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The Student Movement Volume 105 Issue 2: Clubs Fare Well: Clubs Preserve Community During COVID

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Clubs Fare Well

CLUBS PRESERVE COMMUNITY DURING COVID



Photo by Janessa Saelee

News

NEWS

Clubs, Clubs, Clubs Galore

Taylor Uphus [Tuesday, 09.22.2020](#)



Photo by Janessa Saelee

On Thursday, Sept. 17, tables with brightly colored posters, balloons and even an airplane were scattered in front of the Andrews University Campus Center while cheerful music played. Around 5:00 p.m., students began arriving for the annual Andrews University Club Fair. For the next several hours students enjoyed spending time with friends, interacting with the different club officers, signing up for clubs and immersing themselves in the incredible diversity Andrews has to offer.

Due to COVID-19 regulations, this year's club fair was unique. Each club's booth was spread farther apart to accommodate social distancing, the beloved ice cream social and toppings could no longer take place, and individuals had to sign up for clubs by scanning QR codes. However, even amidst these differences students and club officers enjoyed the event. Kara Shepard (junior, physics) commented, "I enjoyed how easy it was to sign up for the clubs by using my phone and I liked how even though they couldn't have ice cream like normal, they were still able to pass

out candy to brighten things up!” Similarly, club officers shared the opinion that the club fair went well even with all the adjustments. Angelina Malcolm (junior, international business), the event coordinator for the Women’s Empowerment Club (WEAAU), stated, “I think the club fair went really well and there was a good amount of people that showed up.”

While clubs face a year of unknowns due to COVID-19, nothing has kept them from planning an awesome year for their members. This year Andrews University has a total of 47 clubs, including two new clubs, the Running Club and Creative Writing Club. Many clubs are still planning to host their favorite events in new and safe ways. Angelina Malcolm (junior, international business) explains, “COVID-19 has affected not just WEAAU but every club. This is just an obstacle for all of us, but we will get through it together. Every club is going to have to be more creative with their events while following COVID guidelines.”

Club members are looking forward to returning to their favorite clubs, spending time with friends and attending the new events their club officers have planned. Josh Whitman (junior, religion, secondary education) expressed his excitement, “I joined the AMA and KASA clubs and am looking forward to the different events the clubs will be putting on and getting new club hoodies!” Kara Shepard (junior, physics) conveyed similar excitement, “I am really looking forward to seeing my friends from AU Theatre Wing again and working on new projects with them. I also can’t wait for the WEAAU events and meeting new people.” We are all looking forward to a new and exciting year with all of our favorite clubs!

NEWS

The Andreasen Center for Wellness Reopening

Amanda Cho Tuesday 09.22.2020



Photo by Kevin Lembono

On Monday, Sept. 14, the Andreasen Center for Wellness (ACW) opened for the first time since March. Although the center offered Zoom classes and outdoor workouts, many have been anticipating this opening and the chance to work off some of that quarantine fifteen. Most people are excited to be able to work out again, and to have access to not only the equipment but to the community of the ACW. Being able to work out with others gives them the motivation to become stronger and healthier.

Kristin Ferrer (senior, biology, public health) said, “I’m excited about the Wellness Center opening! I haven’t been to a gym since quarantine happened and I’m excited to get back into a good workout routine. I have no concerns; I think the plan for the Wellness Center is being handled really well.”

However, there are some people that are more concerned with the logistics of how the new guidelines will actually be able to protect people working out in the gym.

Especially given that the ACW is open to the public community and not just Andrews University. The ACW has implemented steps to increase the safety of its guests and employees, these steps follow state and CDC guidelines and include wearing a mask when exercising within the ACW and maintaining social distancing rules.

Brent Laporre (junior, medical laboratory science) said, “I’m glad that the Wellness Center is now open for service but I still don’t find myself working out there right now. Although I understand how they are now making scheduled times to use the facilities, I feel like I wouldn’t be helping the cause to prevent the spread of COVID by going there. If the men’s residence gym was open, I would be a lot more comfortable with working out there because then it would be a lot more contained within the dorms.”

Some of the new guidelines that ACW has implemented apply even before entering the gym area: at the front desk, the worker will make sure that the member has signed the waiver, signed up for a work time, has an all clear checkmark from Campus Clear, and will take the member’s temperature. While in the ACW, everyone is required to wear a mask and maintain six feet distance when not exercising and ten feet distance when exercising. The machines must be wiped down before and after use, and the locker sprayed before leaving. There are also group classes offered outside in which masks will not be required, although physical distancing will also be in effect. Despite these restrictions, many people are looking forward to getting in shape again.

Wambui Karanja (freshman, nursing) said, “I’m really happy that the Wellness Center has opened because I feel as though that’s a really good way for a lot of people to exercise when they otherwise would not—though I am a bit skeptical of exercising with masks and all the other restrictions and how exactly that will play out.”

If you wish to visit the Andreasen Center for Wellness (ACW) make sure to download the app and fill out the waiver. You must also book a 60-minute time slot for your workout on the app before attending. More information about the protocols/guidelines in place and general information about the ACW and its events can be found at andrews.edu/wellnesscenter/.

NEWS

Danielle Pilgrim Delivers Inspiring Message

Terika Williams [Tuesday 09.22.2020](#)

This past Tuesday, Sept. 15, Chaplain Danielle Pilgrim, better known as Chap D, spoke at the Seminary. Her sermon, titled “I’m Not Going to Die Here,” was based on 2 Kings 7:3-8. It detailed the miracle wrought on the behalf of 4 leprous men. Pilgrim began her sermon by referencing the legacy of Harriet Tubman, known for risking her life by taking over 90 trips on the Underground Railroad. Harriet Tubman and the 4 leprous men both understood the importance of taking a risk and trusting God to supply the rest. Pilgrim encouraged her audience both through Zoom and in-person to step out in faith and have faith that God will take care of them. Additionally, she asserted that miracles are experienced by those who take a risk.

Several students who attended the event said that this sermon inspired growth in their spiritual lives. Ashok Willmot (seminary) said, “It really made me ask myself critically, ‘when are the times I need to act in faith and to be still in faith? Do I believe that Jesus is who He says He is?’” Pilgrim’s sermon probed listeners to conduct introspection and understand where they must grow in their spiritual life. She made several references to prominent historical figures, such as MLK, and helped students understand that they are still called by God to abandon their comfort zone and walk by faith.

