



# The NOODLE

Open up and say AHHHH!!!



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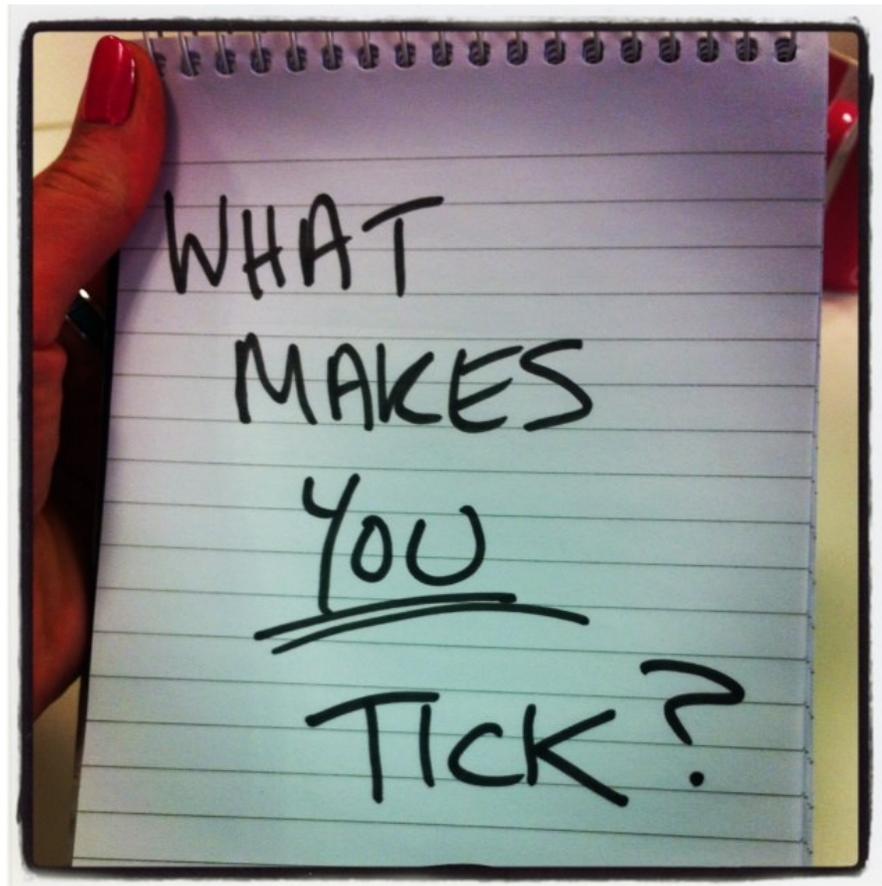
December 2020

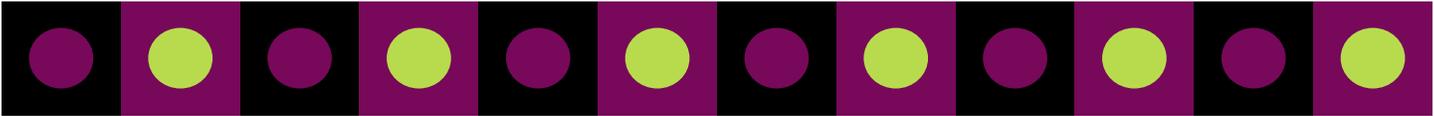
**W**elcome to the December 2020 edition of *The Noodle*, written and published by the FYC. For this issue of *The Noodle*, members of the FYC were asked “What makes you tick?” This topic allowed members to share their thoughts on the things that make them tick. We hope you will take a few minutes out of your busy schedule to learn about our experiences and enjoy our thoughts and opinions in this edition of *The Noodle*!

**Believe in your self!!**

**Current Members:**

John Baldino  
Shevie Barnes  
Derek Carraway  
Alexander Gonzalez  
Leah Gorman  
JJ Humphrey  
Josh Tapia  
Christina Waldron  
Serena Wetmore  
Brandon White  
Niki Germain - FYC  
Youth Advisor





## What Makes Me Tick

What makes people tick? “Tick” in this case referring to the things that cause people to behave or act a certain way. So what makes me tick? I had to think about it for a moment and then it hit me. A lot of things factor into it, but I’d say the top one is my beliefs as a Christian. Those beliefs definitely motivate the behaviors I exhibit and what makes me go on a daily basis: behaviors that would please God all the time. Other things that make me tick are from my personal experiences such as from having my disabilities that have made me form thoughts that keep me moving forward and advocating for things that will help everyone in the disability community. Things like this are all things that make me tick.



*By Derek Carraway*

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## Acting is My Passion!!

Communication is very important to me. When I was little, I thought in black and white. Those gray areas were confusing. Now that I’m older and have more life experiences I can guess what those gray areas mean. One thing that helped improve my communication skills and understanding was acting. And acting has become my passion!

Acting has definitely been a confidence builder. When I’m a different character onstage or on camera I become that character for a time. I get to experience something from another person’s point of view. Acting promotes abstract thinking and perspective taking.

I also become more aware of my surroundings and movement of my body. When a director asks me to change something, I have to think quickly and change at a moment’s notice. Improv classes and acting coaches have really helped me to achieve this change on the fly.



Acting has also helped me with reading and using non-verbal communication. I have dyslexia and find that scripts are organized in a way that's easier to read than a book. Using non-verbal communication in my acting and seeing others use it too, helps me to understand it.

I feel more myself when I'm onstage or on camera. I love being an actor. It's a dream come true for me. If it's a dream of yours, I hope you pursue it too!

*By JJ Humphrey*

## What Makes Me Tick

When something makes you tick, it motivates you and gets you going. Well to me, I think that horses make me tick. They make my day when I am around them. I take care of them, feed them treats, and brush and groom them. I also ride them. I have my own horse that I ride, and I work with horses. I ride western style which suits me very well. I work at a therapeutic riding stable that deals with English style riding. Western or English, all riding is great.



Music makes me tick, too. I also play piano. I have been playing some Bach, Mozart, and John Lennon and The Beatles. I played at my tutor's wedding and at my piano teacher's church. I have two pianos, the grand piano in the living room and my piano keyboard in my bedroom. My house is filled with music.

I love spending time shooting pool, too. I go to my cousin's house every Wednesday. He has a pool table in his garage. It is a big one. I am winning our series of games. I am up 19 to 17. By the time you read this, I think I will be the winner!

There are three things that make me tick: my life with horses, music – especially the piano – and shooting pool. I am one lucky guy who gets to do these things that keep life ticking along.

*By John Howard Baldino*



## How Do I Become Part of The Florida Youth Council?

The Florida Youth Council is a group of youth (between the ages of 15 and 17) and emerging leaders (between the ages of 18 and 30) with disabilities or special health care needs that live in Florida.

The Florida Youth Council is all about getting youth and emerging leaders involved in self-advocacy, peer mentoring and other activities that will improve the quality of life for youth and emerging leaders with disabilities in Florida. The program empowers youth and emerging leaders to decide what issues are important to their generation, to discuss those issues in their state and local communities, and to develop strategies to address them.

We are seeking a group of enthusiastic, motivated youth and emerging leaders to participate. If you would like to take a leadership role in advocating for youth and emerging leaders in Florida, please visit The Florida Youth Council website at [www.floridayouthcouncil.com](http://www.floridayouthcouncil.com). The program is open to application year round. We hope to hear from you soon!



820 East Park Avenue, Suite F-100  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

