

Andrews University

Digital Commons @ Andrews University

---

The Student Movement v. 106 (2021-2022)

Student Movement

---

11-3-2021

## The Student Movement Volume 106 Issue 6: Cold Weather, Hot Dogs: Students Feast at Fall Festival

Grace No

Irina Gagliu

Taylor Uphus

Adoniah Simon

Kaela McFadden

*See next page for additional authors*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/sm-106>



Part of the Education Commons

---

---

**Authors**

Grace No, Irina Gagliu, Taylor Uphus, Adoniah Simon, Kaela McFadden, Solana Campbell, Andrew Pak, Abigail Lee, Nathan Mathieu, Brendan Syto, Nathan Cheng, Qualyn Robinson, Angelina Nesmith, Gloria Oh, Wambui Karanja, Karena Lee, and Alyssa Henriquez

## Cold Weather, Hot Dogs

STUDENTS FEAST AT FALL FESTIVAL



Photo by Dawson Par

# Humans

---

HUMANS

## **New Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Interview with Matias Soto**

Interviewed by: Grace No [11.03.21](#)



Photo by Matias Soto

---

**What is your background in entrepreneurship, and when did you become interested in this area?**

I started working in innovation and entrepreneurship at my second job, after receiving my engineering degree. At the time, I was the director of research and

development for a cutting tools company in Monterrey, Mexico. That experience helped me realize my passion for creating and developing new products and businesses. I also took a course in innovation and entrepreneurship during my master's studies around that same time, which also helped grow that interest. I stayed in graduate school for a while, getting a master's and Ph.D. However, after graduation, I went straight to work for an innovation studio in Houston, developing medical and diagnostic devices in collaboration with clinicians and researchers from the Texas Medical Center, Rice University, and Texas A&M. After that I took a job as CTO of a construction technology startup, also in the Houston area. While there, I helped lead a group of engineers developing new materials and residential construction processes. And more recently, I opened up a consulting company focused on engineering and scientific advising for other innovation companies.

**How did you come into the position of Director of Innovation at Andrews?**

A faculty friend of mine, Professor Anthony Bosman, told me about the position earlier this year. I had a chance to speak with a couple of professors before I applied, to learn more about the job description and Andrews University's work environment. After applying, I did an online interview with the search committee, which included the President, the Provost, and other Faculty. For the final interview I was asked to come to Andrews University for a full day of interviews. That day I met with the Dean's Council, the President, the Provost, the Faculty Senate, the Search Committee, and the VP of Diversity & Inclusion. Overall, I had very good conversations throughout the day and found a lot of agreement with respect to mine and the University's vision for innovation & entrepreneurship at Andrews.

**What exactly does this job entail for you on a daily basis?**

There's a lot of administrative work at this point because we're building the structure of the program from the ground up. It includes writing intellectual property policy, non-disclosure agreements, contacting prospective industry partners, meeting with department/school chairs, deans, and faculty, speaking at faculty meetings, speaking at student group meetings, creating a website, social media accounts, logos, planning and managing courses for the innovation and entrepreneurship certificate, selecting and purchasing equipment, tools, and furniture for the new innovation lab/classroom and office, among other tasks. All this work requires many emails and phone/zoom calls.

**Do you have any future long-term plans for Andrews as the newly appointed Director?**

Yes, absolutely. I would like Andrews University to become a place where students and faculty constantly engage in creating new products, ideas, ministries, organizations, and businesses; and I would like to see those innovations change communities around the world. I would like for Andrews to be known as a place of disruption. A place where students and faculty are not afraid to fail but are encouraged to try new things that can revolutionize the world. There are many problems around the world, and with our unique blend of academics and faith, we are called to be agents of change around the world. I believe the students and faculty here have the potential to truly impact the world.

**What are the most enjoyable parts of your job, and some of the difficulties?**

What I enjoy the most is talking with people about their ideas and helping them become a reality. That moment when a cool, new solution is found, it's an awesome, unique experience. I truly enjoy ideaing. Some of the difficulties with my current job have to do with trying to create something new while at the same time maintaining the support of faculty and students, and uniting efforts from the people who have worked in the area of innovation here at Andrews prior to my arrival. I think everyone wants to see our university thrive, but obtaining a consensus on the best way to do so is always challenging. Hopefully I can continue to sell my vision and get buy-in from more and more of the Andrews community. I thank "The Student Movement" for allowing me to use their paper as a platform to share my vision for innovation & entrepreneurship for our university.

HUMANS

# Our AUSA President: An Interview with Dongchan Kim

Interviewed by: Irina Gagiū 11.03.21



Photo by Dongchan Kim

---

*Dongchan Kim (senior, religion) serves as the AUSA President for the 2021-2022 school year.*

**Could you share where you lived before Andrews or where you're originally from?**

I'm originally from Korea. I was born and raised there and moved to the U.S. when I was in high school. I'm also kind of from Berrien Springs since I went to St. Joseph High School, so I would say this is my second home and my home country would be Korea.

**What made you decide to come to Andrews for undergrad?**

Andrews University is known for a lot of diversity, which I wanted to be exposed to so I could get to know more people from different countries. Fun fact: Andrews (at the time) was ranked number one in diversity in the U.S., so I just wanted to experience that. I also want to say that I have no regrets at all. It's been an awesome and amazing experience so far.

And since I've lived around Andrews University, since I went to St. Joseph High School, I already knew how beautiful the university campus looked and how friendly people are at Andrews University. Before I even began to attend here, I knew that I would love this atmosphere!

**At any previous schools, have you had the chance to be a club officer or a member of student government?**

Oh, yes! For my second year of college, I had the honor and privilege to serve as Senator at Large, which is also part of the Andrews University Student Association. And I've learned a lot about how to be part of the Student Association, how to lead and how to make changes on campus. Afterward, I decided to move forward and run for executive vice president in my junior year. I become more directly involved in making changes on campus.

