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Student Movement

3-10-2021

The Student Movement Volume 105 Issue 11: A Symposium of Research: Students Share Capstone Scholarship

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Recommended Citation

Rogers, Jenae; Cho, Amanda; Srikureja, Elianna; Williams, Terika; Karanja, Wambui; Oh, Gloria; Bofetiado, Alec; Lee, Abigail; Seawood, Brandi; Henriquez, Alyssa; Tjhatra, Alannah; McFadden, Kaela; Parker, Pearl; Cruse, Hannah; Goulbourne, Lyle; and McDonald, Moriah, "The Student Movement Volume 105 Issue 11: A Symposium of Research: Students Share Capstone Scholarship" (2021). *The Student Movement v. 105 (2020-2021)*. 15.

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A Symposium of Research

STUDENTS SHARE CAPSTONE SCHOLARSHIP



Photo by John Jackson

News

NEWS

Andrews University Choral Performs “Chasing Away the Blues” Concert

Jenae Rogers [03.10.2021](#)

On Saturday, Mar. 6, the University Singers, Cantata Bella, and the Pioneer Men’s Chorus performed their “Chasing Away the Blues” concert in the Howard Performing Arts Center (HPAC). Professor Stephen Zork, as well as several students, conducted the concert. Andrews University employees, the Enjoyment of

Music class, music majors, music minors, and Andrews University students were allowed to attend in person with a limited seating capacity. Those who attended in person were required to wear masks and social distance. Others were able to watch the concert through live stream on the Department of Music's Facebook page.

The concert began with Canta Bella's performance of "Always Something Sings" by Dan Forrest. Kristii Rasmussen (graduate student, orchestral conducting) conducted this first piece, and it featured a solo by soprano Anneliese Burghardt (senior, psychology, music). Then, they sang "Music in My Mother's House," composed by Stuart Stotts and arranged by J. David Moore. The following performance of "In This Sweet Summertime," arranged by Kim André Arnesen, was conducted by Beta Siriwattanakamol (senior, music education) and featured a solo by soprano Carly Weems (freshman, animal science). Canta Bella performed "A Girl's Garden," by Randall Thompson, from "Frostiana" next, which was conducted by Vivian Raimundo (graduate, music education).

Ms. Rasmussen commented, "It was an honor and a privilege to conduct the ladies in their beautiful song! There is something so fulfilling about using our God-given talents to prepare a piece of music to share with an audience. Through all of the hard work, we can keep our eyes fixed on the moment we will finally perform to bless all who listen." Ms. Weems said, "Preparing for this concert was lots of fun! Although the rehearsals were strenuous, the resulting concert was well worth all the effort we put in! I loved all the songs and the variety of pieces that were performed, specifically 'A Girl's Garden,' and singing 'Shed A Little Light.' This has definitely been one of my favorite concerts yet!"

Pioneer Men's Chorus started off their section of the concert with "The Pasture," by Randall Thompson, from "Frostiana" and conducted by Emily Jurek. Following this piece, they performed a sea shanty titled "Blow Ye Winds," arranged by Celius Dougherty. Also conducted by Emily Jurek, the Pioneer Men's Chorus performed "A Civil War Medley," by George Root and arranged by Michael B. Richardson, featuring baritone Raleigh Pettey (freshman, music performance).

Carlos Lugo (freshman, music performance), a student who watched the concert on Facebook, said, "I enjoyed the concert. One of my favorite pieces was 'The Pasture' from 'Frostiana' by Randall Thompson. What a marvelous piece! It was so thoughtful and beautiful."

Finally, the University Singers performed a version of "Now Is the Start of Winter," composed by Thomas Marley and words by Garrison Keillor. For this piece, the words were changed to "Now Is the Start of March" to match our current time of year. Next, they sang "Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind" by John Rutter.

Additionally, five movements from “Liebeslieder Walzer Opus 52,” by Johannes Brahms were performed, including “O die Frauen,” “Wie des Abends schöne Röte,” “Ein kleiner, hübscher Vogel,” “Wohl schön bewandt war es vorehe,” and “Am Donaustrande.” Mezzo-soprano Ms. Siriwattanakamol was a soloist for the seventh movement. The University Singers also performed “Shed a Little Light,” by James Taylor and arranged by Greg Jasperse, and “When the Saints Go Marching In,” by John Rutter. “Shed a Little Light” featured tenor soloist Mr. Andrew Fisher (graduate student, vocal performance). Clarinet player Jason Marquez (sophomore, music performance) and trombonist and trombone instructor Alan Mitchell accompanied the performance of “When the Saints Go Marching In.”

Overall, the concert featured many talented students and was enjoyed by those who listened. To view it, visit the Department of Music Facebook page. The Department of Music has several more concerts planned, as well as student recitals, so be sure to check them out.

NEWS

Bump, Set, Spike: Players and Fans Enjoy Intramural Volleyball Games

Amanda Cho [03.10.2021](#)

“It’s over!” “Watch back!” “Out!” The court echoed with the rallies of teammates and the squeak of shoes against the court floor as the two teams volleyed the ball over the net. Cheers from the spectators urged on the players as they put in all their effort to get that final point.

During the past couple weeks, students from around the campus have come together to form teams to participate in the annual intramural volleyball tournament at Andrews. While these games are normally played during the week, on Saturday, Mar. 6, the gym was open to not only players, but also fans. Due to COVID-19, the games have been limited to only players during the week. This weekend, Student Activities and athletics worked together to be able to allow students to come and support their friends and watch the games.

Ashley Neu, director of Student Activities and Involvement, said, “We haven’t been able to do a lot of athletic events because of COVID, and we know that

students love athletics on this campus so it's nice to be able to have this event for students to be able to come and watch and support their friends.”

To make the event as safe as possible, students were required to sign up in advance to reserve a seat for the game that they wished to attend. There were only a certain amount of seats per game, and each seat was also kept 6 feet apart to maintain social distancing. Finally, students were also required to present their campus clear at the front door before entering the gym. However, despite these restrictions, students were just happy to be able to participate and to support their friends.

Hope Bollin (sophomore, physical therapy) commented, “It’s really nice that they are actually letting us come watch the games. I’m glad that I was able to support my friends, and it was nice to be able to take a break from homework.”

Students who participated in the games were happy that intramurals were still happening and that they were still able to play. Volleyball and sports in general are a big part of our lives and the community here at Andrews, so being able to have this event when many other programs have been cancelled was a big morale booster. Especially during the games this weekend, the community was able to come out and participate by supporting their favorite teams. The players were a little nervous, but overall excited that they were able to have their friends come out to watch and support them.