Keila Carmona (seminary) said, “I think each day we pass up chances to take risks. Sometimes it's speaking up when someone makes a racially insensitive comment... I often forget that people like Harriet Tubman and so many others who made huge changes in this world for God, were people just like me.” Pilgrim’s sermon reminded others that we are each called by God, to make small changes in our lives and in the lives of others. Yamilex Peña (junior, nursing major) said, “I really enjoyed her talk. It was nice to hear a graduate of Andrews speak, and she’s really passionate.” Her passion inspired others to trust God and motivate themselves by saying, “I will not stay here.”

Planning University Club Events

Amidst a Pandemic

Masy Domecillo [Tuesday 09.22.2020](#)

The protocol for University clubs this semester was certainly unconventional, with the yearly Ice Cream Social adapted to COVID-19 regulations. Nonetheless, Club Fair was held with the same enthusiasm on September 17 in front of the Campus Center, albeit without the ice cream and with socially distanced tables.

Students were eager to join the clubs, yet many expressed concern about events. Common questions inquired about how events would be conducted, how clubs would conform to the new regulations, and if face-to-face events would occur at all. Even though most clubs had proactively prepared for these queries, the inevitable probing caused officers to further deliberate upon their options for the year. For clubs seeking members amidst the pandemic, creativity proves vital.

Before coming up with solutions, club officers had to assess their constraints. Isabelle Tessalee (junior, biochemistry), the Chemistry Club's Religious VP, said "It's more difficult to plan activities since everyone has to be socially distant. We've had to plan activities outdoors so there's enough space for the amount of people who are in the club."

Similarly to Chemistry Club, many other clubs have looked into conducting events outdoors as the open space makes adhering to social distancing easier, especially for larger clubs. Nonetheless, challenges remain.

Gloria Oh (sophomore, biology), the Secretary for BioPhilia, states that the pandemic has "made the approach we take in planning the club plan very different compared to previous years. Face-to-face has to be limited as much as possible, so that probably placed difficulties for a lot of other clubs, not just our club."

Nonetheless, Oh regards these challenges as opportunities for the club to grow. She says, "I think it also opened up more doors of possibilities." Displaying a mindset crucial for club officers, Oh appeared to be keen on creating new ways for members to interact and participate.

A common thread with the officers appears to be the planned utilization of Zoom meetings. Oh remarked, "For example, I think Zoom or virtual events makes it easier to involve more people that might have place or time constraints for the activities." Tessalee also mentioned Zoom, and said, "Thinking about when it gets colder, we will most likely have more Zoom meetings." Likely, these officers will have to keep in mind the necessity of creating an engaging, dynamic meeting in a virtual setting.

Despite a change of setting, a semblance of regularity was emphasized. Tessalee said, "We know that making connections with our peers and the chemistry/biochemistry faculty is important so we're trying to make sure that we have events regularly throughout the semester." Clearly, officers are trying to build and maintain relationships by creating constant opportunities throughout the year for interaction.

Although this school year proves to be demanding in terms of logistical planning, Andrews University club officers seem well-prepared. Conducting a club will undoubtedly require inventive planning both satisfy members and encourage participation. Nonetheless, the students can undoubtedly look forward to the creative events their chosen clubs will hold throughout the semester.

Research at the Science Complex During COVID-19

Jessica Rim Tuesday 09.22.2020



Photo by Peter Tumangday

Sanitizing desks after each class, directing traffic flow in buildings by marking entrances and exits, avoiding a high occupancy room due to social distancing. These are some of the now-familiar precautions we take during COVID-19. Due to these restrictions, it would not be an exaggeration to say that every aspect of our campus experience has been impacted.

In particular, students were concerned about how COVID-19 would impact their research. Many undergraduates undertake a research project with a research advisor in their junior or senior year, usually as a requirement for their programs. While following COVID-19 guidelines, close contact with other individuals would be limited. Any lab that would require multiple people in the room at once would be affected.

At the science complex, student researchers have felt the influence of the pandemic to varying degrees. For students who were already doing research during the 2020 spring semester, the majority of the shock was felt when their

research had to be abandoned as they promptly left campus in March. Janelle An, (senior, biology) who works in the cricket lab, lamented, “Research was cut short because of COVID. In the long run, it would have been nice to get more trials in for the crickets.”

However, regarding the changes made to the lab this semester such as more stringent schedules for lab times and required sanitization, she admitted that “I appreciate that my research hasn’t been seriously affected, since it is fairly independent.”

Similarly, Daranthea Atmadja (biochemistry, junior), a first-year researcher in the chemistry department, commented, “I don’t think COVID has impacted my research as much. I can’t compare it to past years because this is my first year, but I don’t think it has done anything to my research.”

In contrast, there were more serious consequences for Andras Muranyi (biology, junior), whose research advisor, Dr. Smith, retired due to COVID-19’s aftereffects. “Because of this, some in my lab may be worried that their research will remain unfinished or that she won’t be as present as past years.”

On a brighter note, he added, “Personally, I have found that Dr. Smith has been more present in her retirement, allowing me to continue work at a normal rate. Despite the fact that she is retired, she has dedicated an additional year to helping wrap up work with her students in the lab. Although it isn’t an ideal situation, I think she provides a stellar example of the dedication Andrews University professors have toward their students.”

PULSE

Socializing During a Pandemic: Freshmen Perspectives

The transition from high school to college is a big one. This change is often filled with excitement, nervousness, and a new-found sense of freedom. For the class of 2024, this transition looks different than it has in years past. One main component of the college experience is socialization, which involves making connections with peers and campus staff. During this pandemic, it has proven very difficult to socialize in that same, face-to-face

manner that many were looking forward to. I asked three freshmen about their campus experience so far, and how social distancing (or this new form of socializing) has affected them.

Interviewed by Wambui Karanja Tuesday 09.22.2020

As a new freshman on campus, how do you think social interactions have been impacted during the pandemic?

Priya Sigamani, (freshman, speech-pathology) from Alabama, started off by saying that overall there is a lot of fear surrounding initiating conversations and meeting new people. She says, “There are people that want to meet new people but because of the virus they are scared to branch out. This fear has made things kind of cliquy—which is understandable.”