**What made you decide to eventually run for the AUSA president position?**

I had been part of the Student Association for the past two years and this year I wanted to run and be the president of AUSA. I wanted to make more of a direct connection with the school's student body. For example, this year we made an opinion box where you can scan a document with a QR code, you can fill in any suggestions, list things you are not satisfied with, or any noticeable improvements the campus should make. These can be directly sent to my email and an AUSA email. This is so we can initiate projects that, even if they can't be completed this year, can be built upon in future years. I just wanted to be the person who initiates these changes, so that's why I wanted to run this year. Also, by the way, if your project idea has been chosen by AUSA, you can win prizes as well!

**In your own experience, what exactly does it mean to be the AUSA President? What are some of the more specific responsibilities the AUSA President does as an AUSA member?**

I am in charge of all the AUSA cabinet meetings that happen every week. Also, whenever there is an event or proposal involved with AUSA, I need to approve it, make sure everyone's on the same page, and that everyone and everything is



organized. It also says under the school's constitution that I need to protect the rights of AU students, which I believe is very important since we are the ones who decided to come here. And so, I believe AUSA has a right to make the school feel like a home. I believe we can do this by providing events and helping students make new and meaningful memories.

Also, the president is often invited to other meetings, such as monthly alumni meetings where I represent how students are currently doing and what AUSA has prepared for students in the future. Also, if the Alumni Board wants to communicate with students, I'm the one who's in charge of communicating with them through emails, messages, and meetings. They also have food every time I attend these meetings, so the job does have its perks, haha!

**Besides the occasional free snack, what is one of or maybe a few of your favorite things about being AUSA president?**

I am very passionate about listening and making changes on campus. So obviously, being a person who can initiate these changes is one of my favorite parts. Also, being a part of the meetings and representing what the student body thinks is also a favorite task of mine. But other than that, just interacting with students, whether they're AUSA events or not. Just meeting new people, asking how people are doing, and just talking about Andrews University is my favorite part—I love it!

**In your opinion, how has the year been going so far for AUSA?**

In my opinion, AUSA is doing fantastic. We have had at least two events every month and it's been going fabulous. Especially because of last year and Covid, we couldn't do a lot of things in person, but this year, we can thankfully do so much more! So, this year has been going well in terms of events. The biggest thing about AUSA is that we have events prepared for students and the AUSA officers are working very hard.

I also want to mention that I recently attended AIA, the Adventist Intercollegiate Association, where I was able to represent Andrews and attend meetings on how we can improve our university's conditions and our constitution's bylaws. It was a very meaningful experience to meet presidents from other Adventist universities such as Loma Linda, Southern, and Union. It was fun and meaningful to make these connections with other schools and learn how they are doing. If there are things we can additionally bring into our university, I would like to initiate those changes as well.

**Are there some general or specific goals AUSA is striving or working towards right now?**

Absolutely! For general goals, since we are an Adventist university, I believe helping students and making students engaged faithfully or spiritually to Jesus is our main goal. As for a more specific goal, we'd like to have a lot of event collaborations with the Center for Faith Engagement (CFE), so that's one of our goals for this semester or for the next. One of my personal goals is to inform students and encourage them to attend as many AUSA events as possible because we have a lot prepared for them. Just coming would mean a lot to us!

**Do you have any final thoughts or any announcements you'd like to share with the student body?**

There's an event called AUSA open gym, but it's really more of a tournament, happening this Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. in the Wellness Center. There are going to be basketball and volleyball tournaments, so definitely come out for that!

As for some final thoughts, I'd like to say that I really appreciate this opportunity to serve as the president this year. It's been such a pleasure and honor. I just ask that you keep the whole AUSA team in your prayers as we continue throughout this year.

## HUMANS

# The People Who Inspire Us

Taylor Uphus 11.03.21



Photo by Public Domain

---

*Each of us finds inspiration in different places and people. However, each of our places of inspiration have greatly influenced the person we are and the person we are striving to become. There are specific individuals in each of our lives that have shaped and inspired us to do things we never thought we could, choose certain career paths, and act in certain ways. Below, Andrews University students share the people that have inspired them most in life and the impact those individuals have had on the person they have become.*

**Elianna Srikureja (senior, English):**

I am inspired by my Grandpa Robinson. Throughout his life, my Grandpa went through a lot of hardships but chose never to complain or to let his situation deter him from reaching out to people that needed help. His example and encouragement to me has inspired me to always live boldly and ethically and to use my talents for the good of other people even when I feel insecure.

**Jarred Pullen (senior, speech-language pathology & audiology):**

I am inspired by my mom. She loves me unconditionally, calls me out on my weaknesses and trusts me to do what is best for me. We have been through thick and thin and her ability to love and care never dwindles.

**Rintei Chawngthu (sophomore, psychology):**

I am inspired by my dad. He went to school here without knowing English very well and had no money, but he got through it. I think about that when I have a hard time in school.

**Kara Shepard (senior, physics):**

I am inspired by my mother. Ever since I can remember, she has set an example for what a life of service should be. She is always using her talents to go out of her way to go the extra mile to help people. She inspires me to find God's calling for my life, so He can use me to be a blessing for others.

**Taylor Uphus (senior, English):**

I am inspired by my friends in El Salvador. My friends in El Salvador are some of the sweetest and most giving people I have ever met, despite the hardships they face. Even though they may not have much, they are always willing to give away the best that they have. They have inspired me to look on the bright side even during hard times and have helped me realize that I always have something I can give back.

