

Pam Stewart, Commissioner of Education

Mission

“The Department of Education is here to increase the proficiency of all students within one seamless, efficient system by providing them with the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills through learning opportunities and research valued by students, parents, and communities and to maintain an accountability system that measures student progress. Your questions and comments are important to us. Please email us at: Commissioner@fldoe.org (Commissioner at fldoe dot org).”

To: Commissioner Pam Stewart
From: John The U-Can! Man

Offering a Plan to Help F-Grade Schools

Commissioner Pam Stewart, I am John The U-Can! Man (www.johntheucanman.com), and I was surprised and distressed to hear the Florida FCAT scores for 2013 on December 18. I graduated from Jefferson County High School in 1982. I am excited to be a five-year member of the Valdosta-Lowndes County five-star Chamber of Commerce as well as a five-year partner of the Florida-based business Web.com.

Commissioner, being a father of five and living in Valdosta, Georgia contributed to my need to offer solutions that may help improve education in America, even after retiring from my 25-plus year career with the U.S. Army. I made it a point to record my college journey to help others, including our children, to graduate from college. I am impressed with the plans made by Governor Rick Scott and yourself to increase teachers’ pay, at the same time requiring more of them and helping them better prepare students for college.

Commissioner Stewart, my website will more than inform you of The U-Can! Man’s whats, whys, and hows as well as any other questions your and your staff may have about me or my mission. The purpose of my message is to ask you to consider allowing me to work with your nine F-grade schools to offer our Innovative Skill of Successful School Strategy (I-4S). This idea is one that could end up being a model for all Florida schools that need to make a change for the better. In other words, I am offering a different method that may yield different results.

I have included three charts below:

- 1) Plan for the Nine F-Grade High Schools
- 2) The 2013 High School Results for My Five Florida Cities
- 3) My Plan for One High School in Each of the Five Florida Cities

This approach is 100% new and fresh because it was created, designed, and proven at the same time by The U-Can! Man. My awesome editor Mandie Gossage and I wrote a book designed to be one of the best tools that students, communities, and elementary school, middle school, high school, and college faculty, staff, and administrators can use. As my sociology professor Dr.

Ballard said in my fall semester 2013 capstone class, “If you can design or create a one-size-fits-all tool, the masses will be in position to benefit from your creation.” This is what Mandie and I believe we have developed. I would like for you and your awesome team to read our book and then decide what we know you will decide: “Our high schools with F grades could benefit from this method. What do we have to lose?” This is the requested process for the plan’s implementation:

- 1) The U-Can! Man addresses Governor Rick Scott and Commissioner Pam Stewart (this should happen ASAP)
- 2) The U-Can! Man addresses the nine F schools’ Board of Education, in person or using one of several media options
- 3) The U-Can! Man addresses the superintendents, faculty, staff, and administrators for each school
- 4) The U-Can! Man addresses the students
- 5) The U-Can! Man addresses the parents
- 6) The U-Can! Man addresses the communities (sharing my EBC team model—see attachment)
- 7) The U-Can! Man addresses alumni from these schools
- 8) The U-Can! Man cements U-CAN! into the hearts and minds of all students, using different methods
- 9) Results are recorded as the school year continues
- 10) Throughout all phases, telling the students U-CAN! is the most important action

The key is believing in my plan. One of the keys to success that I have learned is that at the bottom, there is only room for upward growth. If you agree to this model, please let me know and we can get started with our U-Can! idea. This plan requires Governor Rick Scott to ask the State of Florida to provide our book to students at each school. The book will be available in digital format at first and then in soft and hard cover later on. This investment will be highlighted by the fact that a 1982 graduate from one of the F schools, Jefferson County High School, is an academic success story and the driving force behind this mission. Once you embrace this idea, I will start working with you and your team as early as possible. I am looking forward to your response.

John The U-Can! Man

229-548-5003

www.johntheucanman.com



www.johntheucanman.com

The Journey from Remedial Classes (August 2009) To Graduating Cum Laude (December 2013)

Dear Friend, Did you know that you have the power to turn your dreams and ambitions into your life's guiding force, to begin everyday with strong motivation and end every day with strong satisfaction, to communicate effectively so you can guide and show the way to others? Through a lifetime of experience encouraging, empowering and motivating others; I have learned the secrets that will allow anyone to unlock his or her true potential, and I would love to share these secrets with you and your team, group, or organization. I have been assured that nothing is impossible, and no matter where you come from or what you're attempting to achieve, it is my belief that U-CAN!

