MATH/STAT ART CONTEST WINNER STATES:
It’s in the Genes

All of us have a special talent. Sometimes it is learned and sometimes it is inherited. Ja’Von Hawkins, the recent winner of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics’ Poster Contest, thinks his artistic talents are inherited. Ja’Von, a first semester freshman at NKU, credits his creative side to his mother. Per Ja’Von, she also possesses great artistic talents and has been his greatest influence in life.

Ja’Von has been drawing for as long as he can remember. He remembers his pre-school teacher showing his mother his drawings and stating, ‘someone his age doesn’t draw this good.’ Along the way, his teachers have also encouraged his art. Ja’Von started entering contests around the fifth grade and has been a runner up a few times but this is his first win. He entered NKU’s contest hoping to get his work exhibited for others to see and start building his portfolio.

When asked about the win, he said he was excited. He had missed the original email notifying him of the win, so his mathematics’ professor informed him during class. The class applauded.

The winning poster is a plethora of bright eye-catching animated scenes with math symbol characters and other related mathematical notations. Ja’von said the drawing was inspired by a fusion of three different rough drafts, his math book, and objects of everyday life. He used his mother’s past advice to keep his drawings “simplified and more open.” He spent about 20 to 25 hours on the work and finished about 3am on the final day of submission.

Ja’Von, chose NKU because of its Media Informatics program. He had attended NKU summer programs twice while still in high school and he really liked the advisors. He hopes to put his education to use in the future in animation or graphics field in either television or video game design. He has already designed a multitude of apps for phone wallpapers. Currently he uses Paintjoy, Mangus Studio, EX4 and Anime Studio 8 for his digital creations but traditional hand drawing is still his favorite medium. His dream is to create a new genre of art that has not yet been discovered.

This budding artist is also very active on campus with such organizations as NKU Rocks, Black Men’s Organization, doing community service work with Student Support Services and attending as many RA events as possible. He checks the boards to keep up with what is offered on campus, but not to the detriment of his classes. He said he has learned the importance of keeping a balance between academics and his social life and academics must come first.
Keeping the artistic gene producing in the family is important to Ja’Von. With the prize money, he took his family out to dinner and to see the latest Twilight movie. He and his siblings all look to each other to critique and learn from each other’s art creations. He said they teach him techniques they have learned at school and he returns the favor. Ja’Von plans to keep learning and entering as many contests as possible!
Please feel free to stop by MP 401 to see Ja’Von Hawkins work of art. We are very proud of him and we are sure you will be too.

1. Winning Poster by Ja’Von Hawkins
2. Dr. Wilkinson, Mathematics Dept. Chair and Ja’Von Hawkins