

RISA POLLOCK

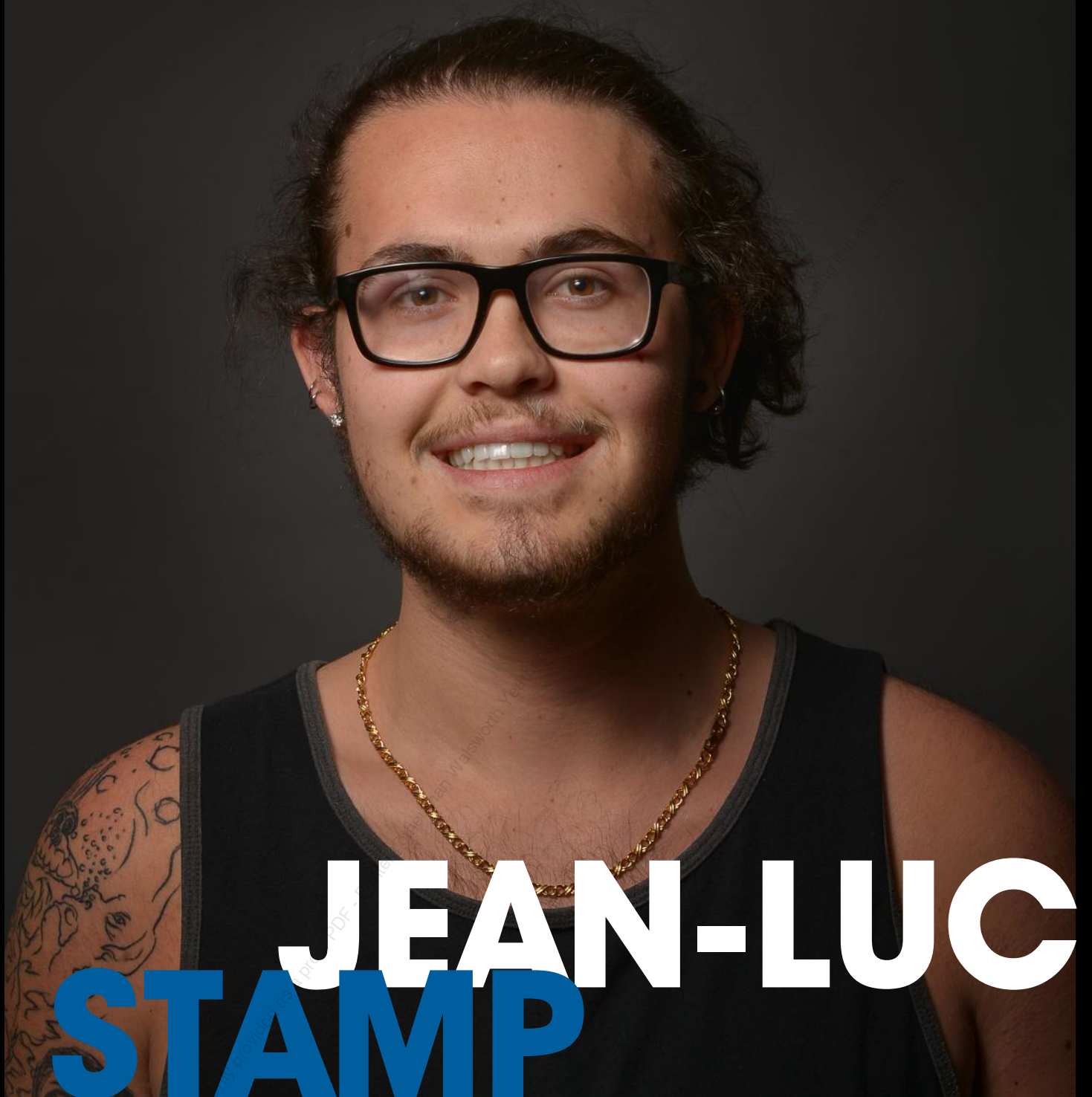
When times got hard for Risa Pollock, she kept on going as best as she could. "Freshman year...I went to go get out of the pool...and I could barely lift my leg to get it out, I almost had to have someone call over so they could help me get out of the pool, and so then I knew something was wrong...[My mom and I] went to the doctor, but it was a chiropractor because my mom thought that something was out of place, and they were just going to put it back in place...When they did X-rays, they found two bulges and a herniated disk in my back. A bulge is in the spine...when one [of the disks] moves out...And then, when one moves out and it starts to slip, it is called a herniation...".

These challenges resulted in Risa having to change her lifestyle. "I was immediately told to

stop everything that I was doing and I couldn't lift over a certain amount of weight...I could barely sit down and they immediately started therapy, I going like three or four times a week trying to move the bulges and herniations back without surgery because I was only 14 or 15, and they didn't want to do back surgery on a 14-15 year old...I wasn't allowed to swim, run, couldn't walk down the hallway; all my books I had to carry because it was too much weight on my back for my bookbag, the only thing I had in my bookbag was a pencil case and about two notebooks. I had to use a pillow to sit down because I couldn't really sit down through the entire class because my leg would go numb, and I had to stand and try to walk around..." The life changing restrictions have impacted Risa's life,

but she is persevering.

This injury has impacted Risa's past and present, and it will continue to affect her future. "...We're assuming that we'll have a back surgery. We'll put all of the bulges and herniations back and hopefully to fix some muscles and some nerves that have obviously been moved because of all of this. And then, once they put those back into place, I'll probably go in within five years back, they'll kinda do the same thing again and there'll be another, hopefully, seven, eight, ten years, it just depends on how bad my back gets and how quickly." Even though this injury has negatively impacted Risa, she is remaining optimistic and hoping for the best.



JEAN-LUC STAMP

At a very young age, Jean-Luc Stamp discovered his passion for working with metal and fire. "I really got started in eighth grade in Mountain Ridge with advanced 3D art class. I have always loved history and art and so metalworking is a really cool thing because all different cultures use metal in different ways, so I got really into making knives and woodworking. The whole shebang.

I have taken a lot of classes at Bemis Fine Arts Center and have done classes with masters in Black Forest and online, but most of the time it's trial and error. Just trying out different things and having them blow up in your face and figuring out what went wrong. Then doing them over and over again. It has definitely taught me perseverance because when you

learn from your mistakes, you get better. When the stakes are a little bit higher in metal working, like losing a finger or getting a really bad burn, you learn really quickly how to learn from your mistakes. It helps me in a lot of different aspects in school."

Even though metalworking has positively contributed to his everyday life, it is a financial burden. "Because it's such an expensive hobby, money has definitely been a big problem. Power tools cost thousands of dollars and you have to get ventilation systems and take expensive classes, so that has been a big struggle. Also doing it all out of the garage has been difficult because I don't have access to the tools that would help push my work..."

Jean-Luc's passion for metalworking helped

reveal his love for different cultural arts. "Metal working branches out with different cultures, which is why I want to study anthropology after I graduate, so I can learn more about what I am passionate about and tie it in with what I've been doing with my whole life. Anthropology will allow me to learn about other cultures and the different types of art that they use.

I like metalworking being just a hobby because I don't have any expectations that will make me create something I don't want or accept a commission that I don't want to take just for money...Metalworking will always be apart of my life because it's what I love to do and being creative is who I am. I love anything that allows me to use my hands and create a product at the end."