Drusilla Apola, (freshman, speech-pathology) from Maryland, noted the importance of orientation week and how the modified structure this year set the foundation for the weeks following. “I feel like we’re not as involved as other classes have been, especially during orientation week where we get to learn more about the school, tour, and meet new people. Everything was on Zoom, so we didn’t get to meet people one-on-one and now that school has started, we’re too busy to really meet new people. Even in classes, we are all separated and so we don’t get to interact with our classmates. A lot of interactions are prohibited unless you make plans to meet outside somewhere.”

Do you feel as though you are still getting the “true” college experience in light of having limited social events and other such opportunities for socialization?

Sarah Coleman, (freshman, biology pre-med) from New York, says, “I don’t know if it’s the true college experience, but given the circumstances it’s not as bad as I expected it to be and we make the most of what we have. One advantage is that you get to make deeper and more meaningful bonds with fewer people.”

Apola: “No, because even when we do have events, they are socially distanced so you only really talk to the people you came with or the people you know. Trying to talk to people outside of that is harder, which makes it difficult to make new friends. Because we didn’t meet many people at the beginning, we are limited to the friends we have now; we pretty much stay in our same groups.”

What are some ways you have been able to socialize despite the COVID-19 guidelines?

Sigamani: “If you care enough you’ll make it work—even if it means testing the guidelines a little bit. Some things I do personally are sitting outside to eat in a

group or hanging out in our dorm rooms together.”

Apola: “I have met some people at the club fair and at church, when they do the ice breakers.

A big one is Pulse groups; it’s a consistent event so you know you’ll see the same people regularly and will potentially be able to form deeper bonds with those people.”

Humans

HUMANS

BSCF Club Spotlight

Interviewed by TJ Hunter [Tuesday 09.22.2020](#)



Photo by Rayno Victor

A Response from BSCF’s Executive Team:

Executive VP: Jameeka Williams (senior, history, political science)

Executive Team: Ben Lee (senior, political science) and Jenna Donaldson (junior, political science)

“There's an array of reasons why BSCF is important to AU's campus. The original intent of this club was to be made as a safe haven for the Black students on campus who often experienced discrimination on this campus. This over-40 year old club that exemplifies and showcases Black history, Black culture, Black talent, and Black worship has always wanted to make sure that not only is it beneficial to Black people by being that safety created for and by Black people, but by being able to embed all these aspects of Blackness into AU's culture as well. “

One of the best things about AU is all the different cultures that the students have to offer the school, and this being important to BSCF that we are able to celebrate ourselves, we are also able to allow others to celebrate with us. BSCF also provides a voice for the Black students.

As important as a safe haven is for Black people as we deal with historic, systemic, and on going racism and discrimination it is also just as important that actions and words are put to these feelings. With something like the “It Is Time AU” movement that was created and run by the leadership of BSCF, we show Black students, and even students of other cultures and ethnicities, that you are, in fact, able to have a voice. That there is support not just behind, but with you as well. And BSCF sees that as a major priority for the club.

Théard Pierre

President

(senior, theology)

BSCF is, has and will always be important to Andrews University. Like the many who have paved the way outside of Andrews, in my 4 years here, BSCF has stepped up to the plate to provide safe spaces for black students, to fight against unjust systems, to provide a praise that leaves you with an array of emotions, and when it's all said and done it becomes home. Everyone deserves to feel at home, and I believe that it is this principle that each club strives to bring here at AU.

Rayno Victor

Photographer

(junior, photography)

I think it's important to have BSCF because our club helps minority and black students feel more welcomed and appreciated on a campus

Jachin Holness

Religious Vice President

(seminary)

“I think BSCF is vital for Andrews University to have representation, acknowledgement, and empowerment for and of a group that is constantly marginalized, ostracized, and oppressed in the real world and the microcosm of it here at Andrews University.”

Khaylee Sands

Social Media Director

(sophomore, pre-physical therapy)

I think BSCF is an important club to have at Andrews for the sense of a safe black community for students. BSCF is not simply a club, but a family. Being a part gives us the opportunity to portray what being black is really about, despite what the negative side of society says.

What aspect of BSCF are you most excited about this coming year?

Thandi Dewa

Social Team

(sophomore, biology)

“I’m most excited to see the creativeness that will come from the BSCF team this year as we execute a super successful year given our current circumstances”

Janick Brun

Social Team

(junior, french)

“I’m excited for the fact that despite a pandemic, BSCF will be bringing fun and cool events”

Reba Perkins

Social Team

(senior, nursing)

“I’m excited about the events we have planned for black history month!”

HUMANS

Distance Learning Student Interview

Psychology Pre-Med Student at Andrews University, Studying Remotely in New Jersey
Interviewed by Fitz-Earl McKenzie II

Sydney Saint-Jean **Tuesday 09.22.2020**



Photo by Sydney St.Jean

So far, how has your experience been with remote scheduling?

Actually it's been pretty good. I can't even complain; I feel like I am on a good schedule and everything. Especially being at home, it has been much easier but a little weird as well. I actually thought that it would be super hard because of teachers and Zoom. The combination can be a bit of a mess sometimes, but actually it's been much easier for me because although being at home for school can be really really hard for a lot of people, I just feel like, at home, I have a set schedule that I can make and I'm in my own place; I can do things on my own time.

So what made you decide on remote learning as opposed to coming back?

Two things; the first thing is actually going to sound really bad, but I was really afraid of getting tested. I heard horror stories of people's noses starting to bleed, and that's just not my thing, although I will have to get tested eventually. But the other reason was actually that I went to the doctor because I was having super weird health problems. And then I took a blood test, and the blood test came back,

and the results were just... weird. The thing that the doctors thought I had would compromise my immune system tremendously. So I decided and was like “you know what? If I actually have this thing, I’m going to stay home and get the blood tests that I need.” But then I took a test last month, and everything came back normal, so I’m kind of here for no reason now.

Does the remote setting that you’re in suit your learning style? I know for many students, the transition in March was very difficult, especially because they were not used to doing all of their schooling online and having the venues mixed so forcefully.

I would say that it does, and I am very privileged that it does fit my learning style. In March, it wasn’t really the best, you know? I’m sure for anyone if they moved into a place they didn’t think they were going to move to all of a sudden—mentally and physically, everything would just be off. But now, after being at home for this long and I was taking summer classes over the summer, I kind of created my space so that it is my learning style better. And I know a lot of people may not be able to do that, so that’s why I say that I’m privileged to do that. I would have never thought this place could ever fit my learning style.