Aryana Robinson (junior, architecture) shared, “It’s definitely a little nerve wracking but it is also super encouraging to have people cheering for you and just watching you improve on your skills. It’s a little scary but mostly it's empowering. Also, keep an eye out because I am trying to start a volleyball club at Andrews and hopefully, eventually even a volleyball team!”

The intramural game for basketball will be on March 29. For more information on how to register and participate you can visit <http://www.aucardinals.com/team-registration>. Also, look out for sign ups to watch the basketball intramurals on April 17th!

NEWS

Reaching Milestones: The Honors Poster Symposium

Elianna Srikureja 03.10.2021

Crucial to the J. N. Andrews Honors program curriculum, the Honors Thesis Poster Symposium allows Honors students across various departments to share with the larger Andrews community their capstone thesis projects. The symposium is one of the final steps in finishing a thesis project and is graded as part of an Honors class, Research Pro-Seminar. This year twenty-eight research participants, their research advisors, the Honors staff, and many other guests met on Friday, Mar. 5th in Buller Hall to share, learn, and celebrate this milestone achievement with each other. To meet COVID-19 social distancing guidelines, 7 rooms were allotted for the event. In each room, 4 Honors students shared their posters.

The event allowed for each Honors researcher to display a carefully crafted poster on their respective topics and present a short synopsis to their peers and the Honors staff members that would grade them. Each poster contained the researcher's thesis questions, methods, and conclusions, among other things. Commenting on the preparation that went into getting ready for the symposium, Sydney Saint-Jean (senior, psychology) said, "It was not as stressful as I thought it was going to be. My advisors were extremely helpful in keeping me motivated... and my friends helped me to practice my speech beforehand." Behind the scenes, a lot of people were at work as well. Honors President Lauren Butler (junior, biology) said that "Dr. Pittman and Ms. Maxine worked hard to ensure that the students had their posters printed and ready. This could not have been easy, as complications are bound to happen. Additionally, the research mentors worked hard to prepare their students for this event."

Going much further than merely fulfilling a grade, the symposium provides Honors students in their last year as an undergrad at Andrews the opportunity to build their resume and learn skills necessary for further learning and future jobs. Speaking to this very topic, Andras Muranyi (junior, biology) said, "Often [the student presenters] deal with presenting under stress, thinking on their feet, and doing their best to clearly explain their work to their audience. Many of these aspects help prepare for the pressures of professional work where one must be self-assured and ready for reflexive decision making and clear critical thinking."

Many of the student researchers mentioned their thankfulness for the experience. Ms. Saint-Jean shared, “Honors has helped me to gain more knowledge in many different disciplines, which can make me a more well-rounded person in any future career I pursue.”

Friday’s student presenters also emboldened and inspired their Honors peers and faculty. Ms. Butler commented, “My favorite part of the event was being able to watch as the nerves wore off. It was awesome to see them gradually become more comfortable with communicating their findings.” Similarly, Mr. Muranyi said, “I am inspired when I listen to students who are passionate about their work. It’s great to see students with such a depth of knowledge in a subject.” Collectively, in Mr. Muranyi’s words, the Honors and Andrews community “wishes each of them well in their future endeavors.”

For more opportunities to learn about the research of undergraduate students at Andrews, consider attending the virtual Undergraduate Research Award Poster Symposium on March 26.

NEWS

WEAAU Hosts Women’s History Month Vespers

Terika Williams [03.10.2021](#)

To usher in Women's History Month, the Women’s Empowerment Association of Andrews University (WEAAU) hosted Proximity Vespers on Friday, Mar. 5th. Caryn Cruz (sophomore, English), co-president of the club, introduced the theme of the night, “Identity.” She reminded the audience to remember that women are daughters of God. Lisiane Umuhire (junior, behavioral neuroscience), the religious vice president, invited the audience to assume a mindset of gratitude for all God has done.

After praying, the praise team sang songs that revolved around the central theme of “Identity.” Then an all female team sang, “I am chosen, not forsaken, I am who you say I am,” a wonderful reminder that our value is founded in Christ. After hearing the beautiful harmonies and words of these songs, Laura Fierce (senior, digital communication) shared a spoken word poem. Then, Danielle Pilgrim,

Associate University Chaplain at Andrews, introduced the panel for the night. The panel members were Stacie Hatfield, professor of Anthropology in the department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Gabriela Francisco (junior, sociology) and Keila Carmona (graduate, young adults & youth ministry, social work).

Chaplain Pilgrim asked many probing questions about the nature of being a woman in the Seventh-day Adventist church. Questions such as, have you doubted yourself as a woman, how has society shaped your view of women, and how has the Bible played a role in the way that you view yourself as a woman were answered through different perspectives. From these questions came wisdom and deep insight on the struggle but blessing of being a woman. Cameron Mayer (junior, speech pathology) shared, "I really enjoyed how Keila said that God made man and woman in His image and that in order to understand God's image fully, we need women. I felt like that statement gave me so much purpose and I'm really happy she shared that thought with us." Keila's comment enforced the idea that a woman's identity is hinged on Christ's identity.

Megan Napod (senior, speech-language pathology, audiology) wrote, "Professor Hatfield's answers really rang deep in my thoughts and made me think more about what it means to be a woman. She spoke so eloquently and clearly, it was inspiring." Professor Hatfield spoke about the need to empower all kinds of women and think broadly about their strength. When reminiscing on the events of the night, Keila Mapp (junior, biology) shared how this vespers service impacted her. She said, "Seeing how other women view their value in Christ caused me to look at the roles of women in the Bible differently. It also inspired me to reevaluate my self-perception as a woman in the church and what I can offer by being a woman." WEAAU's Identity themed vespers resonated in the hearts and minds of many, reminding us that when we uplift women, we uplift the image of God.

Pulse

PULSE

Hello, Sunshine

Wambui Karanja **03.10.2021**

Wintertime, for many, comes with an increased sense of melancholy. The air is frigid, the sun does not shine as brightly, and everyday tasks seem more difficult to complete. Getting out of bed and making it to those early morning classes on time (especially those at 8:30 a.m.) is already hard enough. In the winter, however, routine tasks can genuinely seem insurmountable at times. The degree to which we experience this general exhaustion and somberness varies on the spectrum from minimal feelings of sadness and lack of motivation to clinically-diagnosed Seasonal Affective Disorder.