For over twenty-five years, I served in the United States Army, including service as both an army recruiter and a chaplain recruiter. While I retired from the Army in 2007, I still worked (2007-2009) as a chaplaincy consultant, striving to provide mentoring, counseling, and encouragement to suit the needs of the individual candidate. I have three years experience as a youth pastor, including serving as the youth leader of the Mount Calvary District Association of Kentucky. I am a preacher (1994-Present) and motivational speaker, sharing the U-CAN! message of hope in every way possible---through counseling sessions and seminars, through radio, television, and internet (www.johntheucanman.com)

In August 2009, I began pursuing a six-year-long (2004-2009) dream, graduating from college. I started in remedial classes at the South Georgia College entry level program, located on the Valdosta State University campus. In August 2010, I transferred to Valdosta State University as a sophomore, ready to continue making my dream a reality. Learning more secrets to help others enroll and graduate was my main goal, above and beyond that of earning a degree in sociology (which was accomplished on December 7, 2013). I have co-authored a book titled *Graduating With Honors: If I Can, U-Can!* with

Mandie Gossage (The U-Can! Man’s editor 2008-present). The book is projected to be released in December 2013. It is filled with many U-CAN! secrets I received, used, and mastered.

I hope you will look into helping me spread the U-CAN! message of hope, and I would be thrilled to speak with you and your team further. For more information, please email me (theucanman@gmail.com) or visit my website (www.johntheucanman.com). Thank you so much for your time and consideration. Always remember U-CAN!

Sincerely, John Wallace Isom Jr (229) 548-5003

<i>The U-Can! Man U-CAN! 9 FCAT High School Improvement Mission</i>								
<i>Innovative Skill of Successful School Strategy (I-4S)</i>								
If I had to sum up my past 49-plus years (May 1964-December 2013) on earth in:								
<p><u>One</u> Word: Change <u>Two</u> Words: Change Yourself <u>Three</u> Words: Change Yourself Often <u>Four</u> Words: Change Yourself Often, Early <u>Five</u> Words: Change Yourself Often, Early, Today</p>								
I have learned that change was happening whether I knew it at the time or not. Change occurs every second, minute, hour, and day. The key to dealing with change is to think not in terms of you dealing with the change, but instead with change dealing with you as you initiate your own purposeful changes. The key to winning the change life battle is found in The U-Can! Man’s one through five words above.								
I have also learned that change synonyms can help you look at the man or woman in the mirror and do what the late legendary singer Michael Jackson sang in his song “Man in the Mirror:” I’m gonna make a change, for once in my life it’s gonna feel real good, Gonna make a difference, Gonna make it right.								
I made a change in my life when I went from running from education to embracing education as I enrolled in, progressed through, and, five years later, graduated from college with honors (see www.johntheucanman.com for more of my story). The beginning of my success was my initial decision to make that change. If I can, U-Can!								
<i>Tools (B-4A)</i>								
<i>Book Graduating With Honors: If I Can, U-Can!</i>								
<i>Access to www.johntheucanman.com</i>								
<i>Application of Self-Quiz</i>								
<i>Access to The U-Can! Man</i>								
<i>1: Monticello FL</i>								
<i>Jefferson HS</i>	<i>U-Can!</i>	F	D	C	B	A	A	A
<i>2: Jasper FL</i>								
<i>Hamilton HS</i>	<i>U-Can!</i>	F	D	C	B	A	A	A
<i>3: Alachua FL</i>								
<i>Hawthorne HS</i>	<i>U-Can!</i>	F	D	C	B	A	A	A
<i>4: Hardee FL</i>								

Hardee Junior HS	<i>U-Can!</i>	F	D	C	B	A	A	A
5: Osceola FL Acclaim Academy	<i>U-Can!</i>	F	D	C	B	A	A	A
6: School # 6 Name	<i>U-Can!</i>	F	D	C	B	A	A	A
7: School #7 Name	<i>U-Can!</i>	F	D	C	B	A	A	A
8: School #8 Name	<i>U-Can!</i>	F	D	C	B	A	A	A
9: School #9 Name	<i>U-Can!</i>	F	D	C	B	A	A	A
<p style="text-align: center;">Brother John Wallace Isom Jr a.k.a. The U-Can! Man</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Our Book will show How U-Can! Grow:</p> <p>From: 1 A (2.07 GPA) in high school, Jefferson County High School 1978-1982</p> <p>To: 30 A's (3.70 GPA) in college, Valdosta State University 2009-2013 (Cum Laude)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“If I Can, U-Can!”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.johntheucnman.com</p>								