So with that being said, what would the trade-off be? Although it fits your learning style, What were you willing to forego in order to stay safe?

I don’t know if this would ever make sense, but noise. So I think because I’m living with three people in my house, it tends to be a little noisier, and I feel like it... let’s say I was in school or something, then I would just have my own place and it would be quiet. But I don’t know; I just had to make this work.

How has your approach to remote learning changed over the past six months since the pandemic started?

In the beginning, I really thought, “okay, everyone is at home, so they’ll do much better,” you know? I actually even thought that since they were at home, they’d have more space to do whatever and that everything would be ok, but honestly, I took human interaction for granted. Because when this first started, I was like, “I saw my friends before, but I’ll be ok,” you know? But I think after a while when you don’t see people for a while, and the only people you see are the same family members all day... you kind of miss that element because you can’t talk to your family the same way that you would some friends, and that element can take a significant toll on your mental health.

Is there anything else you'd want to say about your experience in totality?

As a whole, sometimes, I wish that I would've gone back to school. But at the end of the day, I think I taught myself how to make things work, and I don't think that I would take a physical touch and staying and learning in a classroom for granted because all of those things make my school experience and that's the way I like it.

HUMANS

Meet Lamson Hall's Newest Dean

Dean Jordanne Howell-Walton Interim Assistant Dean

Interviewed by Pearl Parker [Tuesday 09.22.2020](#)



Photo by Jordanne Howell-Walton

What was your experience starting a new job during this strange year of COVID-19?

I think this year has brought challenges for everyone. Over the summer, I was working somewhere else and made the conscious decision to leave that job. I was talking to Dean Sorenson about how I was looking for something new, but I didn't think much of it.

When at the beginning of August, she called me and was like, “Hey, we have an opening, we just need someone really quick.” Replying, I said, “Yes, absolutely.”

The adjustment period was very short. I signed the paperwork, and the next day, I was in my office. I was establishing my space, the environment I would like to create here, as well as getting familiar with this role. It was a large amount of change in a short amount of time, but I’m still excited to be here!

It’s a very different Lamson than I knew as an undergrad. For one, we are now in a pandemic, which has really changed the undergrad experience. Whereas, a dorm is a place where you get an opportunity to build community, it’s more difficult to do that now. A lot of it is finding ways to be safe but also to be social, which is the most difficult task at hand. This is what has been the biggest transition and difficulty. If we weren’t maybe in a pandemic, planning events would be a lot easier, but we have more things to consider.

What are some of the responsibilities you have as a dean?

All three of the Deans here share general responsibilities. For example, if a student has a question or needs to use the chapel. For me specifically, I help students with academic success and finding different venues around our campus. Whether that be with Student Success or their department. All to help them figure out how to achieve the goals they set while they are in this environment. I also help with event planning, help the RA’s plan hall parties and Saturday night activities. Just ensure that we’re doing our best to create community in this environment.

The one thing no one likes to hear is noise warnings. When they assigned this role to me, I chuckled, because when I was a RA, that was what I dreaded the most, but it’s not that bad. I’ve been trying more actively to change the culture and ideology around that.

How did you know you wanted to be a dean? What led you to this position?

I never saw myself being a dean, but when Dean Sorenson asked me about this job, I was like, "Sure, why not." We are all transitioning and in a pandemic. I’ve always known that whatever job I have, I want to work with people. More specifically, working in an environment to help them succeed, whether that be mental health, academics, or personal growth. I want to be a resource and help people to do better and achieve their goals. I’ve done that in multiple different roles, but this position in particular allows for all of that.

There are times when I'll chat with residents about the stress that school is causing, their relationship or friendship, and even family. I have a lot of conversations in which I feel comfortable saying, "What's here that is helping you succeed, and how do you take that step forward?"

The feedback that I got was very affirming. People who once saw me as an undergrad student would tell me that this is something that fits me, and they could see me long term in this environment. They also thought I'd be really good at this position. Those affirmations solidified wanting to be here.

What do you most look forward to as a dean this school year?

I look forward to getting to know the residents the most. Getting to know their personal and life experiences, and understanding what's made them and what's happening now, that will create the person they will become. I love the personal interaction with students; there are tons of different personalities that come in and out of my door. This is my favorite part of my job.

Is there any advice or encouragement you'd have for students during this time of uncertainty?

Do your best to continue to build community. It's not going to be as easy because this is a very different experience now. When I was in undergrad, I could text my friend, "Hey, let's go on an adventure!" We didn't have to worry about masks or what places we could go to, as we do now.

You can take the time to FaceTime a friend and have a fulfilling conversation, or establish good connections in your department or people you study with. This is your community.

But it's so important to know that this is not something that each student is going through individually. You might have your individual perspective and experience on what is happening, but know that it's happening to everyone. You're not alone processing how to attend school in a pandemic.

HUMANS

Spiritual Leadership During COVID-19

Chase Wilder Double Major: Theology & Sociology Religious Vice President of AUSA

Interviewed by Terika Williams Tuesday 09.22.2020



Photo by Chris Wilder

So why did you decide to pursue theology and sociology together?

Well, originally I wasn't going to do sociology. I was just going to be “theology” and call it and call it a day. I’ve always loved theology and I have felt called to be a pastor since I was five. But sociology is something that's fairly new. My passions are social justice and community engagement and involvement. It's one thing to help an individual person and it’s another thing to really understand how systems impact groups of people. So sociology helps me understand better how various things impact various groups of people. The church has a mission of reaching all of the world like the Bible says, but we can't necessarily meet an individual's needs unless we understand all the factors that affect each individual. After taking

principles of sociology with Professor Witzel, I prayed about it and I said this really seems like a great way to help me understand people better and reach various groups of people.

So what made you want to become Religious Vice President of AUSA?

A series of events led to this. When I came to Andrews, I ran for class pastor. We didn't do much but I guess the freshmen knew me as pastor. I worked with Michael Cuke who was the religious Vice President last year. We did Sabbath school together and I got to help him out with a few things. In January or early February, when the application for Religious VP went out it was the last thing that was on my mind. I wasn't even thinking about it. I didn't think that I could do anything like this. Mike came up to me after Sabbath School one day and he said, "You're running for RVP, right?" He said it like he expected me to run. I began to pray and I started getting ideas about events we could do next year. I decided to run and no one ran against me. I said to myself, "Lord, you must really want me to have this position if you opened the door." That's how I got into this position. All summer and throughout quarantine. my mind has just been filling with things that we can do and accomplish.