For students, the lack of warm and sunny weather can result in our decreased sense of motivation to complete schoolwork and exercise, and even invest ourselves socially. However, I believe the darkness of winter provides us with the perspective to appreciate the beauty of warmer weather and the coming of spring. I like to think of this time as a period that mimics the hibernation that some animals undergo during the winter. For the animals, hibernation serves as a way to conserve energy in order to survive adverse weather conditions or lack of food. Similarly, we can view the wintertime as a period for us to lay low and let ourselves feel and reflect more intentionally than we would at a time of the year that we are generally more excited about life. While we have less energy to put forth our best effort in numerous areas of our life, we can use this time to evaluate deeper emotions and possibly pinpoint exactly what is making us feel so drab.

I remember when the weather first started getting warmer a couple of weeks ago; I felt the sunshine on my face and had the sudden realization that, though life is hard and complicated at times, everything will be okay. It gave me a new lens through which to see life, providing hope and excitement about the things to come. It filled me with the undeniable sense that true contentment within myself is possible, and that gives me the strength and motivation to keep going.

Staying on top of everything, especially in the midst of an ongoing pandemic and a plethora of sociopolitical and personal hardships, is extremely difficult and can feel overwhelming at times. However, the sunshine reminds me that it is not impossible.

A good way to make the most of the incoming season is to spend time outside and soak up the weather. Taking walks, going to the park, and even studying when it's sunny outside has beneficial effects on mood and motivation levels. Something about seeing beautiful things outside makes one more prone to noticing the beautiful things within oneself. I've realized that it is profoundly conducive to personal growth and healing.

PULSE

Study Spots

Gloria Oh **03.10.2021**

Every one of us is unique, and so are our study areas. Some students like to study by themselves, while others prefer to create a study group. Many find it hard to concentrate in their room, while some find it a perfect place to do their assignments. To find out where Andrews students study, we interviewed three individuals about their favorite study spots. If you are still looking for the perfect study spot, we hope their answers can give you some insight into finding one. Good luck!

Where is your favorite study spot, and why do you like it there?

Nant Myint (biology, sophomore): My favorite study spot is a study room in the back lobby of the first floor located in Lamson Hall. I like studying alone, and the lobby provides a huge space for one person.

Marcel Mattox (graphic design, sophomore): My favorite study spot is my room, It feels homey, and it's very convenient. I don't have a roommate this year, so I am able to use this space to the fullest!

Yishan Jin (biology, sophomore): My favorite study spot is the lobby on the third floor of the Science Complex. I like it there because it is quiet there, and I can ask questions to professors for their help anytime.

Why or how did you come to discover that study spot?

Mattox: I started studying here because it felt natural. I determine the volume here, and that allows me to make the perfect environment for whatever activity is ahead.

Jin: I forgot since I began to study there.

What are some perks you enjoy about your study area?

Myint: The study room has a whiteboard that I can use when solving Chemistry problems. Also, I can get direct sunlight from the window which prevents me from getting sleepy and I get a bonus of vitamin D without needing to take supplements!

Mattox: I can enjoy the lights that I've added, a nice carpet, and a not real but nice plant in the corner.

Jin: I love the view I see from the glass wall right in front of me. I also met a couple of friends while studying here, which I think is awesome!

Do you study somewhere else sometimes?

Mattox: Some other places I can study are in the booths in the cafe, the library, and my friends' rooms.

Myint: I also like to study in the library. However, I study most in the Lamson back lobby study room to save time walking back and forth from the library to the dorm.

What is the most important thing when it comes to choosing a place to study?

Mattox: The most important thing when it comes to studying is being comfortable to learn and grow! And what better place is there than the space you've created?

Nant: A place where you can focus, and I find that place to be an empty room with the door closed. I also find myself able to focus more in a place where I can see no one passing by.

PULSE

The Buchanan Revitalization Project

Interview by Alec Bofetiado 03.10.2021

Students from the Andrews University Design Studio are making a lasting impact on the small town of Buchanan, Michigan, by helping them revitalize the

urban layout, planning for both minor and major changes. Juston Foote (graduate, architecture) is part of the cohort of students involved in the remodeling of Buchanan, and here's what he has to say:

How did you get this opportunity?

In your fifth year in the Urban Design Studio, a missionary project is typically done in which you go abroad and help people design houses to be more efficient, increasing the urban standards, and help better people's lives in that respect. But because of COVID-19, we couldn't go where we wanted to go since the University couldn't approve travel to another country. About a week before classes started, Buchanan approached the University asking for help in revitalizing their downtown in order to help the urban environment get back on track.

What are you going to add or change?

Most of the changes are adjusting street widths and urban fabrics like street trees, seating areas—basically, to make the streets more pedestrian-friendly. We wanted to make the urban fabric of the downtown really nice and liveable especially for those who don't have cars. We are also making big changes like adding missing middle housing, which is essentially a multistory-building that comprises a shop or retail area on the bottom floor and an apartment living space on the higher floors. It would help to increase the housing market in Buchanan as well, as many of the houses for sale either aren't in great condition or they are too expensive. This would be a great option for recent graduates too, especially if some of us wanted to move there after our graduation.

How long do you think this project will take?

When the semester ends, we will give them a book of all the properties we imagined and computer-rendered for them to eventually show to developers. Perhaps this would take around 5-10 years. They are, though, trying to change their street infrastructure within 2 years, so we are helping them plan in accordance with that.

How did you feel when you got this opportunity?

I was excited because it gives me an opportunity to practice urbanism, which is likely what my cohort and I will eventually be doing in the future. As much as I support missionary work and as much as the past projects have been outstanding, a lot of them have been so specific to the missionary area that they exclude the urbanism side of things. It's a great outreach and mission project, but at the same time, I feel like what you are taught is lacking. It's more of a mission trip and

doesn't really prepare you in a sense towards what you might actually do in your architecture career. This opportunity gives us a chance to practice our urbanism and actually benefits us more in our field. I can look back upon this project and know that we did a lot of good here for this town close by that a lot of people can enjoy.

Humans

HUMANS

An Interview with This Year's AUSA President: Kyara Samuels

Kyara Samuels (senior, nursing)

Interviewed by Abigail Lee [03.10.2021](#)

With the election having just happened for next year's AUSA executives, what was it that motivated you to run for president last year? I have always found myself drawn to leadership roles. I was President of my class in 8th grade, 11th grade, 12th grade, and during my Sophomore year at AU. In all those times, I wanted to make changes and improvements for my peers. I like to be able to be involved in those decisions. One huge aspect of nursing is being a patient advocate. And maybe I like that about leadership, too. You can work as the President to advocate for others when you have more access to make their voices heard. I definitely had some motivation to run from last year's team. They saw me as someone who could be a potential President in the following year, and they encouraged me to run and gave me a better understanding of what AUSA entailed.

How did you continue to do your AUSA responsibilities despite the limitations from COVID?