The background of the cover features a warm, golden-hued scene. In the foreground, a silhouette of a graduate in a cap and gown is shown from behind, with their right arm raised holding a rolled-up diploma. Above the graduate, several white doves are flying against a sky filled with soft, glowing clouds. In the background, a banner arches over a path, with the words 'VALDO' and 'UNIVERSITY' visible. The overall atmosphere is one of triumph and achievement.

Graduating
WITH
HONORS

IF I CAN, U-CAN!

JOHN W. ISOM JR.
MANDIE GOSSAGE

Summary (Digital Book Back Cover by Mandie Gossage)

“With the recommendations of the Higher Education Funding Commission, Georgia joins a growing number of states in sending a strong message to institutions, students and taxpayers alike that we will begin to measure our return on investment for the funds spent on public colleges and universities in terms of student access, progress and success.” –Georgia Governor Nathan Deal

Where are you in your educational journey? Maybe you're planning on going to college and excited and nervous about all the possibilities and challenges in your future. Maybe you're not sure if college is for you. Or maybe, like John Isom when his college story began, you have been putting off higher education for years, and now you're facing your fears and have no idea how to even get started tackling your courses.

In this book, you'll read the inspiring story of how John's five-year college journey changed his life, as well as advice and testimonies from college students of all ages and backgrounds. You'll find practical tips for studying and keeping yourself on track as well as spiritual strengthening to lift you up when you feel the road ahead is too difficult. Most of all, this book will make you realize that no matter what obstacles lie in your way, U-CAN achieve amazing things and use your personal victory to pave the way for others.

2nd book to be Released in soft and hard cover date TBD, below is its back cover

-- This book (a tool U-Can! use) is designed to increase Valdosta State University enrollment to **14,000 by fall semester 2015**—and keep it high in the years beyond. Its philosophy is simple:

Live a U-CAN! Life to Show Others They Can!

U- You

C- Capture your message, moments, memories

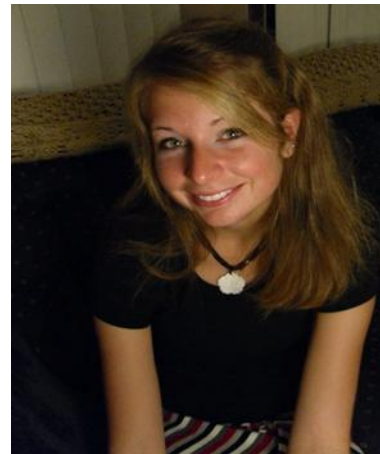
A- Attack every mission (14,000 Blazers by 2015) with your best effort

N- Never be defeated

The U-Can! Man

and

Mandie Gossage



Cum Laude

Summa Cum Laude

Undergraduate

Undergraduate and Graduate school

"Congratulations on all your academic success! Best of luck on your sophomore year!"

Mandie Gossage, The U-Can! Man's Awesome and Amazing Editor, November 22, 2010

Florida 5 (Blue Team) F CAT 7 YEAR FACTS

F CAT High School Grade History	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Monticello, FL							
1. Jefferson High School	F	D	D	F	I	D	F
Tallahassee, FL							
1. Leon High School	B	A	B	B	C	A	B
2. James Richards High School	C	C	B	A	D	C	C
3. Amos P. Godby High School	C	B	C	B	F	C	D
4. Sail	A	A	A	B	B	A	B
5. Lincoln High School	B	A	B	A	B	A	A
6. Lawton Chiles High School	A	A	A	A	B	A	A
Jasper, FL							
1. Hamilton High School	F	D	C	D	F	D	D
Madison, FL							
1. Madison High School	B	A	C	C	F	D	D
Lake City, FL							
1. Columbia High School	C	B	B	B	D	D	D
2. Fort White High School	C	C	B	B	B	B	C

U-Can! Plan Requested for One High School per Blue Team Area

**The U-Can! Man Florida 5 (Blue Team) F CAT 5 YEAR Projected Results
1 High School Per City**

Innovative Skill of Successful School Strategy (I-4S)

If I had to sum up my past 49-plus years (May 1964-December 2013) on earth in:

One Word: Change

Two Words: Change Yourself

Three Words: Change Yourself Often

Four Words: Change Yourself Often, Early

Five Words: Change Yourself Often, Early, Today

I have learned that change was happening whether I knew it at the time or not. Change occurs every second, minute, hour, and day. The key to dealing with change is to think not in terms of you dealing with the change, but instead with change dealing with you as you initiate your own purposeful changes. The key to winning the change life battle is found in The U-Can! Man's one through five words above.