So far, what have been the challenges that you have faced as religious VP especially during the circumstances of COVID 19, social justice issues, and the ongoing crisis of the world?

Let's start with COVID. COVID has impacted my ability to know other people. I was a little freshman and for some reason I was able to get to know lots of people, whether that be in my class or across the campus. Due to COVID that has greatly changed. So I don't know many of the freshmen and other individuals. When you're a pastor you've got to know your flock. There are lots of people that I've never met simply because of social distancing. We can't talk to each other in the cafeteria. So, being able to develop those connections one on one and understand how the campus is thinking has been a difficulty. Another thing that has been difficult is trying to plan for events. We usually have Sabbath School and one of the ways that we get people to come is by providing food, but because of COVID we can't do that. However the Lord has blessed us, so we have Sabbath School outside in the white tent every Saturday at 10:30. Another example is Lighthouse, which occurred last week. We could only fit 150 people in the HPAC. There were about 600 people watching online. Because of COVID we had to social distance, so many people could not join us. There are some other events that we've been trying to plan, for example Afterglow on a Saturday afternoon, but COVID hinders us. We have had to

rethink all of our plans. We can't do this and we can't do that. Maybe we can have an outside but then it's going to get cold. So, COVID impacts us in a greater way than we think. Our society right now is in a state of unrest. I think this is a great opportunity. I don't really think that this is a challenge. It gives us a chance, especially on Andrews University campus as Christians, and from a religious standpoint, to talk about social justice from the perspective of God's love and His mercy, and the unity that he wants us to have. So, as bad as it is, we can take advantage of this as a way of opening the door to telling people the truth about real Christianity and what God's love is really about.

What are some ways that you've adjusted your role, and your responsibilities, due to COVID 19?

One of the things that we are doing is trying to get smaller groups of people. We're in the beginning stages of forming an RVP Think Tank. Basically we want to bring core clubs that have a religious Vice President together so we can have a common goal to empower each of their groups to serve their communities from a spiritual standpoint. So a change in my role is to empower others to unify their separate groups. Instead of just me being our RVP and planning all these events for the entire campus, one of the things that I want to do this year because of COVID is empowering other clubs and organizations to engage their constituents spiritually, because it's much easier to do that, and because it's on a smaller scale.

So what ways do you recommend people here on campus to seek God during college and during this chaotic time?

Last year when I gave my speech to run for RVP I ended with the three R's which I believe should be the basis of our spiritual lives. That is real, relevant, and relational. We don't want a relationship where we just go to church on Sabbath, sing a few nice songs. We want a real, tangible relationship with him. One that's relevant and when I say relevant, I mean relevant to our modern society and what's taking place in society. Relational, not only between us and God but between us and others. The common aspect of having a real relationship or relational connection is love. Lastly, real. We have to come to the point where our relationship with God is not of forms and ceremonies and rituals. Instead we have a personal daily walk with him, you know we're studying our Bibles, we're praying. Our prayer life is less something I have to do, and more of I really want to talk to Jesus today. We're at a turning point in society; there are so many crazy events going on. But when we read the Bible, the gospel has a solution to many of these things. We're just not applying it. And so if we want to be relevant, if we want our

faith to be relevant, we really have to apply biblical truths and teachings to the issues in society, such as social justice issues. Our number one priority should be our relationship with God. But right up there next to it should be healthy relationships with each other, regardless of race, gender, you know, sexual orientation and economic class. Our priority should be fostering healthy relationships with one another. Simply because that is the basis and essence of a good spiritual life. Those three things to me are the foundation of a good spiritual life.

Arts & Entertainment

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

More Apples to Byte

Hannah Cruse [Tuesday 09.22.2020](#)



Photo by Public Domain

Despite all the setbacks that have happened this year, Apple and Sony have been working hard and have just presented their newest lineup of merchandise this past week. You will probably buy some of these products, so get ready for your bank accounts to be depleted and for all the Christmas present requests.

Up first, Sony revealed only one new product, the PlayStation 5, otherwise known as PS5. That's right, your PS4 is now no longer relevant. To own this gaming system, you will need to cough up \$499.99 dollars, but if you're feeling cheap, you can buy the digital edition for \$399.99. This gaming system supports 8K output and 4K TV-gaming, with an ultra high speed SSD (PlayStation 5). You can preorder now, but you won't receive it until November 12 (Gartenberg). A warning for those purchasing: several retailers have been having problems with preordering and if you get a preorder, you might not receive it on the launch day (Hollister).

On the other hand, Apple has a couple of new items, including updated Apple Watches and a new generation of iPads. There are two different Apple watches available now, the Apple Watch Series 6 and the Apple Watch SE. At the price of \$399, the Series 6 now comes in 6 colors (Silver, Gold, Space Gray, Graphite, Blue, and Red) and can come with a Solo Loop, a new watch band that you can slip on and off. It can now take your blood oxygen levels and the screen size has also gotten larger. The SE is only \$279 and has the same display size as the Series 6 but only comes in three colors (Silver, Gold, and Space Gray). These Apple Watches may seem like they might be too expensive to be useful, but if you ever lose your phone or it dies on you, you still have the capabilities right on your wrist. Now moving on to the iPads, there is the 4th generation iPad Air and the 8th generation iPad. The 4th gen iPad Air has a 10.9-inch screen and houses an A14 Bionic chip. It comes in Sky Blue, Green, Rose Gold, Silver, and Space Gray. The starting price is \$599 and has up to 256GB of storage available. With up to 128GB of storage, The 8th gen iPad starts at \$329 and has an A12 Bionic chip coming in three colors: Silver, Gold, and Space Gray. All of these products are available now for purchase (Apple Event).

Taking a note out of Disney's book, Apple is also making a bundle subscription called Apple One to all their lineup of services including Apple Fitness+, Apple TV+, Apple News+, Apple Music, Apple Arcade, and iCloud. For the price of \$14.95/month, you can access Music, Tv+, Arcade, and iCloud with 50GB with an individual plan. For \$19.95/month, this family plan will give you all the individual plan does, but with 200GB for iCloud. The premier plan at \$29.95/month gives you access to all of the subscriptions listed above with 2TB on iCloud. This will all be available for purchase this fall.