I love a good challenge, though this was one that I did not anticipate. As an athlete, I have been set against opponents numerous times that I may or may not have known the skill level of. What I always knew was, regardless, I had to do my best. So that is what I have done: the best I can, with what I have. We have had to social

distance, clean mics, and limit capacity, but we have done it. We have catered as best as possible to our student body, and are always working to do better. Cardinals have, for a long time, been symbols of beauty in the midst of darkness, hope in sorrow, and renewal in winter. As a Cardinal, I have tapped into my ability to find beauty and hope in all of the sorrow and darkness that COVID-19 has brought to us this year. Though it isn't easy, it's what we do.

Do you have a favorite memory from your time as AUSA president?

This is tough! It's been such an interesting year. One of them would have to be playing taboo with my officers during our on-campus retreat (thanks COVID) a week before the start of fall semester. Though things were not as we imagined them, the games that evening were fun and hearing the funniest answers during taboo made it a great experience.

I also have overall loved seeing my team come together to make great things happen, whether that be opportunities for students or events. I still have a little time left, so one of my favorite memories could still be yet to happen! I guess we'll see.

What's a challenging part about being AUSA president that you think a lot of students aren't aware of?

I think a lot of people don't realize that desire does not equal execution. There are many things that we want or wish we could do on this campus, but there are numerous obstacles sometimes to meeting those goals and making those things happen. Especially now with all of the various regulations that we have to follow. Some people tend to forget that this is an actual job. It is not just a hobby or something you do when you feel like it, it requires a bit of work and effort. In addition to this, being run by students who also have other classes, part-time jobs, and stressors is something that people don't consider! It is also important that they share what they are struggling with and changes that should be made, as AUSA cannot work on what they do not know about. AUSA is a team of students working hard for and on behalf of other students, and it is not always easy, but we do our best.

Other than AUSA, what are some other clubs that you've been a part of, and what kinds of hobbies do you have?

I have been a part of TheSound, BSCF, Adelante, AUSNA, UNICEF, WEAAU, the Carribean Club, ASA, the DMV club, and probably a few other clubs which I cannot remember the name of right now. The hallway used to be a crazy place for signups. The only one that I was an officer for was the DMV club.

Some of my other hobbies include writing poetry (or writing in general) as well as cooking and baking. I like playing different sports such as soccer, basketball, and running, and I love trying new activities and potential hobbies out!

What's your favorite thing to do around Michigan?

Though I have been in Michigan for the past 4 years, I have to say, I haven't experienced very much here. I can really mostly give you the basic things: going to the beach and going out to eat. We're in a small town, and that's really all I've left campus for! Walking is also really nice, though.

I did really enjoy when they had the county fair! So much fun. My friend Maya and I, who recently graduated, went together and they had these phenomenal little fried donuts. My mouth is watering just thinking about them now.

Things are always good with good company.

What are your plans after college? Any specific career goals?

Well, as I am in my final semester of nursing, I have hopes of completing a residency program and working for a couple years while pursuing a few different side hobbies that I've wanted to do for awhile but couldn't juggle very well while in school.

Following this, I would love to pursue another degree to earn my DNP. There are so many avenues that you can take as a Nurse, so I'm excited to see what I do with this field. Another thing I like about nursing is that it can allow you to curate your schedule in different ways, maybe not to work every single weekday. Keeping this in mind, though some of my plans and goals aren't specific to my career, I think that you can have a few different passions in life. One of mine is helping others, which falls well into nursing, but some of my other ones don't necessarily line right up with my career. Some people feel like you have to wait until you retire to pursue those passions, or quit work to do it, but as I mentioned, nursing schedules can be a bit more flexible that way. So, I am looking forward to maybe using those days off to work on some of my life's other passions.

Is there anything that you think you're going to miss about Andrews after you leave?

Yes! There may be a few things, but I'll say the Sam's Chicken and Mashed Potatoes from the Cafe (I know Cafe BonAppetit gets a lot of hate, but c'mon. It's Sam's Chicken). My friends and I have a little group called the Sam's Chicken Stans. Every time that there's Sam's Chicken in the Cafe, one of us sends out an urgent message that there will be Sam's during the week. It's an all-star meal. Definitely one I'll miss.

Do you have any advice for the next AUSA president?

I would just remind them that they are working for the students. Though there are many considerations to make, it is important that we continue to advocate for the students, using resources and pushing for them to have the best there is to offer, even when it's difficult. Put your spin on your presidency, and regardless of the circumstances, do the best with what you have! Doing your best to create fun and make the lives of the students a little easier is so important. And of course, be gentle with yourself! Consider your health and plan things out so that you get the best of the year, too.

HUMANS

Editor-in-Chief Spotlight

Daniel Self (senior, political science)

Interviewed by Brandi Seawood 03.10.2021

What was the process like to become Editor-in-Chief?

It's an elected position for AUSA. For my year, it was a "yes or no?" poll, as I was the only one running for the position. The rest, you could say, is history.

As Editor-in-Chief, what do your duties entail?

After the election, you organize a team of section editors, who in-turn organize a team of writers to cover the section. I've been lucky enough to have a really strong team to work alongside this year, especially during the transition both online for COVID as well as our entire newspaper platform being moved online. I host two weekly meetings, our "editors meeting" and our "ideas meeting." The editors meeting entails just that, our section editors coming together and editing the articles for an upcoming issue. Similarly, the ideas meeting is where we brainstorm what topics articles we should cover in the coming weeks. Finally, I have regular AUSA duties, which include meetings, hosting events, and taking part in dialogue with students or administrators on how we can best manage a particular issue or event.

What have been your favorite parts about being Editor-in-Chief? What has been your favorite piece to write and why?

After this year's Superbowl, I wrote a Last Word on The Weeknd, a Canadian RnB

artist who I'd been following closely for nearly a decade. That piece talked at length about the themes of his music and how they contrasted my own lifestyle, and yet, how much I still loved his sound. It's a duality, I guess, and unequivocally one of the major questions of the 21st century, "can we separate art from artist?" I tend to think "yes," but it can be hard. In my perspective, much of what can make art so meaningful lies in its ability to relate an essence or feeling with such sublimity that it just resonates with the viewer. When you purposely feel (or create) a disconnect between the art consumed and the artist who created it, it must, on some level, take away from the experience. I still love The Weeknd's music though, so I guess I'm not immune to this paradox.

What are your other hobbies?

I love to run when the weather is nice like it's been for the last couple weeks. I also enjoy checking out new restaurants around South Bend & St. Joe. I volunteer at the Berrien County Historical Association, which helps fill extra time that I have occasionally. I enjoy rifting blues on my electric guitar and tossing on my GoPro and launching myself off mounds of dirt at any local motocross track during the summer months.

