

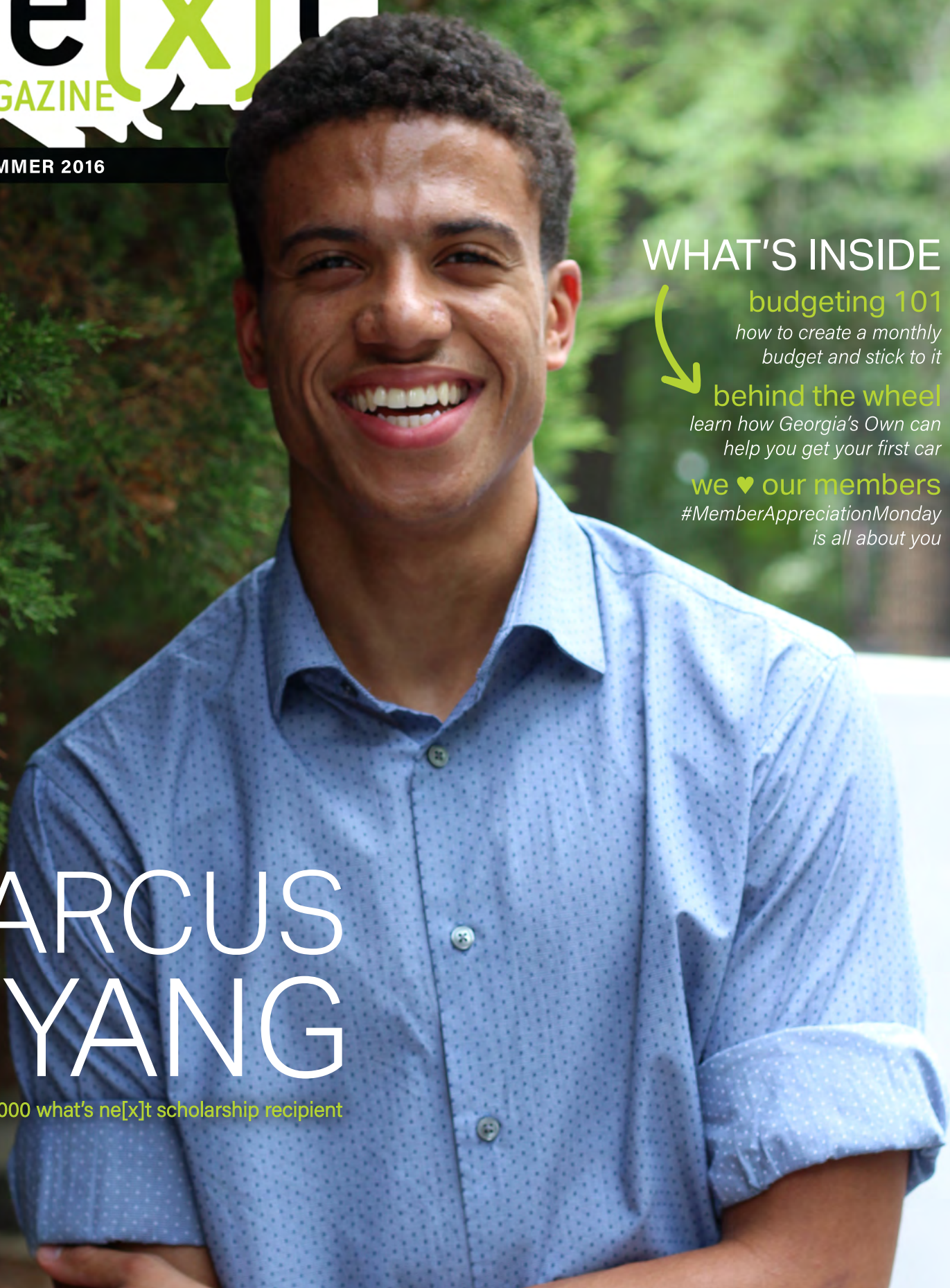


ne(x)t

MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2016

Ne[x]t Magazine is published by Georgia's Own Credit Union for members of i[x]



WHAT'S INSIDE



budgeting 101

how to create a monthly budget and stick to it

behind the wheel

learn how Georgia's Own can help you get your first car

we ♥ our members

#MemberAppreciationMonday is all about you

MARCUS INYANG

meet our \$8,000 what's ne[x]t scholarship recipient

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we'd love it if you'd like us

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how to create a monthly budget



a note from our editor



Photo/Tammy O'Shaughnessy

Hello, readers!

We're gearing up for some exciting changes here at Georgia's Own, and among those changes is a shift in responsibilities. That being said, I'd like to briefly introduce myself as your new *Ne[x]t Magazine* editor!