So what are you waiting for? The bitten Apple and the need for bigger and better compel you.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

“Playing” Out the Pandemic: Our Orchestras Dealing with COVID

Megan Napod Tuesday 09.22.2020

So many things have had to adjust due to COVID. A few examples that come to mind are how we live in the dorm, having seating charts in classrooms, and the way we go through the cafe line, but what about how we deal with our group-based extracurricular activities? I interviewed the director of the Symphony Orchestra and Wind Symphony, Dr. Christopher Wild, as well as Megan Case, (sophomore, music education) an orchestra member, to see how they are dealing with the new adjustments they have had to make in terms of their rehearsals and their overall outlook on this school year.

The first question I asked them was, “How has the orchestra/choir adjusted to COVID in terms of rehearsals?” Wild said, “The orchestra is observing the guidelines of six feet between musicians (and in the cases of a few instruments, more than that), so that has led us to always use the Howard Center's large concert hall, not only its main stage but also the balcony behind it, to spread out our approximately 50 musicians safely. Thankfully, I'm equipped with a microphone so that I can speak to those far away from me comfortably while wearing a mask. Some of those musicians are more spread apart, in accordance with the recommendations of available research. For this semester, we only have two scheduled performances, which gives us a healthy amount of time to gain a deep understanding of our music prior to performances. Also, each of our rehearsals now has a 15-minute break in the middle to allow the room's air to settle, and for our musicians to breathe fresh air outdoors.” Case, who is an oboe player for both the Symphony Orchestra and Wind Symphony details that, “Wind players cut holes in their masks in order to play. We look pretty funny but apparently there's some science behind it. To obtain 6 feet between players, the brass sections of both groups have to sit in the balcony. Our concerts will be mostly via live stream, at least for now.”

When asked how these adjustments have affected progress and/or quality of rehearsal Wild said, “Our musicians are progressing nicely, as I would hope and expect. Since each rehearsal is a bit shorter and we have fewer scheduled performances, this allows us to learn at a comfortable pace and reduces potential stressors. Since our in-person music-making will need to finish in mid-November, our members will thereafter be completing a short essay to finish the semester. I'm very proud of the musicians for adopting the university's guidelines within our orchestra setting.”

I also asked Wild if there were any creative methods/ideas they've found or looking to implement in order to enhance the experience for his students. He says, “Since we are situated farther apart, I've certainly tried to encourage us to get to know one another through other means, to feel more connected despite the distance. In past situations, I've observed our members not always knowing who some of their colleagues in the orchestra are, which is unacceptable. Therefore we've enjoyed sharing facts about each other. I also see our rehearsal breaks as an additional opportunity for musicians to get to know one another better.”

In terms of her enjoyment of participating in the groups this year, Case explains, “Even with all the changes I'm thankful to be able to play in an ensemble in person again. I actually really missed it when we had to go home in March. I'm happy to be

back and I still enjoy playing. I think that outweighs the irritations of masks and the other things.”

Both Wild and Case expressed optimism about the success of this school year, and so far they feel as if things are going as smoothly as can be on campus. They both simply hope that people will adhere to the safety guidelines, and really, that is all we can ask of them in these COVID times; oh, and performing great music for us also.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Signal Boost: The Domino Effect

Pearl Parker [Tuesday 09.22.2020](#)

In a TED Talk entitled, “Get Comfortable With Being Uncomfortable,” Luvvie Ajayi speaks on what it means to be a domino. Being a domino is to speak up and do things that are difficult when they are needed. This is all in hopes that it will give way to the domino effect, propelling others to do the same. Doing the right thing doesn't mean that it's going to be easy. Often when we speak out against wrongdoings or injustice, we may face consequences or backlash. In the news, we often see that this is the case, such as when women or men speak out against powerful people. However, these individuals did not let fear take the lead. Letting fear lead us, leaves us in a stagnant place of comfort. Ajayi states, “Being quiet is comfortable, keeping things the way they've been is comfortable. All comfort does is maintain the status quo (TED).” If we don't speak necessary truths, are we holding onto our values and morals? What does it say about us as individuals?

Luvvie then mentions a situation where she was asked to speak for a conference. This particular conference told her that she must pay her way. Taking the time to research them, she found out that the white male speakers got compensated and their travel paid for. The white female speakers got their travel paid for, but the black female speakers were expected to pay to speak. She knew this wasn't right and chose to publicly speak up. In doing so, other women came out with similar stories in which they were being paid discriminatorily.

In a day and age as such, this message is so very relevant. People and systems count on our silence to keep us exactly where we are.” They don't want us to have a

voice and speak out against wrongs that have been committed. This is why we should know and be ourselves, and in doing so, we can tell thoughtful truths. Truths that will help the common good, so that we can build strong foundations and bridges that will break systems built on lies.

Will you choose to be a domino? The one that will take the first fall or, will you be like the rest, standing in line silent?

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Virtual Game Night: A Virtual Reality

Joshua Deonarine Tuesday 09.22.2020

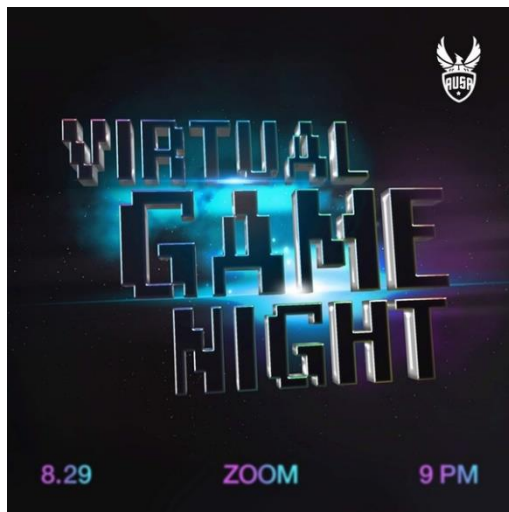


Photo by Courtney Saunders

After several months of pandemic “quarantine,” we are finally able to move about, go to classes, and hang out with friends. But, there are still thousands of people

around the world stuck at home, unable to travel or go outside, many of them students at Andrews. Fortunately, there are new ways we can interact with each other without having to miss a thing.

