 22 female photographers featured in The New York Times

DECEMBER 6, 2018 BY EDWIN B. SMITH



UM sophomore Yasmine Malone uses her iPhone to take photos that have appeared in The New York Times. Photo by Kevin Bain/Ole Miss Digital Imaging Services

OXFORD, Miss. – Yasmine Malone definitely has an eye for photography.

The University of Mississippi student was among 22 young female photographers selected to participate in a recent New York Times feature project. The newspaper asked the women to take photos for "This is 18," which explores daily life for girls around the world who are becoming adults this year.

The attention Malone has gained from her national exposure has put her on the path to joining the ranks of such renowned women photographers as Annie Liebovitz and Sally Mann.

"I was honored and humbled to be selected for such a unique opportunity," said Malone, a 20-year-old sophomore **English** and **public policy leadership** major from Clarksdale. "Although I think I was deserving of it, I never saw it coming. It was truly a miracle."

Ironically, Malone, who is minoring in **political science** and **journalism**, discovered her interest in photography almost by accident.

While in high school, Malone was selected to participate in Blue Magnolia Films' "Celebrating Storytellers" project last year.

Commemorating Mississippi's bicentennial, 100 voices from 13 cities were trained by film company staff in the craft of photography and storytelling during a full-immersion workshop. The resulting images have graced the covers of newspapers across the state, as well as The New York Times.

"I took pictures on my iPhone7 for the Mississippi bicentennial project," she said. "I never thought that my high school experience would lead to something like this."

"I got to highlight a bright spot in our community. That's how I ended up being chosen by The New York Times for the 'This is 18' project."

Tieryaa Metcalf, of Clarksdale, Malone's aunt and seventh-grade honors English teacher, said she noticed her niece was well-spoken and saw her gift of "gab" as potential for future success. To that end, Metcalf urged Malone to write a piece for the Mississippi Public Broadcasting National Writing Project.

Throughout Malone's high school years, Metcalf encouraged her niece to enter several oratorical contests as well.

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Campus Briefs

Donations Sought for 25th Annual Books and Bears Program

OXFORD, Miss. – The University of Mississippi is asking the community to help spread a little joy this holiday season by donating to the 25th annual Books and Bears program. Donations such as toys, books, dolls, bicycles and other children's play items are being accepted through Dec. 14. All donations will be collected and sorted

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Mississippi Excellence in Coaching Fellowship Aims to Build Leaders

OXFORD, Miss. – Twenty-five inaugural recipients of the Mississippi Excellence in Coaching Fellowship – a program hosted by the University of Mississippi School of Education in partnership with the Mississippi Association of Coaches and the Mississippi High School Activities Association – are expected to increase their impact on student-athletes and their communities. The coaching fellowship

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Ole Miss In the News

Clarion-Ledger: New Essay Collection Tells the Story of Meredith's Enrollment

Essays celebrate 60th anniversary of James Meredith's enrollment at University of Mississippi By Lauren Rhoades Oct. 1 marks the 60th anniversary of James Meredith's 1962 enrollment at the University of Mississippi as the school's first African-American student.

"She informed me that I was the first teacher to push and challenge her to think deeper into the context of the different readings and writings that were taught in my class," Metcalf said. "I am both excited, yet humbled, by her success. I know that she will do great things with her ability to write, speak and be an activist for voices unheard."

While the New York Times experiences have definitely been a highlight in her life, Malone said she hopes to work as a student photographer for The Daily Mississippian, the Ole Miss campus newspaper. If she joins the staff, it will be in addition to her standing involvements with the Black Student Union and the Associated Student Body Freshman Forum.

"This experience has inspired me to commit myself 100 percent to everything I do," she said. "I know that as I do that, nothing but good things will eventually come my way."

To view Malone's photos and story, visit <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/11/lens/what-life-looks-like-girls-18.html>.

 FILED UNDER: COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS, FEATURED NEWS, NEWS RELEASES, SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM & NEW MEDIA

"James Meredith: Breaking the Barrier," a collection of essays edited by UM professor of journalism Kathleen Wickham, honors this historic milestone with

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