**Matakala Muhwanga (junior, international business):**

I am inspired by my mom. My mom is someone I want to be like as I grow into the woman I want to become. Through her care and strength, she has shown me that anything is possible.

**Nehemiah Sitler (senior, communication):**

I am inspired by Josh Haley. He has been one of the most impactful people in my life. He has taught me that I can accomplish more than I perceive is possible. He inspires me to believe in my abilities and talents and that the only thing limiting me from accomplishment is my perception of myself.

**Nate Bolin (sophomore, finance):**

I am inspired by my boss. I have been inspired by working with him over the last two summers. He was a UPS manager for one of the seven UPS headquarters in Indiana. He has inspired me to pursue a career in business and taught me some of the keys to success. My favorite thing he has taught me is that life is too short to not have a good attitude each day.

**Pearl Parker (senior, English):**

I am inspired by my grandma. My grandma is a God-fearing woman and has always been there to give me guidance and support. Even when she was diagnosed with cancer, she still remained strong and kept her faith in God. All in all, she inspires me to be a better woman and to stay true to my values and beliefs.

# Arts & Entertainment

---

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Creative Spotlight: Matthew Jackson (aka Mateo Banks)

Interviewed by: Adoniah Simon [11.03.21](#)



Photo by Matthew Jackson (aka Mateo Banks)

---

### **Where are you from?**

Jamaica. I was born and raised in Jamaica. I live in New York right now. That's where I've resided since 2018, so I've lived there for about three years.

### **What are you studying?**

I'm studying finance. No minor, just finance. Before I chose music as a career path, I was always into business, into math. That sort of stuff. I started university in Jamaica. That's the major I chose so I'm still sticking with it.

### **How do you see your studies intersect with your music?**

The business part is just as important as the talent part. So I hope to integrate both and use what I learn here, combine it with my talent, and make myself as big as possible.

**How long have you been making music?**

Since I was a child, since I was really small. I'd make it without even knowing it, you know, in the shower singing and stuff like that. Yeah, so I'd say since prep school.

**You mentioned singing. Was that your first love? Did you play an instrument?**

My first love was more DJing, but not DJing as disc jockeying. In Jamaica we call the way we sing and dancehall music 'DJing,' so it would be like the same thing as rapping but in our dialect. So I always used to do DJing as a kid, always spitting rhymes here and there. In classrooms, when the teacher stepped out, we'd bang rhythms on the table, and we'd spit right then and there.

**When did you decide to do music more seriously—beyond the classroom or at home?**

Well, I'd say I started thinking about it in my final years of high school. You know, my friends would always say, "Oh, this is something you could do for real." And it wasn't really until I came [to the U.S.] in 2018 that I gave it some real thought. I said, "This is something I want to do for real, for real."

**Have you felt any pushback from friends or family? Or, have you ever had any doubts?**

Well, the major one would be my religion; my faith as a Christian. I would think, "is this something that I can do? Is this something that—if I did it—would please God?" Because it's not gospel music, it's reggae, it's a different genre. That was the major thing. But in terms of myself, I had confidence in myself that I had the talent for it and the drive to it and so forth.

**You mentioned the big conflict for you was figuring out if there's a way for you to pursue your musical career while also doing in a way that glorifies God. Do you feel like you've come closer to solving that conflict you just mentioned?**

Yeah, yeah. Fortunately, I do reggae music, and also a fusion [of different genres] but my base is reggae music. [It] tends to have a spiritual element to it. So it was very easy to incorporate [God] into my music. During my decision processes, it's something that I prayed about, I gave it much thought. So, yeah, I'd say I'm on the right track with it.

**You just mentioned that reggae has spiritual elements to it. Can you talk about some of those misconceptions that people have about the genre and what reggae actually is like in your view?**

Firstly, there's dancehall, and then there's reggae, but the world categorizes dancehall as a subgenre of reggae. But in Jamaica they're pretty distinct. It's easy to distinguish between both of them. We in Jamaica see them differently. Some people might hear dancehall, and I think it's reggae. Dancehall is more rugged, it's more coarse, it's more explicit. The beats are heavier. It's more uptempo, that kind of stuff. It's a little raunchier than reggae and the subject matter is different. So, in dancehall, we talk about everything: we talk about society, violence, girls. Everything. Reggae takes on a more spiritual, thankful vibe, because it was birthed out of the Rastafarian movement. You know Bob Marley, everybody knows Bob Marley. [He's] one of the biggest reggae artists in the world. And one of the biggest artists overall. So, we typically associate reggae music with Rastafarianism. Because of that, the music also has that spiritual feel. It's positive, it's clean, it's about love. It's about friendship, family. It's just cleaner music overall than dancehall.

**What are some themes within your music that you like to write about or what are different things or ideas that pop up for you as you create?**

Well, I've given myself a personal quota. In terms of the stuff that I will sing about and stuff that I won't. So stuff like violence I won't sing about that. I've prided myself on sticking to things that are more positive, more real, more relatable. God is a big [theme] that I talk about my music, [as well as] my life experiences and struggles. I love to sing about ladies, I love to sing about girls and relationships. I love to sing about myself, too.

**As you're making music, what would you say is the funniest or most rewarding part about that process?**

Hearing the finished product, especially after it's gone through the recording and the mixing process. It goes from the idea in your head, to singing it, then to recording it, to hearing it being mixed and mastered and then hearing the final product. So I'd say that would be one of them. Another rewarding part is when others hear it, and they're able to have the same feeling you have for it and hear them say, "Yo, you're good at this." That's dope. So yeah, so those, those two things are really rewarding.

Can you think of a lesson that you've learned in your years of making music that you've been able to apply to other areas of your life?