What are your plans after college?

As of right now, I'm planning on taking time after graduation to work on finalizing my American citizenship—my parents are from the States but they never applied on my behalf for it, so it will take a couple weeks to get sorted when I go home. After that, law school, hopefully somewhere I really like

HUMANS

Senior Spotlight: TJ Hunter

(computer science)

Interviewed by Alyssa Henriquez [03.10.2021](#)

How did you choose your major? What did you wish you knew about your major before you came to college?

In elementary school we took a test to figure out what careers we would want to go into in the future. Based on the preferences I selected, such as my love for computers and the fact that I wanted a good work-life balance, I was matched with

“software engineer.” I never really gave it that much thought after that. I wish I knew to start learning how to code earlier (before college), because that would have made a lot of things easier.

You’ve had some impressive internships over the past few years. How did you obtain these opportunities?

I got virtually all of my internships through career fairs. Finding a career fair for your major is like a gold mine. When you’re first starting out with no experience, your chances of getting a job just through applying online are virtually nonexistent. Career fairs are good because the recruiter can see you in person, and you can make a case for yourself and make an impression that way rather than just getting rejected by an automated filtering system. I got my first two internships through the NSBE (National Society of Black Engineers) career fair, and my last one I had enough experience to the point where I could just apply online and I was able to get the job that way.

Where are you headed next year after you graduate?

After I graduate, I have a job lined up working in cloud computing at a pretty big company. I start in August and I’m excited to start getting some real-world experience.

What have been some of your favorite memories in college?

I think my favorite memories in college all come from the social aspect. Andrews has a really good community of people and the size of the campus makes it perfect to have a lot of really good friendships. Some of my favorite memories are being in the dorm with my friends, taking trips with my friends, and just going to social gatherings like vespers and club events.

What are some of your hobbies?

I don’t think I really have any hobbies. School is like working 3 different full-time jobs at once -- it’s terrible. I really only have time to do homework and fight the seasonal depression. After I graduate I will rediscover some of my hobbies.

What advice do you have for incoming computer science majors? What about college students in general?

With computer science it’s easy to just take the classes and just go through your four years nonchalantly. But, if you want to be successful in this industry then you need to take time outside of

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Book Review: “Becoming” by Michelle Obama

Alannah Tjhatra [03.10.2021](#)



Photo by Public Domain

It is no question that Michelle Obama has become one of the most iconic and inspiring women of our era. As the First Lady of the United States from 2009 to 2017– and the first African American to serve as such–Mrs. Obama helped to create the most inclusive and welcoming White House in history. She was a strong advocate for education for girls, women’s empowerment, and the health and wellbeing of American citizens. She stood strong with her husband as he led America through difficult times and sought to strengthen the American people as a whole.

Her memoir, “Becoming”, dives into the First Lady’s inner life - detailing through beautiful storytelling her childhood experiences, education, motherhood, the beginning of her husband’s political career, and her campaigns for health, equality, and education as First Lady. Published in November of 2018 - soon after the end of the Obamas’ time at the White House - and immediately receiving numerous rave reviews, “Becoming” is an eye-opening read that details the experiences and the people who made Michelle into the person she now is. Divided into three sections - “Becoming Me,” “Becoming Us,” and “Becoming More”– the

book defines what the sometimes-ambiguous role of “First Lady” meant to her and explores how she used her position to inspire and encourage those around her.

In “Becoming Me,” Obama sets up a scene of her early life growing up on the South Side of Chicago with her parents, Fraser and Marian Robinson. It was during these years that she began learning what it was to be an independent young woman under the care of her nurturing family. She explores her time at Princeton University and Harvard Law School, as well as her early career at the Sidley Austin law firm, where she met her future husband Barack Obama.

Through “Becoming Us” and “Becoming More,” Obama documents her journey from the beginning of her marriage, to Barack’s time as president, to the close of the Obama presidency. These sections provide an insightful look into her life as she balanced her duties as First Lady with her material and motherly commitments.

Nora Martin (freshman, English and psychology), a fan of both the former First Lady and her book, explained, “I really appreciated her including a description of how tough it was to be a working mom, particularly as she moved to the White House and had to negotiate her sometimes conflicting duties to country, family, and self.” A stirring picture of hard work and perseverance, the book provides many thoughtful reflections on her time in the White House and highlights various aspects of the Obamas’ lives as First Family.

With a current average rating of 4.52/5 on Goodreads and 4.9/5 on Audible.com (the audiobook version, which Obama narrates herself, is exceptionally well-done!), “Becoming” has also been turned into a Netflix documentary that was released in May 2020, which follows Obama as she embarks on her book tour and sheds more light on her eight years in the White House. New York Times critic Lovia Gyarkye says that the film “shows a familiar, albeit more carefree, former first lady” (NYTimes, 2020).

A picture of hope and inspiration, “Becoming” could be a wonderful addition to your Women’s History Month reading list.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Contemporary Young Women Making an Impact: Maitreyi Ramakrishnan

Kaela McFadden **03.10.2021**

In a culture that is so focused on sticking to old ideals, it is a breath of fresh air to finally see the faces of BIPOCs in mainstream media. Recently named as one of TIMES100 NEXT, a list of up-and-coming influencers, Maitreyi Ramakrishnan is someone to watch as she works with Mindy Kaling to highlight Southeast Asians through the media.

Maitreyi Ramakrishnan is a 19-year-old Tamil Canadian actress who stars in the Netflix show "Never Have I Ever." Her character, Devi Vishwakumar, is the outspoken daughter of immigrants living in Los Angeles. The show covers a wide range of topics that many teenagers can understand, especially those who have experienced some of Southeast Asian culture. The central conflict for Devi is trying to navigate high school while she is dealing with the recent death of her father. In addition to this, Devi vows to reinvent herself along with her two friends, Fabiola and Eleanor. The awkward fumbling of these characters is one of the most relatable high school presentations I have ever seen. The characters are all uniquely their own with fun personalities that seem larger than life.

One of the biggest things about this show is how it gracefully shows Southeast Asian culture and the experiences of immigrant children. There are plot points

about arranged marriages, pieces of Hinduism, cultural holidays like Ganesh Puja, separation from family, and parent-child tensions. Devi goes through culture denial in an attempt to be as normal as possible, but eventually begins to see the beauty in her culture.

This is one of my favorite shows from Summer 2020. It made me laugh and cry. They managed to beautifully tackle tough conversations about trauma caused by the death of a family member and the shift in family dynamic. All of the characters seemed relatively authentic and although there were still plenty of tropes, their struggles felt real. It was refreshing to see a different culture being celebrated in a TV show that can appeal to most audiences.