I have also learned that change synonyms can help you look at the man or woman in the mirror and do what the late legendary singer Michael Jackson sang in his song "Man in the Mirror:"

I'm gonna make a change, for once in my life it's gonna feel real good,

Gonna make a difference, Gonna make it right.

I made a change in my life when I went from running from education to embracing education as I enrolled in, progressed through, and, five years later, graduated from college with honors (see www.johntheucanman.com for more of my story). The beginning of my success was my initial decision to make that change. If I can, U-Can!

Tools (B-4A)

Book Graduating With Honors: If I Can, U-Can!

Access to www.johntheucanman.com

Application of Self-Quiz

Access to The U-Can! Man

F CAT High School Grade	History	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
1: Monticello FL								
1.	Jefferson HS	U-Can! Plan	F	D	C	B	A	A
2: Tallahassee FL								
1.	Amos P. Godby HS	U-Can! Plan	C	B	A	A	A	A
3: Jasper FL								
1.	Hamilton HS	U-Can! Plan	F	D	C	B	A	A
4: Madison FL								
1.	Madison HS	U-Can! Plan	B	A	A	A	A	A
5: Lake City FL								
1.	Columbia HS	U-Can! Plan	C	B	A	A	A	A

1: Monticello FL

1.	Jefferson HS	U-Can! Plan	F	D	C	B	A	A
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2: Tallahassee FL

1.	Amos P. Godby HS	U-Can! Plan	C	B	A	A	A	A
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3: Jasper FL

1.	Hamilton HS	U-Can! Plan	F	D	C	B	A	A
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4: Madison FL

1.	Madison HS	U-Can! Plan	B	A	A	A	A	A
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5: Lake City FL

1.	Columbia HS	U-Can! Plan	C	B	A	A	A	A
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Brother John Wallace Isom Jr a.k.a. The U-Can! Man

Our Book will show How U-Can! Grow:

From: 1 A (2.07 GPA) in high school, Jefferson County High School 1978-1982

To: 30 A's (3.70 GPA) in college, Valdosta State University 2009-2013 (Cum Laude)

“If I Can, U-Can!”

www.johntheucanman.com

GREAT THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED TO ME

John Wallace Isom Jr

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theucanman@gmail.com

Education

B.A. Degree in Sociology and Anthropology **Dec 2013**
Valdosta State University (VSU), Valdosta, GA.

Intern, Valdosta State University, Office of Social Equity, **Aug – Dec 2013**
150 hours of field experience with Dr Maggie Viverrette, Director
as my field supervisor. Learned about the many aspects of diversity,
wrote a book to help increase enrollment and graduation rates at VSU,
titled *Graduating With Honors: If I Can, U-Can!*

Career History & Accomplishments:

CEO, The U-Can! Man LLC, Valdosta, GA,

2008-2013

Designed, developed and implemented Chamber of Commerce minority
recruiting plan titled “Each One Reach One”

Designed, developed and published One Hour of Hope presentation

Designed, developed and launched interactive motivational website

Chaplain Recruiter Consultant, APC Solutions, Valdosta, GA

2007-2009

Designed, developed and implemented mentoring and empowerment training to
over 5000 potential Chaplains

Created and implemented a Chaplain recruitment program resulting in over 100
chaplains recruited.

Recognized as top recruiter on the APC Solutions team

United States Army.

1982-2007

Designed, developed and implemented the Recruiting Course Final Evaluation
used by the entire US Army Recruiting School Basic Course

Designed, developed and implemented a system to identify individual
Instructors' strengths and weaknesses

Recognized as the leader of three #1 recruiter teams.

Memberships & Affiliations

2013 Who's Who Class Among College Students, Valdosta State University
Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce
National Society of Leadership Success, Valdosta State University Chapter

References:

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