Don't be easily swayed by people—by their support or their lack of it. I've made songs and thought this is probably one of my best works. Then you put it out, and you don't get that reaction. Then you start to feel a little weird about it, but maybe one or a few people might message you and say, "Hey, this is tough. Keep doing what you're doing. Just keep your eye on the prize. Keep focused." If you have a goal and a plan, and you have a clear way of reaching it: stick to it.

There will be some rocky parts of the road where you might feel like it's not working. I apply that to school. Sometimes I do courses that I don't feel have anything to do with my major or anything to do with my life in general. But you have to pass, you don't want your GPA to drop, or you need to graduate. So you still do it. Another big one is to step out of your comfort zone. Even with your comfort zone, you can't stray from your values. That's key for me, because there's some things that you have to do to advance yourself. But at the same time, there's some things that are off limits because that goes against who you are, and that might change who you are. So, get out of your comfort zone, but don't stray from your values. Those are some of the big lessons I've learned.

Check out Matthew's music under the name "Mateo Banks" on all platforms or via the links below!

Latest Song: <https://youtu.be/jTeb8U0A8pU>

Fan Favorite: <https://youtu.be/ciyyRjkc3h4>

Matthew's Personal Favorite: <https://youtu.be/74g8t0NHwWg>



## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Current Favorites: November 2021

Kaela McFadden 11.03.21



Photo by Public Domain

In the hustle and bustle of college life, students from all over Andrews still find different ways to keep themselves occupied with activities outside of schoolwork. For those who are looking for fresh things to try, whether they be hobbies, books, movies, music, and more, here is a list of compiled interests from some Andrews students.

- 1) Alexander Hilton (junior, pre-physical therapy): “Destiny 2” - video game
- 2) Solana Campbell (sophomore, business management): “I Would Leave Me If I Could: A Collection of Poetry” by Halsey - poetry book
- 3) Alexander Hess (junior, English): “Easy On Me” by Adele - song
- 4) Alannah Tjhatra (junior, biochemistry): “champagne problems” by Taylor Swift

- 5) Manoah van der Velde (sophomore, mechanical engineering): Going for fall drives - hobby
- 6) Amanda Orosco (junior, elementary education): "You" - TV show
- 7) Andrew DeAbreu (senior, English and history): "Heat" - movie
- 8) Nora Martin (sophomore, psychology and English): "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" - movie
- 9) Paige Swanson (senior, English): "Dr. Who" - TV show
- 10) Jake Perez (junior, pre-physical therapy): Working on car mechanics - hobby
- 11) Elizabeth Escobar (senior, pre-physical therapy): "Hunter x Hunter" - anime
- 12) Jason DeWitt (freshman, explore Andrews): "Lose Control" by JJ Lin - song
- 13) Anna Lonto (junior, pre-physical therapy): Acrylic painting - hobby
- 14) T Bruggemann (junior, computer science and physics): "Spiderman: Into the Spiderverse" - movie
- 15) Andrew Potts (freshman, history): "The Office" - TV show
- 16) Jacob Tambunan (senior, medical lab sciences): Working out - hobby
- 17) Marcel Maddox (junior, social work): "Free Guy" - movie
- 18) Alex Noble (junior, mechanical engineering): "Loki" - TV show
- 19) Anjela To-Ong (junior, pre-physical therapy): "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings" - movie
- 20) Shawn DeWitt (junior, psychology): "Foundation" - TV show

I am currently most interested in "Realm Breaker," a young adult novel by Victoria Aveyard. She is one of my favorite authors and I am enjoying decompressing from a long week of school by reading her new book.

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# “Dune”: Ushering in an Era of Sci-Fi Majesty

Solana Campbell 11.03.21



Photo by Public Domain

---

*Disclaimer: The following is a review of “Dune” as a film adaptation, not a critique of the original plot of Frank Herbert’s novel. Considering that, I will not be critiquing the themes of colonization and the saviorism complex presented in the source material.*

Denis Villeneuve’s long awaited sci-fi sensation “Dune” released last weekend with chart-topping box office numbers and generated a huge amount of internet buzz.

Starring Timothee Chalamet as a young Paul Atreides, heir to his father's empire and his mother's magic, among the likes of Oscar Isaac, Jason Momoa, Zendaya, and Rebecca Ferguson, the film is power-packed with talent. Greig Fraser, whose cinematography you may recognize from "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story," does a fantastic job of capturing small emotions and interactions against the backdrop of a world whose significance often tends toward dwarfing its character's growth. Filmed on site in the deserts of Jordan and the United Arab Emirates, the fictional planet Arrakis, whose surface is covered in valuable space, is the home of the Fremen people and their oppressors, the Harkonnen clan. When the mysterious and all-powerful Emperor turns the harvesting of spice over to the Atreides clan, Paul struggles with the complicated ethics of what his family has been chosen to do. While opinions on the film vary from considering it to be boring to problematic, here's a few things the film does very well.

### **Paul Atreides**

Chalamet brings all of his emotional sensitivity to this role and manages to take a stereotype and turn it into a character able to connect to the audience. By choosing to stray away from a cocky and headstrong Chosen One that is humbled by heavy trauma, Chalamet opens Paul up from the start as an unsure and unlikely hero. Villeneuve defends his decision to cast a lanky hero instead of a muscular one by offering us with a more complex character than often portrayed in this thread of storyline, and Chalamet, of course, brings the Midas touch.

### **Cinematography**

Both Fraser and Villeneuve are legends of the Hollywood sci-fi world, and their talent and expertise come so clearly through the sweeping, majestic shots featured in this film. Every moment, every shot, is absolutely, utterly, gorgeous. They manage to paint us a picture of a whole new world and allow us to escape into it. Personally, I recommend choosing to watch the film the way it was made to be watched, on a big theater screen, but if you choose to see it from the comforts of your own home, turn up your subwoofer and broadcast it on a big screen, because the sensory experience makes Dune so much more than a movie.