So, who am I? For starters, the name's Kaitlyn. I'm a transplant to Atlanta, and I've been working in marketing in

various roles since 2013. Prior to that I worked in the financial industry at both a bank and a credit union, so my role here at Georgia's Own is really a fusion of my experience and my interests. I'm looking forward to helping you navigate any financial situations you may encounter during your teenage and young adult years.

Enough about me, let's talk about you! Sadly, summer is coming to an end and many of you are heading back to school. Some of

you may be finishing up high school, while others are starting – or going back to – college. No matter where you are in your educational career, this issue of *Ne[x]t Magazine* can help guide you through this pivotal – and expensive – time in your life. We'll introduce you to our three 2016 What's Ne[x]t Scholarship recipients, as well as give you some advice for budgeting while in school.

If you have a story about how you've handled a financial situation, or just a cool story in general – we'd love to hear from you! Is there a specific topic you'd like for us to cover? Let us know! You can get in touch with us by emailing us at social@georgiasown.org, or you can reach out to us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. If we feature you or your story, we'll send you a \$50 gift card!

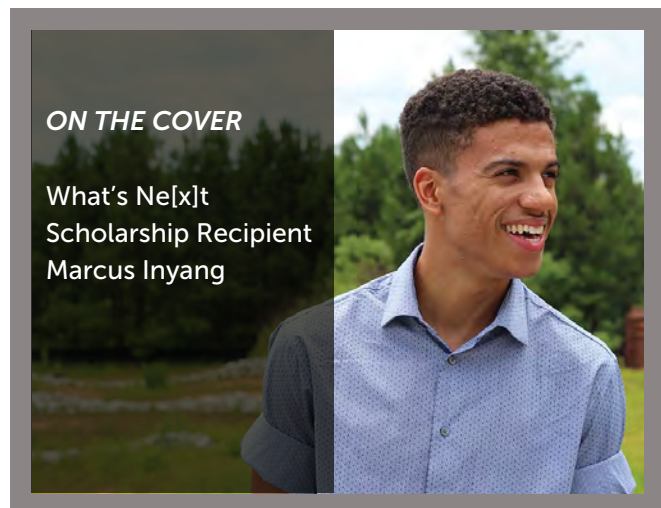
-Kaitlyn

FEEDBACK.

We always want to hear from you! Tell us what you like, what you don't like, or what topic you want to see us cover. Send your comments and questions to kereeves@georgiasown.org and we'll see what we can do!

CONNECT.

Want to know more about what's going on with Georgia's Own or Ne[x]t? Like us on Facebook (facebook.com/georgiasown) and follow us on Twitter ([@georgiasown](https://twitter.com/georgiasown)) and Instagram ([@georgiasowncu](https://instagram.com/georgiasowncu))! You can also visit the blog at georgiasownnext.com to find money-related articles and tips. We want you to be a part of the conversation, so let us know what you're thinking!



ON THE COVER

What's Ne[x]t
Scholarship Recipient
Marcus Inyang



M
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Since high school, Marcus Inyang has been inspiring hope wherever he goes. From leading prayer circles at lunch, to starting an on-campus Bible study group, to dreams of missionary work and entrepreneurship, Marcus plans to continue bringing beauty out of broken situations through a career as a registered nurse.

This fall, Marcus, alongside his fiancée, will be attending Georgia Highlands College as part of the college's nursing program. We caught up with Marcus to learn more about what his future holds and how receiving our scholarship will help him achieve What's Ne[x]t.

What's Ne[x]t Scholarship Winner

arcus Inyang

Why did you decide on Georgia Highlands College?

After graduating from the International Baccalaureate Program in high school, my fiancée and I started college at Kennesaw State University. We had a great year and a half there, and set our eyes on pursuing a nursing degree together. We intended on staying at KSU until we met some roadblocks. Certain classes, which we needed, were full and we couldn't get into them, so because that would slow us down, we looked elsewhere to complete our prerequisite classes. My fiancée's mom suggested Georgia Highlands College, and the transition was seamless and very convenient. In this last semester, our experience at Georgia Highlands was really incredible. The Douglasville campus, where we attended, is close to home for both of us, and the teachers and staff were very personal.

What made you decide to pursue a degree in nursing?

I dreamt of being in medicine since I was very young, and that dream was always greatly encouraged by my family. For years, I thought about being a neurosurgeon, and I'm still open-minded to other realms of the medical field, but

I decided after high school that nursing was a great place to start for building a foundation of medical knowledge and valuable experience caring for people.

How does a career as an RN fit with your passions in life and what do you hope to achieve with your degree?