“Never Have I Ever” is Maitreyi Ramakrishnan’s first major role and she does an amazing job bringing Devi to life. Her vivaciousness and tenacity breaks Western constructed stereotypes about Southeast Asians. Devi is confident, loud, funny, smart, courageous, and so much more. She is definitely living the main-character life. She is a beautiful contrast to her seemingly perfect cousin Kamala, who fits more of the perfect Indian stereotype on the surface, but is revealed to be more rebellious than she appears. The show is loosely based on Mindy Kaling’s childhood and the struggles she faced as a Southeast Asian-American. Maitreyi notes in an interview with Deadline that while it is Mindy Kaling and Lang Fisher’s vision, she gets to bring a lot of her own personality to the character, especially with wording choices. Her artistic view for the character involves hopefully moving towards Devi being able to love herself.

Maitreyi Ramakrishnan is certainly an actress to watch in the coming years as the film industry (hopefully) continues to understand and accept that there is a need for more voices and more representation in the media. Although she has only been on one show so far, Maitreyi Ramakrishnan is already making her mark on young people. Her representation of Southeast Asian culture in such a predominantly white-male-centric industry pushes back against America’s cultural stereotypes. It will be interesting to see what doors this show will open for Maitreyi and how she will continue to make an impact on our society.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Creative Spotlight: Michael Davis

(junior, marketing)

Interviewed by Pearl Parker 03.10.2021

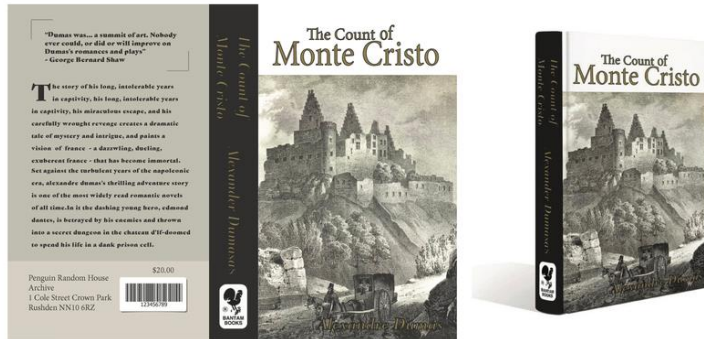


Photo by Michael Davis

When did you first become interested in graphic design?

Essentially I became interested in design before graphic design. I went into design because I'm a sneakerhead and I love sneakers, and as a kid, I used to draw a lot of shoes. In my senior year of high school, I had a teacher named Mrs. Ellen Musselman. She taught a class called Intro into Graphic Design, where we got to play with different design tools and start doing simple graphic design things such as Adobe Suite and stock images. She sort of pushed me because she saw that I was interested in marketing and pushed me to try out branding and either minor or major in graphic design.

I wasn't initially interested in graphic design because I am interested in many other things. I love shoes, I like working out, and I like fashion. As a kid, I always thought about becoming a fashion designer because there are so many men who are. I always wanted to be an artist of some sort, but I learned as I got older that being a graphic designer and being an artist are two different things. It's very comforting being a graphic designer because almost anyone can do it if you put your mind to it. It also meshes well with my major, so I saw it as an opportunity

coming to Andrews. I saw it as something that can be potentially beneficial, as another lane of work that I can do if marketing doesn't.

Where does your inspiration come from? Are there specific individuals or brands that have significantly influenced your work?

My inspiration comes from a lot of places. I sometimes look at similarities of whatever I need to design for. Different projects require different types of inspiration for me.

A lot of my work is inspired by graphic designer Saul Bass. I also look at a lot of black art and companies. I also love the way that Nike does a lot of their branding, along with Apple. Surprisingly, I'll look at a lot of companies' really great design portfolios when it comes to branding, identity systems, or any type of branding projects.

What do you think is the most rewarding aspect of graphic design?

I think for any creative, it would be seeing people use the design you've created, or someone looking at your billboard or using the packaged bottle that you've designed. When your design is received positively, and it's better than the person thought it would be, it's very rewarding because when you put a lot of time into a design and people take to it in a positive way, it's an awesome feeling.

What project are you the proudest of, and why?

This [the project featured above] titled "Redesign of a Classic," is definitely one of the projects I am most proud of because even though this isn't my most recent work, this was one of the first projects that ensured me that I have arrived in some way as a designer. This project was to redesign a classic piece of literature in different ways. One was typography-focused, one was typography mixed with imagery, and another was fully typographic along with another that was image-focused.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Nomadland

Hannah Cruse 03.10.2021

This past Sunday at the Golden Globes, Chloé Zhao became the first non-white woman (and the second woman in general) to win the award for Best Director for her indie film, “Nomadland”. Also nabbing the [award](#) for Best Motion Picture - Drama, “Nomadland” is based on a nonfiction book called “Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century” by Jessica Bruder, following the lives of older Americans who follow seasonal work and live out of vans, losing much to the Great Recession. The [movie](#) takes a fictional character from a real place and follows a year in her life of traveling and working through the West.

The film starts out with Fern at a storage facility, rifling through her belongings and adding things to her van, aptly named Vanguard, still tied to the extinct town of Empire, Nevada. She makes her way to the Amazon fulfillment center to work as a seasonal worker for the Christmas season. She is invited to go to Rubber Tramp Rendezvous in Quartzville, Arizona, and decides to leave Nevada when she is not able to find work. She learns skills to keep her self-sufficient on the road and travels around the American West, picking up work as it comes to her, while taking time to enjoy the nature around her. She experiences some setbacks as her van breaks down and she has to borrow money to fix it. Throughout, she seems slightly unsure of her new lifestyle, but her sister assures her that she has had an adventurer’s heart since she was young. Despite offers to settle down, Fern is constantly on the move, looking for more beautiful places and job opportunities as they arrive. In a very Virginia Woolf-esque fashion, Fern ends up returning to where she first started and leaving to restart her journey anew, along on the road.

Ideas

IDEAS

Literature and Her Influences: A Women's History Month Booklist

Abigail Lee [03.10.2021](#)

Photo by Abigail Lee

My family was never one for mathematics, but we sure loved to read. My mother adored Jane Austen and “The Lion and the Witch and the Wardrobe,” my father preferred “The Count of Monte Cristo” and Charles Dickens. Both labelled themselves to be “bad at math” and had to stop helping me with math homework after fifth grade. STEM subjects did not come to me naturally, but reading and writing did. One of the earliest sentences I remember reading was “the cat spilled the milk,” and from there, my vocabulary only expanded. Being able to read became one of the most influential parts of my life and I continued to carry a love for reading ever since. As March is Women’s History Month, I cannot think of any better way to celebrate it than to combine two passions of mine and take a look at some ladies in literature (both real and fictional) who have shaped my life.