### **Hans Zimmer**

Speaking of needing a subwoofer, Hans Zimmer, composer of numerous otherworldly soundtracks, from "Interstellar" to "Pirates of the Caribbean," does something new and special with the composition of "Dune." His talent fills in the blanks and really sends home the idea that watching "Dune" is so much more than

watching a movie. The film opens with a boom and the sound of the Fremen, ushering us immediately into a place far, far, from home.

### **Plot**

One of the biggest criticisms of this film is the slow-moving plot, but after stepping back and taking a look at it from afar, Villeneuve manages to cover a lot of ground in a little time while still creating an entire world with its own rules and politics. Not to mention, Villeneuve balances extreme tragedy and coming-of-age with ease. If you do decide to watch the film, prepare yourself not only for grandeur but for an emotional rollercoaster.

The truth is, if your favorite movie is “Legally Blonde” and sci-fi has never enthralled you, “Dune” might not be the movie for you. However, for sci-fi fans and blockbuster watchers alike, “Dune” is truly a masterpiece. From the excellent worldbuilding to the emotional grittiness in both Chalamet and Isaac’s performances, the film both expands and grounds its viewers in the same breath. The plot thickens leading into its sequel and the final half-hour had me on the edge of my seat. Villeneuve managed to conquer the difficult task of spending a 2-hour film creating a world viewers want to get lost in, while moving the plot forward. I cannot wait to see where this franchise takes us—and keep an eye out for the Bene Gesserit prequel series releasing on HBO Max in 2022.

# News

---

## NEWS

# For “Sure On This Shining Night”: It Was a Concert to Remember

Andrew Pak 11.03.21



Photo by Darren Heslop

---

*May we stand (may we stand) together, always*

*May our voice be strong*

*May we hear the singing and*

*May we always sing along (along)*

*Sing, sing gently, always*

*Sing, sing as one (as one)*

*Singing gently as one.*

For the few magical seconds after the last resonances died down, no one said a word. I held my breath and didn't even want to clap, lest it disturb the beauty and inspiring peace that remained from Eric Whitacre's "Sing Gently." And that was just the opening selection.

On Saturday night, October 30, the three choir groups of Andrews University gave a beautiful performance of works expressing joy, peace, and dreams of harmony, from psalms to Hebrew love songs to gospel arrangements. Featuring popular and beloved choral composers like Eric Whitacre, Dan Forrest, John Rutter, and Morten Lauridsen, there was an abundance of soulful works of art that reached further than the ears, deep into the heart and sought to be more than a mere catchy tune. Stephen Zork, the conductor of all three choirs (Canta Bella, Pioneer Men's Chorus, Andrews University Singers) says, "these students learn a lot of music in three weeks ... they had to dig deep into their soul, into their spirituality as well as their artistic and creative muse. It's very hard ... to be able to be intentional about the poetry--some of the poetry we did was very beautiful, and they were able to dig down deep and understand it."

Some notable pieces include "Kalá Kallá" (from "Five Hebrew Love Songs") by Eric Whitacre, a love song to his then-girlfriend Hila Plitmann in response to the Hebrew love poems she sent to him. Zork says, "I won't go into all the translations of it, but if you're familiar with the Biblical "Song of Solomon," then you'll have just a little bit of the flavor of this piece. "Kalá Kallá" is translated as 'Light Bride.' He [Whitacre] said it's a pun, both a play on the word 'light' as in light, and 'light' as in...not heavy." Simon Luke Brown (senior, violin performance) and Jason Marquez (junior, clarinet performance) joined the piece on violin and tambourine, respectively; with alternating sections of lyrical song and rhythmic dance in the Hebrew style, Canta Bella delivered a compelling performance of this fantastic work.

One of my personal favorites was Dan Forrest's "Come to Me," featuring cellist Jamison Moore (senior, music performance). Performed by the Pioneer Men's Chorus, it started out with simple repetitions of the word "come," but later blossomed into a myriad of colors and harmonies that had me searching up and listening to the song online afterwards. With baritone/bass Charles Lawson (graduate, MDiv) singing the solo with a clear, sweet tone, the descending bass line in the piano, and rich cello countermelodies, it was a heart-stirring performance, certainly one that managed to reach my soul and many others in the audience. It's

songs like these that completely changed my perspective on choral music, which I confess I haven't listened to much of before attending these choir concerts.

Later on in the program, the choir members smoothly shuffled to rearrange themselves into the larger University Singers group, and Professor Zork moved to the piano while Marcus Carter, (senior, music) tenor and Administrative Assistant in the music department, moved to the back on bass guitar for James Taylor's "Shed a Little Light." It was reminiscent of a gospel group setup, minus the drums. As tenor Abel Siamubi (senior, music and organizational management) stepped forward to the microphone and the distinctive harmonic and rhythmic style of the accompaniment started, my hunch was confirmed and it became clear that the spirit of gospel music ran throughout James Taylor's commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. and the social-political movements of the 60s. After the concert, Zork mentioned that in line with the genre, he had improvised the entire piano accompaniment, which is an impressive feat by itself. Overall, this selection certainly had the energy and powerful yearning for peace that is as relevant now as it was during the Civil Rights Movement—something we could all use today.