I love people, and I think nursing should embody love in action. As an RN, my skill set will be needed across the world. I would love to meet people all over the world from different walks of life and be able to go above and beyond, not only serving them with my skill set, but also with my heart and passion.

What does it mean to you to receive the \$8,000 scholarship, and how will it help you achieve What's Ne[x]t for you?

This scholarship is a huge blessing and a huge surprise to me in consideration of the great work done by so many applicants. My fiancée and I have wondered how we could afford to pay for the rest of our schooling in conjunction with the costs associated with getting married and budgeting for everyday expenses. There is no doubt this scholarship will alleviate so much pressure as we continue on this path to becoming RNs.

In your video, you mentioned one day hoping to own a business that restores and remodels dilapidated buildings. Can you tell us more about this dream?

I can honestly say I'm not 100% sure how I will be able to afford and oversee the restoration of numerous dilapidated or abandoned buildings from this stage of my life, but that's what makes it more exciting to me. I know I have so much to learn, and I've heard it said, "If your dream doesn't scare you, you're not dreaming big enough!" By that standard, I definitely think I'm dreaming within a good range. The way I envisioned it was a small town or small city with all or many abandoned buildings that I would seek to renovate, refurbish, and literally turn into artworks with murals and all. The project would be so enormous; I would have to collaborate with builders and artists from that city and afar. My goal would be to turn what others deemed hopeless into a beautiful attraction. It won't only be the final state that speaks loudly, but it will be the process and story behind it that speaks volumes. And it's the same mentality I'll have when I'm walking into a patient's room as a nurse and taking care of them. It's all about bringing hope and beauty out of brokenness.

Pursuing higher education is a wise investment in your future, but nonetheless a costly one. What's your plan for managing the cost of college while in school and after you graduate?

I hope to come out of college with no debt. I can testify that it is possible. I've really strived to apply for scholarships that match my given situation, and I've not only thought about getting more scholarships and revenue, but also decreasing expenses and output. Georgia Highlands is very affordable,

“It's all about bringing hope and beauty out of brokenness.”

and there are no options to live on campus or anything like that, but even if there were, I would prefer stay at home and save the money. Thus, with expenses low and revenue high, debt-free college is possible. I've also used a budget on and off, and I would definitely advise someone to stick to a budget if they can, and really hold themselves to it. Throughout college, I've had the HOPE Scholarship, which has been very helpful, and I would suggest to any student in Georgia to work hard at earning the HOPE Scholarship with a GPA of 3.0 or higher if they don't already have it.

Want to know more about Marcus, Rohan, and Nehemiah? Check out their winning video submissions on our YouTube page: youtube.com/georgiasowncu.

What do you think makes you one of Georgia's Own?

As Georgia's Own Credit Union says, they stand by the philosophy of “people helping people,” and I happen to be one of those people. Firstly, I am one of those who are being helped. My experience with this credit union has been incredible, and every interaction has been consistently helpful. My fiancée has already greatly built her credit with Georgia's Own. And now, I am receiving this awesome scholarship, so that, in turn, I can continue my schooling and fulfill the first half of that philosophy: someone who is now helping other people.

Why did you decide to apply for our scholarship?

In light of being a Georgia's Own member and meeting every qualification, I figured the scholarship was worth a try, so I submitted my video application and hoped for the best — I knew that any of the scholarship amounts would have been a great help!

Tell us a fun fact about yourself.

I'm currently working in college as a graphic designer, cartoonist, and social media content writer for a local web design company in Douglasville called Fame Internet Marketing. Our team is like no other in Metro Atlanta, and I love what I do and who I get to work with every week.



{Meet our other winners}



Rohan Bagga, Augusta University - \$5,000

Science degree in three years, but also guarantee matriculation into MCG for my Doctor of Medicine degree.

What does it mean to you to win this scholarship, and how will it help you achieve What's Ne[x]t?

I am truly excited that my diligence in working toward my passion of developing sustainable healthcare initiatives in underdeveloped regions has been recognized, and am even more motivated to continue shaping the world. This scholarship will help to relieve some of the financial burden associated with the educational pathway I have chosen. By saving money during my undergraduate education, I will have the freedom to pursue a graduate education. In

addition, I am grateful to Georgia's Own Credit Union for this opportunity.

What makes you one of Georgia's Own?

I characterize myself as a person who is driven by the prospect of impacting the lives of others in a positive manner and eventually making the world a better place. I believe this desire is shared by the credit union and is what makes me one of Georgia's Own.

Tell us a fun fact about yourself.

One of my favorite hobbies is hiking. I often make weekend trips to the Appalachian Mountains here in Georgia and have also summited various peaks across North America.

Tell us why you chose Augusta University and what you will be studying there.