“Matilda”, Roald Dahl (1988)

As a middle child, I inherited a lot of my belongings from my older sister. One of the most prized items I had passed down to me was a collection of Roald Dahl books. From “George’s Marvelous Medicine” to “The Witches,” I was fascinated with nearly all of his works, but my favorite of the bunch was “Matilda.” I was a bookish young girl reading about a girl with the same nature - how could I not become entranced? Seeing how Matilda truly encompassed the idea that “knowledge is power,” was empowering. I had read about smart girls before, but she was one I felt like I could relate to as a young girl who wanted to feel in-control.

Even if I didn't have telekinesis, the theme of the book still stuck with me and I've continued to carry it since.

“Beloved,” Toni Morrison (1987)

I was never one to complain too much about assigned reading in high school, except for perhaps “The Scarlet Letter,” I either enjoyed or felt neutral about the novels we were made to analyze for class. This attitude had remained unchanged until my senior year where I read Toni Morrison’s “Beloved.” This novel is a masterpiece. The way in which Morrison flawlessly mixes motherhood with horror and tells a haunting story that sticks with you after reading, struck me at my core. “Beloved” made me reconsider established ideas about what it meant to be a mother and the inner workings of female relationships. Reading something as strong as Morrison’s work was a reminder of what truly good writing could do, and moved me to try and work towards being able to do the same.

“Heartbeat of Struggle: The Revolutionary Life of Yuri Kochiyama,” Diane Carol Fujino (2005)

Yuri Kochiyama is an icon of the civil rights movement whose name deserves to be remembered. Having worked as an integral activist for her community, political prisoners, and the previously-interned Japanese American community, Kochiyama was a bridge between groups and illuminates intersectional support at its finest. Diane Carol Fujino does an incredible job in portraying the actions of Kochiyama in this memoir. Even though I understand how unlikely it is for me to emulate her legacy, as an Asian American with a passion for social justice, learning about her life reminded me of the amazing things that people are capable of and how I can try to behave like that in my own life.

As with these novels and many I have not mentioned within this article, the power of literature and literacy can heavily be seen throughout my life. After all, I turned out to be a sociology major with an English minor and a dream for storytelling and social justice. But from a broader perspective there is something that exists within the themes of all these books that is not as simple to connect. What that idea is, is persistence. A persistence for an education and a better life, a persistence through the harrowing and the difficult, and a persistence towards building a better tomorrow. Persistence exists within the spirit of all of these pieces of literature and through womankind as a whole. Being able to find inspiration from these stories is a reminder to keep on pushing forward. That message has been extremely valuable in my own life, and I hope to be the kind of

woman who can pass it on in the future too.

This Women's History Month, take a moment to think of books or series that you feel contain or are written by women that inspire you and consider sharing it with others. Reading is always worthwhile, and you may never know who could be the next woman that influences and changes your path in life.

IDEAS

The Astounding Potential of mRNA Vaccines

Lyle Goulbourne [03.10.2021](#)



Photo by Public Domain

We are nearly upon the one year anniversary of our campus being shut down, and students being sent home to complete the semester remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A year ago, no one thought we would have a vaccine candidate out of clinical trials, let alone being distributed to the masses. And yet here we are, with roughly 60 million Americans receiving at least one dose of a vaccine, and around 2 million doses being administered per day. The magnitude of this feat should not be underestimated, as the current capabilities and future

possibilities of the mRNA vaccines produced by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna that have led our response are simply amazing.

How They Work

mRNA is a molecule that acts as a genetic blueprint produced by cells. This blueprint is read by ribosomes (the cells' engineers), which go on to produce proteins used for a vast array of purposes. For the mRNA vaccines, mRNA encoding for the spike proteins found on the coronavirus is mass-produced, mixed with stabilizing ingredients, and injected. This mRNA only lasts for a short period of time before it's broken down by enzymes within the cells, but within that time period it directs ribosomes to make the spike proteins, triggering an immune response. Once the immune system becomes familiar with the spike proteins, it knows exactly what to look for if a real SARS-COV-2 virus enters the body. If this occurs, the immune system can swiftly and effectively destroy the virus before it becomes a threat.

How We Got Here

Research of the mRNA vaccines/therapy began in 1990, when researchers successfully introduced mRNA produced in a lab into mice, causing the production of the encoded proteins. However, researchers ran into two main difficulties during the decades following this discovery: 1) mRNA usually produces too few proteins as it is broken down so quickly by the body, 2) mRNA could trigger an immune response independent of the response to the protein that's encoded. Many researchers worked to solve these issues, but funding for mRNA research was frequently redirected to DNA and protein based therapies and vaccines as they are more stable and easier to work with. Despite this, a few key advances were made that greatly improved the potential for mRNA. In the early 2000s, researchers from The University of Pennsylvania discovered that switching uridine (a key component of mRNA) for pseudouridine both increased protein production and drastically decreased the immune system's response to the mRNA itself. The main challenge confronting mRNA vaccines in the past few years has been successfully delivering the vaccine into cells. To combat this, researchers have been progressively refining the lipids used to stabilize the vaccine, and only recently have such efforts made mRNA technology viable, opening the floodgates to potential uses.

How Amazing This Technology Is

The mRNA vaccines offer several advantages over traditional vaccines. Traditionally, vaccines are made of dead or weakened viruses, or they're made of

portions of a virus. These vaccines present risk in development and production, as researchers must work with live viruses to develop the vaccine, which increases the risk of an accidental exposure/outbreak. With mRNA viruses, only the genetic sequence of the virus is needed, so risk of exposure is greatly reduced. Because only the genetic code is needed, mRNA vaccines can also be made more quickly and more cheaply. The mRNA vaccine production process is also much more standardized than the traditional vaccine-making process, resulting in fewer errors and the ability to easily edit the vaccine to different viruses and mutations. Compared to DNA vaccines being researched, mRNA vaccines avoid the risk of altering the human genome, as mRNA physically cannot enter the cell's nucleus and reach our DNA. For years mRNA therapy has been viewed as a potentially game-changing field in medicine, and hopefully the copious amounts of money being poured into the mRNA field due to the pandemic can expedite this process. The mRNA therapies being researched instruct the body to make proteins, and these proteins could be used to rebuild heart tissue after a heart attack, repair the kidneys of those suffering from chronic renal disease, replace the broken proteins that cause cystic fibrosis, enhance the immune response to cancerous cells, and serve a wide variety of other functions. The potentially game-changing capabilities of these new mRNA vaccines and therapies could usher in a new era of medicine and alter how we combat pandemics for decades to come.