On August 28, AUSA hosted the first virtual game night of the year, spearheaded by the AUSA Social Vice President, Malachi Regis (senior, marketing). Combining outdoor events with online activities, individuals were able to enjoy a plethora of games from The Jackbox Party packs, especially Guesspionage, a crowd favorite. Up to one hundred people were allowed to participate in person, while others took advantage of the Zoom link.

Many of the attendees also enjoyed this event, even though they weren't physically there. According to Moises Reyes (freshman, mathematics), a math student and avid gamer, "Though I wasn't able to go outside, I did get the opportunity to participate over Zoom. It was pretty interesting!" As a first time college student, this was definitely a new experience for him.

Students who went in-person also had a good time, as business students Adam Peter (sophomore, management) and Logan Grellman (sophomore, management) remarked, "We had a pretty good time. It was annoying to wear masks, but it was still chill." Masks may hinder our ability to breathe, but should not hinder our ability to have fun. To top it off, at the end of the event, some of the top winners, including Natalie Draia, Torrey Joo, Jonathan Wright, Brendan Syto, Zachary Alignay, and Barbara Bende were awarded with cash prize certificates. These prize amounts will be announced later this month.

After speaking to Regis about the future of virtual game nights, he said "Doing an[other] in-person and virtual event simultaneously proved to be very challenging. I'd like to have more game nights throughout this year, but they probably would be simultaneous again." So it seems, we can expect future events like this hybrid event, entertaining everyone no matter where they are.

Ideas

IDEAS

How Climate Change is Fueling the West Coast Fires

Lyle Goulbourne [Tuesday 09.22.2020](#)



Photo by Public Domain

The Situation

A few weeks ago, my parents called me and asked which possessions I would like to save. A new wildfire was less than a mile from my house and they were being told to evacuate. I didn't know what to say, so I told them to save the cat and go. I felt worried because this was the first time a fire was so close to our house that we had to evacuate.

That fire has gone on to threaten over 16,000 structures, and it is one of dozens of fires currently burning across the west coast affecting millions of Americans. These fires have torn across the region, burning a record 3.4 million acres in California alone, which shatters the previous record of 1.9 million acres burned in

California in 2018. These fires have also smothered the west with unprecedented levels of smoke. The air quality is so bad that parts of Oregon have seen visibility reduced to 50 feet, and the EPA has asked millions to stay indoors to avoid the hazardous levels of pollution. The smoke has even stretched all the way to us, creating a hazy sky with discolored sunrises and sunsets. Fires of this size have never been seen before, which raises the obvious questions: why are these fires so large, and what can be done to prevent them?

The Problem

One response to the increase in intensity has been to blame it on forest management. Historically, low-intensity fires would move through forests every few decades, burning up debris and creating space for new plants to prosper. However, as people have settled forested areas, any and all fires have been extinguished in their infancy to prevent them from growing and destroying property. This has resulted in forests that are unnaturally dense and primed to be the perfect kindling for extremely intense fires. Government agencies have tried to conduct prescribed burns to decrease the density, but it has proven difficult to achieve at scale. It has also been harder to achieve as warmer and dryer conditions create more dead brush and decrease the portion of the year during which controlled burns can be conducted safely. Although increased forest maintenance is integral to fire mitigation, greater warming and drying of the planet due to climate change has greatly increased fire-season duration and fuel aridity, creating situations where fires burn with record-breaking force and volatility.

Fire activity is greatly increasing, but climate change has remained a buzzword in the political world. Some argue that it is not anthropogenic—that it's a natural phenomenon that humans aren't the cause of. There are people who believe it is a hoax to give the government greater power, or that there is no scientific consensus. However, framing this issue as a debate is a mistake, as well over 200 worldwide scientific organizations agree on climate change, and for decades political leaders opposed to climate change have known that framing this conversation as a debate would serve their interests. The website skepticalscience.com is an excellent resource that analyzes the various arguments countering climate change (i.e. climate's changed before, it's the sun, it's not bad, there's no consensus) and presents a multitude of facts and resources in response. I highly recommend everyone explore the website. It explains how in short, as humans have put more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, more heat has been trapped, and the world has warmed. Warmer temperatures increase the probability that fires will burn with greater intensity. They also melt snow earlier in the year, leading to drier

plants later on that can act as kindling. More droughts, unpredictable rain patterns, and insect outbreaks that fill forests with dead trees are also connected to climate change—and they all increase the likelihood and intensity of wildfires. Climate change is a problem that will only get worse and result in more extreme conditions unless we act now.

The Solution

So what can we do to combat climate change and prevent future fires of this scale? The easiest course of action is to vote this fall. President Trump has repeatedly disputed the facts presented by climate scientists, and he has rolled back more than 150 different environmental measures. His failure to act and his consistent refusal of science will not only cost America billions of dollars, it will also cost us hundreds of thousands of lives. These failures have prompted certain groups to join the political debate. This month the Scientific American, the oldest continuously published magazine in America, for the first time in its 175 year history endorsed a presidential candidate because of Trump's refusal to accept both evidence and science regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change. The facts have all been laid in front of us, and now we must decide what kind of world we want to leave for ours and future generations.

Thankfully, my family is fine thanks to the braveness of the firefighters and the grace of God. The fire is no longer threatening my home, but it is threatening Camp Cedar Falls (the local SDA camp). However, not all families will be fine if we refuse to vote for those who will not stop our country from literally burning. I believe it is our duty to stop “debating” climate change. We must instead vote those who deny climate change out of office, or the situation will only worsen.

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IDEAS

Ideas That Heal Us: So You Think You're Self-Aware

Self-awareness: “an inwardly-focused evaluative process in which individuals make self/standard comparisons with the goal of better self-knowledge and improvement” (Ashley and Palmon, 2012).

Evin N. Musgrove [Tuesday 09.22.2020](#)

You've often been told that the key to true self-awareness is asking yourself the simple, reflective question, “Why?” “Why do I feel the way I do?” “Why did that hurt me so deeply?” “Why do I get so easily defensive?” The construct of self-awareness has always held my interest, so much so that it is my main focus of research this semester. While scouring Google Scholar, I came across an article entitled, “What Self-Awareness Really Is (and How to Cultivate It)” (Eurich, 2018). The author, Tasha Eurich, tackled the myth of the infamous “Why?” being an effective tool for introspection. Interestingly, in her research, Eurich found that those who self-identified as introspective were actually less self-aware and reported a negative sense of well-being. This surely does not imply the ineffectiveness of introspection; rather, it is often approached incorrectly.