This choir concert in particular featured a multitude of instrumentalists and guest student conductors from around the music department. Professor Zork notes that it's a testament to Andrews' music education that the student conductors, Cyril Punay (graduate, choral conducting) and Daniel Soochkoff-Cerna (junior, music education), could garner respect and build rapport with the choir members so well that rehearsals went smoothly and efficiently. As waving the baton is only a tiny fraction of what conductors do, directing rehearsals requires the time management, efficiency, and extensive musical knowledge of a professional to get the choir ready to perform a brand new piece in three weeks time. For this reason, a huge congratulations is due to those students who stepped up, both figuratively and literally, to the podium. Furthermore, an acknowledgement is also due to pianists Tyler Ninalga (junior, piano performance), Emily Jurek (senior, piano performance), Samantha Cardwell (sophomore, piano performance), Gabriel Palacios (senior, piano performance) and other instrumentalists who all did an excellent job of collaborating with the three choral groups to produce an end result of such beautiful sonorities.

In closing, I think the power of the poetry these composers and performers brought to the concert hall speaks for itself, so let me leave you with the unity-yearning lyrics from James Taylor's "Shed a Little Light" that were sung on stage that night:



*There is a feeling like the clenching of a fist,  
there is a hunger in the center of the chest.  
There is a passage through the darkness and the mist  
and though the body sleeps the heart will never rest.*

*Oh, let us turn our thoughts today to Martin Luther King  
and recognize that there are ties between us.  
All men and women living on the Earth,  
ties of hope and love, sister and brotherhood.*

(See <https://howard.andrews.edu/events/> for information on upcoming concerts and events)

## NEWS

# Fall Festival 2021: Autumnal Celebrations at Andrews University

Abigail Lee 11.03.21



Photo by Dawson Par

---

On the night of October 24, Andrews University hosted the annual Fall Festival at Johnson Gym, to the delight of students and families all across campus. Split into two separate times, the event officially started at 5:00 PM for graduate and seminary students, allowing for their children to enjoy the targeted events like “Trunk-or-Treat,” and opened at 7:30 PM for undergraduates.

A steady storm rumbled outside, but students taking part in the fun stayed warm while munching on kettle corn and sipping on hot cider and cocoa. Beyond fall-themed treats, there was also the option for hot dogs with all types of fixings. These hot meals were provided for free to students and guests by Bon Appétit and served by volunteers from Andrews University’s Student Association (AUSA). T Bruggemann (junior, computer science and physics) described the experience: “I enjoyed volunteering at Fall Festival! I was serving food, and I’m not gonna lie, I think Bon Appétit actually did a good job with it that night. The event itself was also fun to be at, even just on the periphery.”

Well-fed students were surrounded by many options of entertainment that the University provided. Massive bounce houses and a mechanical bull took up the center of the gym. But for those who may want something more artistic than athletic, there was a pumpkin painting booth hosted by the Women’s Empowerment Association of Andrews University (WEAAU). President of the club, Caryn Cruz (junior, English) described her experience running the booth, “Though there was a lot of running around, cleaning up, and preparation of supplies it was nice to see parents, kids, and fellow students bond over this event. I’m glad I was able to help facilitate this kind of experience for those who attended!” The pumpkin painting was another successful part of a fun night.

Along with free snacks and entertainment, the event was filled with live music. Student performers were the power behind the night’s soundtrack. Bands played cover songs of popular tracks and students came together to sing melodies with classic hits from Disney movies. One of the night’s performers, Samantha Cardwell (sophomore, piano performance) says of the night, “I was super nervous and a bit stressed at first, but then when I started singing, I really just enjoyed and lived in the moment. it was nice to hear people cheering, it gave me a sense of comfort and I really appreciate everyone who supported me.” With live music adding to the cheerful environment, the Fall Festival was ultimately a great way to welcome in the season.

## NEWS

# How to Call the (Flu) Shots at Andrews University

Nathan Mathieu 11.03.21



Photo by Public Domain

---

While Covid-19 and restrictions remain ever-present for many people, including students at Andrews University, it is important to remember the other illnesses existing in our world. One such illness is influenza, which is also known as the flu. The [World Health Organization](#) estimates influenza to cause approximately 1 billion infections per year. About 3–5 million of these infections are considered severe cases and between an approximated 290,000–650,000 deaths per year are considered influenza-related.

First, what is influenza? Influenza comprises two main types of the influenza virus: influenza A and influenza B. According to the [CDC](#), these strains of influenza A and influenza B normally are most threatening in the US in December and February, but these strains can still infect as late as May. In order to beat these continuously mutating viruses, scientists must create vaccines annually based on available data and geographical locations.

How does influenza spread? The flu can be spread through droplets of people who are sick with the flu as well as people who have been infected (but who may not necessarily be exhibiting symptoms.) Furthermore, small viral particles left in the air can infect people. They can also infect a person that touches a surface with the influenza virus on it and then touches their face (especially eyes, nose, and mouth).

How can you stay safe from influenza? While avoiding those who are sick and hand-washing are excellent ways to help prevent infection, one big way to stay safe from influenza is taking the flu vaccine. The flu vaccine has been shown to prevent millions of illnesses and aids in reducing flu-related doctor visits by 40–60%. It also has been shown to prevent hospitalizations and deaths. Flu vaccination – [according to a 2021 ScienceDirect study](#) – has been linked to a 26% lower risk of admission into the ICU and a 31% decreased risk of influenza-related death. Fascinatingly, flu vaccinations don't only just prevent flu infections, but they also decrease certain cardiac events among those with certain heart diseases according to a National Institutes of Health [study](#).

Who should get the flu vaccine? While the flu shot is considered appropriate for most people, there are different flu shots for different ages. For those between six months and 64 years of age, a standard-dose inactivated vaccine is recommended. For those 65 years and above, adjuvanted and high-dose inactivated vaccines are recommended. People with severe allergies to certain flu vaccine ingredients, people under six months of age, people with Guillain-Barré syndrome, and people who feel unwell should avoid the vaccine. However, pregnant people and people with allergies to egg protein - one of the ingredients in a flu shot - can get a vaccine. One can get injectable influenza vaccines (which are the flu shots) and nasal spray influenza vaccines.