The Last Word

THE LAST WORD

Trouble with the Editors

Moriah McDonald [03.10.2021](#)

There are so many different forms of writing. It is quite amazing, really. To begin with, there is the totally chill, casual writing. This type of writing includes the hastily sent text messages to roommates or parents, which often contain no grammatical correctness whatsoever and probably ten different errors that the great editors of The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times would quit their jobs and lament over. Then there is casual writing that is a bit more thought out,

such as the captions that we use for the content that we share on social media. This writing may contain intentional errors, because that's trendy nowadays; for example, we may comment "yass" instead of "yes" or "boi" instead of "boy." Still, another form of more monitored casual writing may include a text to a crush, or worse, the dreaded break up text. Perhaps those are some of the most important texts we send. Sometimes it takes several drafts to get them just right.

And then we have the writing that is more formal. Emails are a good example—they are formal, yet conversational. With emails, it is often about striking the perfect balance between a casual and professional tone. Some emails may allow for a blend of casual and business-like writing, while others necessitate more formality. It's all about assessing your audience and knowing what fits best. We would hope you're not emailing your professors in the same way that you're emailing your classmates about a dreaded group project.

Next, there is the academic writing that we celebrate for formal papers. Now, if you're an English major like myself, then maybe you don't mind this as much. However, I'll respect the fact that not every student wakes up in the morning and rejoices at the fact that they have a 10 page paper to write. This form of writing is one of the most formal forms that many of us students experience. These papers are the grown up version of the typical five paragraph essay format: they include a paragraph or so for the introduction and thesis, three or more for the evidence that proves the thesis, and a couple for the summary and conclusion. Not every paper follows this format to a T, however, this is the basic structure of an essay. MLA formatting is common for papers in liberal arts classes. The information in the header must be in the correct order, and my last name followed by the page number should be listed on each page. Margins are precisely one inch, and there is double spacing between lines. The font is the classic Times New Roman and 12 point (or maybe 14 if your professor is blind).

Finally, some of us may have to write for work. In my case, writing for work involves crafting news releases and stories for the school alumni magazine. When writing news releases, I rely on the news-style writing that I have learned in my communications classes. It's reminiscent of old school journalism (that era before "fake news")—no excess fluff, nothing opinionated, and remembering to include the who, what, when, where, why and how are vital aspects of writing these news releases. Insert a quote from a source and add "she says" or, if you want to get really fancy, write something like "she shares" or "she adds" at the end. And that's it, that's the release. APA formatting instead of MLA. However, when telling the stories of retiring staff or current students for the magazine, I take on a more

friendly, warm tone. Some of those same rules regarding news releases apply, but they apply in a more relaxed way. Needless to say, we students may be expected to write differently for different aspects of our jobs.

And yet somehow, we manage to keep all these forms of writing straight in our heads. In fact, we are able to switch back and forth between forms of writing pretty seamlessly. And we have to, for our editors. Now, perhaps when you hear the term editor, you think of that strict person in a TV show who, sitting behind their cluttered desk, begrudgingly accepts a story from a newbie writer and then throws it back at them and tells them to do something else with their lives. But it's not only these people who are editors. Because in reality, the editor is whoever is reading our writing. The editor can be a teacher, a classmate, a boss, a friend, or just some random person reading our words. And these editors bring with them to our writing a world of knowledge and ideas which are uniquely shaped to their experiences. They will then read our content and calculate whether or not it fits in with the conventions of the given genre of writing. And they will judge us, sometimes subconsciously and sometimes more purposefully, for how we articulate ourselves. They will come to our written ideas with ideas of their own. They will come to our writing with the red pen of judgement, so to speak. And they'll scribble and scratch and mark our words, scanning for errors.

Maybe it is the drive that all writers have to become better communicators, or maybe it is just the fear of the red pen, but I always find myself being my own worst editor. I always try harder to meet the standards of the editors around me. And I've come to realize that, ultimately, my work has never been entirely my own. Each piece that I write is influenced by what I think others will think. I often write to their standards, and not my own. So my writing endures the change which the editor in my head imposes upon it, before the editors in real life ever see it. I anticipate their judgements and write to avoid those judgements. What I write is battered and tugged this way and that, painfully losing parts of itself through rubs of an eraser or simple drags and clicks of a computer mouse. Each text, caption, email, essay and news report that I craft this semester will serve its time under my eye, under careful scrutiny, until I am able to conclude that it isn't problematic. Even this article that you are reading now will have faced a reckoning. What you're reading now has no doubt been polished and retouched, tweaked to the liking of its audience.

Now, it must be said that writing is very much a communal act. We've all heard that saying, "it takes a village to raise a child." Similarly, it takes a university to write a paper. Because of the social nature of writing, editing is necessary if we are

to communicate effectively to our audiences. In fact, editing is one of the most important aspects of writing; through editing, we are able to take words that may have only made sense to ourselves and adapt them so that they make sense to our audiences as well. Writing is meant to be shared, and it's important that we take advantage of the editing process as a way to refine and clarify the ideas that we want to convey and the messages that we have to give. Editing is the difference between the barely legible, rough first draft and the finely tuned final product that we writers take so much pride in. Any good writer knows that the editing process is a crucial part of developing a piece of writing —without it, our stories would suffer from lack of clarity and directness. Without it, what you read now would likely be just a hodgepodge of seemingly separate ideas. Editing helps to improve the flow of our thoughts.

However, it's important to acknowledge that we write under the influence of others, according to what is acceptable, and according to what we've been taught. And what's more, once we're finished performing the process of self-regulation with our writing, we pass it on to others who review it. So we may write the first draft, but our editors will co-write the second. And so, for our writing to retain some valuable essence of what we've said even after it has been judged by ourselves and our editors, it is vital that in our first drafts we write the truth as we see and hear it. We should write the truth of others, and the truth of ourselves. We ourselves or our editors may read our truths and suggest or even demand that these truths be added to with more truths, that truths be taken away, or that some be modified. Our words may be watered down and made acceptable. Even so, we can learn from the edits that are inflicted, observe the changes which are made, and aim to write in such a way that we remain true to our own messages even as we strive to create content which abides by conventional standards of spelling and grammar. Even though it may be heavily regulated and censored, the truth will remain present in our words. It may require the most attentive readers, and it may even necessitate reading in between the lines, but nevertheless, truth will persist.