

AN AGENT OF CHANGE

Little inspired to carry on the torch

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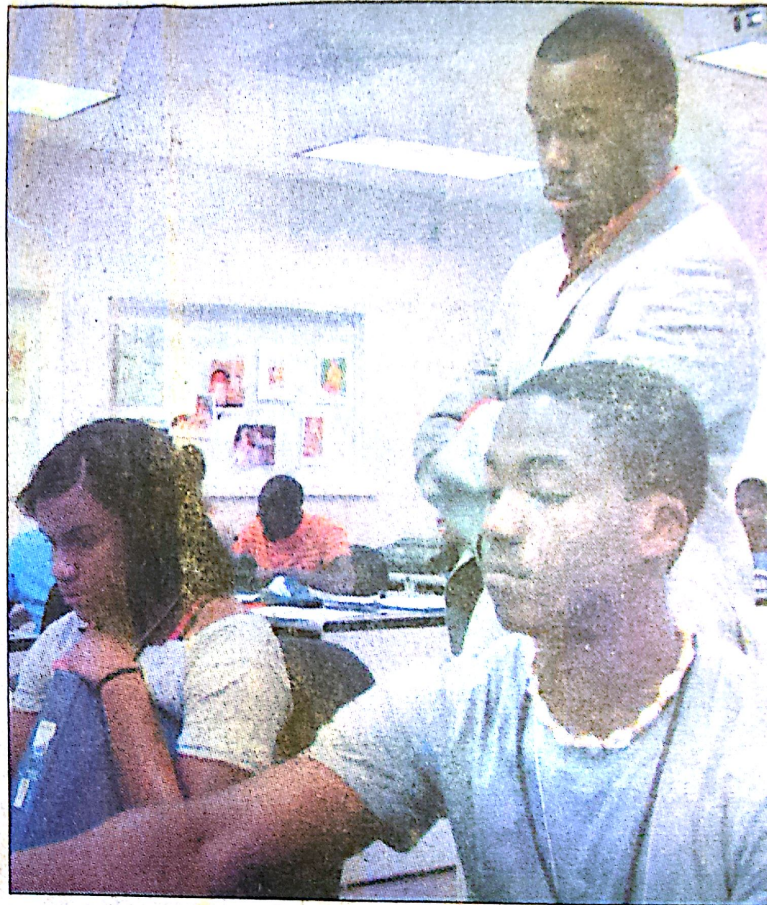
During Emmanuel Little's upbringing, he never really understood or realized the full impact one person can have in a community. Now as a 29-year-old man, Little has overcome obstacles during his educational and professional careers and hopes to empower the next African American generation.

"As a young adult, there have been times as a student that I wasn't sure if I was going to make it ... but I have a responsibility to give back as an African American male. There are plenty of people that have paved the way for me and overcome challenges that I don't have to face today because of

what they did years ago," he said. "As a black person, there's always going to be certain challenges and barriers you may face, whether it's hardcore racism or may not be as [blatant] where you can completely see it."

Little hails from Macon where he graduated Westside High School in 2003. He enrolled at Georgia College where he earned a bachelor's degree in mass communications in 2007. As a college graduate, Little took his first job in the admissions office at Georgia College while pursuing a master's degree in public administration. Since earning his master's in fall 2010, Little has served as the

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Contributed photo
Georgia College Diversity Coordinator Emmanuel Little is currently studying to earn a doctorate in higher education administration from the University of Georgia. He hopes one day make a positive change for the rising generation of African Americans.

Torch

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diversity and retention coordinator in the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity. He enrolled at the University of Georgia last fall to continue his studies in the Ph.D. higher education administration program.

"My ultimate goal is to be on the higher education track and

eventually be a senior level administrator at a college or university," he said. "I want to be a decision-maker that can create change in a positive way, particularly for black Americans given all the barriers we still face."

Each year, Little helps coordinate the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. activities locally and the Minority Youth in Business program,

which encourages area students to gain business skills and get college ready. He also serves as a program director for MALE Connection, which provides mentorship and resources to black males, and S.O.A.R. (Student "O"riented Activities and Resources).

"The S.O.A.R. program takes Georgia College students of color and matches them with a student

and professional mentor. We added Early College students to the program this year. We want to make sure underrepresented students are getting resources they need at a school where they might not be a majority," he said. "I think it's important for people to realize and tell themselves that it's not about me. Making an impact is all about what you can do for others. In order to

uplift and empower your community you have to see yourself as a part of that community, rather than as separate."

Little's wife, Crystal, is a fourth-grade teacher at Blandy Hills Elementary School.

He encourages youth to embrace their history and "get to know yourself, your culture and the people."

"The younger generation needs to get back

to a sense of community and ownership as well. Whenever you're doing work that's involved in the uplift of the community, the impact you have on individuals is the greatest reward; that really motivates me for the future," he said. "It's important to acknowledge how far we've come, but there are still barriers people of color face when you look at different aspects of society."

SELF HELP