Finally, where can you go to get the flu vaccine? In Niles and Benton Harbor at the Berrien County Health Department offices, flu vaccinations are offered. More information can be found [here](#). One can also make an appointment at Rite Aid in Berrien Springs at 612 St. Joseph Avenue across the street from McDonald's. More information can be found [here](#).

## NEWS

# The Water Crisis in Benton Harbor

Brendan Syto 11.03.21



Photo by Public Domain

---

Benton Harbor is facing a water crisis. People who live there have been told by the city to not use water from the tap because of the high levels of lead from old pipes. The water that comes out of faucets is not safe to use. Because of this, many people in Benton Harbor have been using bottled water in place of tap water.

This problem has been known for years. In 2018, lead was detected in Benton Harbor's tap water. Since then, the city has failed 6 lead tests. From an [article](#) written by Tori B. Powell, a breaking news reporter at CBS News, "Various environmental and public advocacy organizations said in a petition filed last month that (Benton Harbor) hasn't had its lead pipes replaced in years." A petition seeking help has been started by residents, and the goal for the city is to fix the problem within two years. However, there is a complication in solving the water crisis.

The city does not have enough money to finish lead pipe removals. According to Governor [Gretchen Whitmer's office](#), "at least \$11.4 million" is needed for lead pipe replacement. The total cost of the project is \$30 million and will take 18

months to complete. Funds for this project have come from various sources. The State of Michigan gave Benton Harbor \$18.6 million and an additional \$10 million from the state's fiscal year budget. The Michigan Clean Water plan gave \$3 million. The Environmental Protection Agency gave \$5.6 million. With enough money, the water crisis can be resolved. There are a number of things being done to raise money.

Whitmer has called on the state's legislature to fund the money necessary to replace the pipes. The city's commission has voted on a local state of emergency to coordinate resources for the city. Benton Harbor's Mayor Pro Tem Duane Seats argues that the state needs to help this city to recover from the crisis as soon as possible. The consequences of the water crisis on Benton Harbor residents are dire.

The tap water is unsafe for drinking because of its lead content and associated health risks. According to the [Environmental Protection Agency](#), the negative health effects of drinking water with lead include “behavioral issues, a lower IQ, hyperactivity, slowed growth, anemia, cardiovascular effects, decreased kidney function and reproductive problems.” All of these health risks have a big effect on Benton Harbor residents, especially children. As previously mentioned, residents must use bottled water instead of tap water for their daily needs. [In a CBS news report](#), when Benton Harbor resident Francis Davis was asked by Omar Villafranca, a CBS News correspondent, about what water she uses for cooking, brushing teeth, and bathing, she replied, “the bottled water.” This proves difficult because bottled water is harder to utilize than simply using water from a faucet for household purposes. Truly, this water crisis is a pressing and serious issue.

Benton Harbor is experiencing difficulty with replacing its lead pipes because of insufficient funding. The water crisis in the city has had severe, negative effects on its residents. In time, the city will replace all of its lead pipes and resolve the issue. However, this may take a considerable number of years and cost millions of dollars to complete. Hopefully, the people of Benton Harbor will once again be able to drink a glass of water without fearing any health consequences.

For volunteer signup, [click here](#).

*Editors Note: If you would like to volunteer to help, check out [this website](#). Harbor of Hope is collaborating with Alyssa Sussdorf and other Andrews University students. Every Saturday from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM, they will be helping distribute water for the area.*

# Ideas

---

## IDEAS

# Abandoning the Earth

Nathan Cheng 11.03.21



Photo by Public Domain

---

On November 3, 1957, the first living creature from Earth entered orbit around our planet in the Soviet vessel Sputnik 2. It was an enormous step into exploring the universe outside planet Earth. We often view space as the last frontier to chart, but we must consider our motive. Are we going to space in search of knowledge and improving ourselves, or do we seek to conquer and exploit other planets after exhausting our own?

Billionaires such as Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, and Richard Branson are investing billions of dollars into making space flight more feasible. Why? Scientific research and development, innovations that expand the economic sphere, and tourism. All three individuals have come to the conclusion that they can charge other millionaires a hefty sum for a joyride in Earth's orbit. There is a benefit though, because NASA no longer has to build their own spacecraft. NASA only has to pay

\$58 million to send one person to space as opposed to the \$450 million that they would have spent if working by themselves. But what do we, the non-billionaire general public, actually get out of it?

According to the International Space Exploration Coordination [Group](#), the benefits include "innovation, cultural and inspirational purpose, and solutions to global challenges." They explicitly state that space exploration helps humanity understand our destiny within the universe. The word "destiny" should raise a red flag for anyone familiar with history. It is a word steeped in imperialism and expansionism at the expense of humanity and compassion. Currently we have our sights set on Mars, with Elon Musk spearheading the project to land humans on Mars by the year [2026](#).

At this point in time, focusing our attention away from the needs of our own world is irresponsible and ruinous. We have not thoroughly explored our own world, yet we insist on moving out of it. The reason for moving is obvious though. We have laid waste to the planet's environment and now we can potentially abandon it and pollute the stars instead. Of course, not everyone could leave; some people who live among us wonder daily what their next meal will be, and those people cannot afford to concern themselves with leaving the planet. According to the World Health [Organization](#), one in every nine people go to bed hungry every night. There are places that do not have clean, fresh water to drink. Almost 15% of the human population are still [illiterate](#). Yet, in the face of these problems, what are we doing to rectify them?

The power to improve the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves is within our grasp. Yet so many of us squander that opportunity and throw our lot in with the rich who do not seem to be truly interested in lessening the suffering in the world today. We need to take a step back and ask ourselves what really has more value than the life of another person. Invest in the people around you, invest in the earth, and watch the desire to escape grow as distant as the stars.