So, I pose the question. Would you identify as a chronic overthinker? So toxically comfortable in your own thoughts that you send yourself into a spiral of anxiety? Well, I'm right there with you. Whether consciously or not, that simple “Why?” may just be the culprit of the insanity! Research reveals that as human beings, we simply do not have access to a lot of the thoughts, emotions, and motives we so desperately search for, and due to this unattainable quest, placed outside of our consciousness, we actually create answers that feel true, but are the complete opposite.

If asking “Why?” isn't the key to healthy self-awareness, what is? Well, that's exactly the answer, “What?” Eurich states that amongst the interviews she and her team analyzed, they found that productively introspective individuals asked themselves “What?” which then permitted an objective approach to their emotions.

Let's now put this newfound insight into perspective. Say you've been friends with someone for a while now, yet as you reflect on the friendship, you feel a bit

dissatisfied with the way things are. You sense a barrier to your vulnerability and it would appear that you are the only one prioritizing the friendship. It's tempting to ask yourself, "Why do I feel so unappreciated?" or "Why is this friendship so lackluster?" I suggest asking a more objective and productive question. That is, "What are the current patterns of this friendship that produce feelings of unappreciation and what steps can we take to change that?"

This new approach to introspection can be especially helpful in one's spiritual life. Perhaps the secret to unlocking a deeper connection with the Holy Spirit is in asking Him to reveal what it is that you may be doing in your personal life that translates to feelings of disconnection. Those feelings of uncertainty, fear, and low-motivation—common barriers to a deeper bond with God—what is the root of those feelings?

God urges those He loves in Jeremiah 33:3, saying: "Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known." God wants to bring to light those things within you that are outside of your conscious awareness. You can't access them on your own. If you could, you would've done so already. I challenge you to change the angle of your prayers from "Why?" to "What?" and you may just find the answers you've been looking for.

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The Last Word

THE LAST WORD

What am I Applying for & Who am I?

Daniel Self [Tuesday 09.22.2020](#)



Photo by Public Domain

A significant part of my summer rotated around preparing myself for law school applications this fall, taking the LSAT, writing personal statements, and asking professors for letters of recommendation. Since eighth grade, I've seen the legal profession as a niche to establish myself in, over time gaining a continually more nuanced understanding of what my dreams entailed. Lawyering is not *Suits*' Harvey Specter or *Billions*' Chuck Rhoades, but portrayed more realistically by every junior associate in the background buried in reading and casebooks. In reading more, I saw that research and legal writing would replace peppy one-liners and a jury's 'ooh's' and 'awe's'. Although watching dramatized depictions of the legal profession stoked my interest years earlier, now, living in the continual pressure cooker imagined in those shows seems terribly stressful. The shows, in their very premises, create logical inconsistencies regarding the field they depict—all the time, looking to compel the viewer to consider the legal field through such a distorted lens.

Ironically, then, the actualized legal profession requires a series of written essays

in which applicants describe what kind of lawyer they wish to become. I find one of the most intriguing aspects of the law school personal statement lies in its purpose, to demonstrate a candidate's qualifications and the intangibles that they may bring to a law school's program. These qualifications, of course, are additive upon one's LSAT score, their cumulative GPA, and their letters of recommendation. Conceptually, these questions allow candidates to articulate their roundedness beyond simply their statistics; and yet, you can observe through how schools treat these essays—often given less than five percent weight towards a candidate's admission—that the actual content does little to swing the scales in favor of a particular applicant. And why should they? It asks people with a layman's understanding of the legal system—ignoring the few paralegals who apply—to articulate why they wish to become part of that system. For a large majority of students, their statements of purpose appear entirely theoretical and the qualifications they list rest on unsubstantiated assertions of what constitutes a good lawyer—the written equivalent of applying to law school because your grandma told you that, “you're good at arguing, you should be a lawyer.”

I find myself amused when reading many professional school applications, where, as the University of British Columbia writes, “Tell us about why you would like to study law at UBC, and how your past education, employment, extracurricular activities and/or other experiences have prepared you for the study of law.” Maybe it reflects poorly on me that even after spending over two hundred hours preparing for my LSAT and likely near an additional one-hundred and fifty reading about the legal profession, I still couldn't provide more than a cursory answer to “why law school?” In my defense, and I believe the defense of many typical people who cannot manifest a Hemingway-esque narrative of how life led them to apply to law school, I believe the question holds an unfair perspective. It assumes, I believe, a unfairly large degree of teleology onto our human experience, that our significant life events occurred purposefully and within a larger thematic scope. How then does one explain to admissions officers the randomness and inconsistencies of life? Of course, these questions are worded with a high degree of openness; however, when law school administrators reveal excellent personal statements, they reveal that the best articulate a complete life narrative—one that unites one's extracurriculars, hobbies, undergraduate research and volunteering into cohesive themes. At its heart, it motivates applicants to look back through their life with a revisionist lens and draw connections between events and experiences that did not inherently exist beforehand.

I think we find these questions often, when we must look back at our lives and attempt to make a cohesive picture of it. It feels like a taxing process, as it seems to go hand-in-hand with the question, “did you do enough in your life so-far?” They’re sibling ideas, really, or at least they build off of each other. The first attempts to categorize one’s lived experience while the second adds to it the dimension of value-judgments. Certainly, living with a constant looking-back is incredibly disruptive to the now, but one cannot ignore the value of hindsight in learning, growth, and self-assessment.

I feel the most challenging part lies in making clear sense of one's lived experience. In writing my essays, I felt pressured to unite my most formative moments into one cohesive idea or theme. From the current moment, it draws one to wonder if you should be doing more to make one's life more thematically similar—but should we have to? Should it be disadvantageous that I enjoy racing motocross on the weekends but also enjoy political philosophy? Applications ask you to demonstrate what separates you from other candidates, and yet, they reward applications with similar differences—a uniqueness that makes sense when examined from a distance. It can be difficult, then, to demonstrate one’s wholeness as a person without feeling like you carry parts of wholly distinct sets of *ethos*.