I chose Augusta University because of its unique academic programs and its recent partnership with the Medical College of Georgia. Through the seven-year Medical Scholars program I am pursuing, I will have the opportunity to achieve not only my Bachelor of

Nehemiah Jordan, Liberty University - \$2,000

Tell us why you chose Liberty University and what you will be studying there.

Liberty University gives me a way to study my passion hands-on, while also being surrounded in a great environment to deepen my relationship with Christ. I will be studying film and getting my Bachelor's in Cinematic Arts. From there, I plan to dive into the film industry and online media platform.

What does it mean to you to win this scholarship, and how will it help you achieve What's Ne[x]t?

It's an honor to receive such a generous gift that will help launch me

into further education and my career. Because of Georgia's Own, I will be more prepared to approach my classes and approach my independent life.

What makes you one of Georgia's Own?

Growing up in Georgia has been a tremendous blessing. My dad always taught us the value of hard work, and when I was 10, my brother and I earned money by shoveling snow or mowing lawns. With the money we made, we set up a savings account at Georgia's Own. Over the years, the jobs have changed, but Georgia's Own has always been there for my savings and checking needs. Wherever my education and career take me, Georgia

will always be home.

Tell us a fun fact about yourself.

I'm actually fairly good with the jump rope and used to do Double Dutch (two ropes). I can spin it twice around in one jump and twist the rope back and forth as I'm jumping.



BUDGETING 101:

CREATING A BUDGET



STICKING TO IT

With the total student loan debt in the United States hovering around a mind-blowing \$1.23 trillion according to Student Loan Hero, it's important to be smart about budgeting and managing your money while you're in school so you're not one of the 43 million Americans drowning in student loan debt.

Creating and managing a budget isn't the most fun in the world, but it's not as much of a hassle as you might think, either. Plus, it'll help you stay on track during school and avoid graduating with a ton of debt.


For starters, you'll want to figure out whether you want to track your budget per month, per academic semester (or year), or per calendar year. Once you've chosen a timeframe for your budget, you'll want to decide what tool or tools you want to use to track it. You could go old school with pen and paper, or you might opt for using a computer spreadsheet, or maybe your phone is your life and you'd prefer to use a budgeting app. Here's what you'll need to create your budget:

Your income: Be sure to include all sources of income, including wages, any

financial aid refund, and any contributions from family.

Your expenses: Expenses include fixed expenses like your cell phone or rent, as well as variable expenses such as dining out or gas for your car (if you have one). For your initial budget, you may have to estimate some expenses until you have a better idea of how much you spend on that category.

The next step is adding up your income and your expenses so you can balance your budget. To do this, you'll subtract your total monthly expenses from your total monthly income. The goal is to have a positive balance, meaning you're earning more than you're spending. If you have money left over each month, you can save it or even start paying on



*If you're looking for help with budgeting, check out our website at georgiasown.org. We have free online resources, such as our **BALANCE** Financial Fitness program, plus you can download a free spreadsheet to help you track your budget.*

your student loans (if you have any), since they do accrue interest while you're in school.

If your balance is negative, you're spending more than you're earning and need to adjust your budget. You can cut back on expenses or find a way to supplement your income, such as getting a second job.

Now that you've created and balanced your budget, there are two more important steps in maintaining that budget:

Review your budget monthly – doing so will help you stay ahead and avoid surprises.

If you make a spending mistake, don't dwell on it. Next time you're tempted to make an impulse purchase, ask yourself if you really need that item and if so, can you actually afford it?

Developing good financial habits in college (or earlier) not only helps you cut down on student loan and credit card debt acquired throughout school, but also helps set you up for success

later on in life. Trust me – things like credit scores and savings accounts may seem trivial now, but it's a lot easier to start off strong than to find yourself in heaps of debt after school and trying to correct mistakes that could have easily been avoided.

CREATE A BUDGET IN 5 QUICK STEPS

- 1** Set a timeline
- 2** Choose a budgeting tool
- 3** Record all income & expenses
- 4** Balance your budget
- 5** Review your budget monthly

GIVING YOU SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE



Life is full of firsts, whether it's heading off to college, starting your first job, or getting your first apartment. With a First-Time Auto Loan from Georgia's Own, we're helping you with another first: getting behind the wheel of your first car. Now that's something to celebrate.

GEORGIA'S
Own
CREDIT UNION

Bank | Borrow | Invest



EQUAL HOUSING
LENDER

georgiasown.org

A group of four young adults (two men and two women) are laughing and hugging each other outdoors. They are dressed in casual, contemporary clothing like hoodies, sweaters, and jeans. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting. A large green graphic element is on the right side of the image.

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