IDEAS

# The Drug Decriminalization Conversation

Qualyn Robinson 11.03.21



Photo by Public Domain

---

Over recent years, an increasing number of Americans have expressed their support for legalizing recreational marijuana. [91%](#) of US adults believe that marijuana should be legal for both medical and recreational use. Connecticut has now become the 18th state to legalize recreational marijuana—and it doesn't stop at weed. Some US cities have begun decriminalizing magic mushrooms (Psilocybin) and Oregon is now the first state to decriminalize possession of small amounts of all drugs including heroin, methamphetamines, LSD, and cocaine. So, the question arises: Did drugs win the war on drugs?

Concerning the conversation on drugs, it is important to understand the differences between drug decriminalization and legalization, as these terms are often mistakenly used interchangeably.

With “legalization,” a substance becomes a regulated legal product and enters

federal and state regulations. Government agencies determine policies that form how a particular substance will be legalized, distributed, and managed. For example, Oregon is the only state where Psilocybin is decriminalized and legal, but individuals can only access this substance through a licensed professional. While Oregon recognizes Psilocybin as a legal substance, it is still considered to be a [Schedule I substance](#) under the Controlled Substances Act. Criminal penalties can still occur if manufacturing, sales or consumption of these substances occur outside of government regulations.

‘Decriminalization’ involves the reduction or elimination of criminal penalties for drug law violations. In several [states](#), individuals can be caught with small amounts of marijuana for recreational consumption and won’t be prosecuted, jailed, or receive a criminal record. Like receiving a parking ticket, a fine is charged, but you don’t risk jail time. Decriminalizing marijuana involves changing the forms of punishment for possession and personal use so that it is seen as a violation instead of a misdemeanor or felony.

The decriminalization movement falls under a wider change against the severe criminal justice policies that emerged during the War on Drugs in 1971. A [2013](#) report by the American Civil Liberties Union discovered that marijuana arrests make up approximately half of all drug arrests, with police making over 7 million marijuana possession arrests between 2001 and 2010. These arrests were vastly skewed by race—Although Black and white people consume marijuana at equivalent [rates](#), Black people were 3.7 times more likely to be jailed for marijuana possession. These arrests can severely impact individuals’ lives and their communities. Being arrested for even small quantities of marijuana can prohibit someone from receiving student financial aid or public housing, keeping or finding employment, losing custody of their children, or even deportation.

Similar to Oregon’s drug legislation, Portugal has decriminalized public and private use of all drugs since 2001. Instead of relying on prosecution and imprisonment for drug-related violations, individuals in Portugal caught in possession of illicit drugs are referred to social workers and medical professionals. Portugal intended for individuals who were suffering from addiction to receive help by referring them to either rehabilitation centers, community service activities, or paying a fine.

As a result of Portugal's public health approach to drug usage, opioid overdoses, addiction rates and prison overpopulation have [declined](#). A [study](#) did discover that drug experimentation increased after decriminalization, but most experiments did not lead to regular use. More troubling was the 41% increase in the rate of murder during the five years after decriminalization was established in 2001.

Mike Marshall, director of Oregon Recovers, is apprehensive about decriminalization, as he believes the state may not have the means to tackle reduced access to treatment. "Their goal is to move people out of the criminal justice system into the health care system. But the health care system isn't ready to receive them," Marshall [says](#). However, support and endorsements from nearly a dozen Oregon treatment [centers](#) and organizations have claimed approval for decriminalization.

So, should other states follow Oregon in decriminalizing all drugs? Are US citizens even interested in the decriminalization of all drugs? No. In a 2016 [poll](#), apart from marijuana, around two-thirds of 2,000 registered US voters claimed that they do not support decriminalizing non-marijuana drugs. Voters were even less supportive of legalizing non-marijuana drugs for medical or recreational purposes. If drug policy reformers are wanting to progress in the decriminalization of drugs, the American population will require more convincing. Until then, Oregon's drug decriminalization legislation just may be the beginning of the end of the war on drugs.

## IDEAS

# The Legacy of Colin Powell

Angelina Nesmith [11.03.21](#)

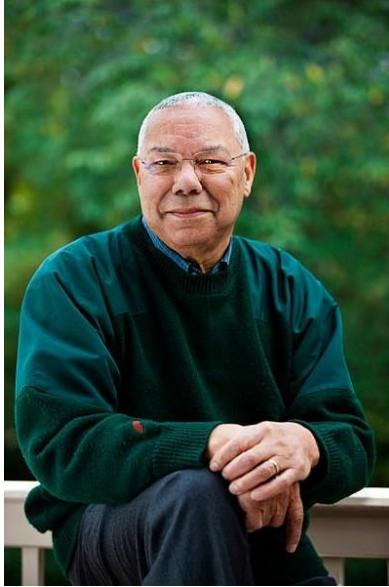


Photo by Public Domain

---

If you walked through the Andrews University flag mall last week, you may have noticed that the American flag was at half mast. This is because America is mourning the death of former Secretary of State and decorated general Colin Powell.

Colin Luther Powell was born on [April 5, 1937](#) in Harlem, New York to parents Luther and Maud Powell. He was raised in the South Bronx, surrounded by his loving family and active community. He graduated from Morris High School in 1954 and attended the City College of New York, majoring in geology with no definite plans for the future. It was there that he joined the ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps), where he truly found his passion for military service.

After graduating in 1958 from the City College of New York, Powell was recruited as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army and stationed at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. There he met the love of his life, Alma Vivian Johnson whom he married in [1962](#).

Soon after, Powell was stationed in Southern Vietnam during the Vietnam War. There he proved himself as a crucial tactical advisor and heroically saved his fellow soldiers from a helicopter crash in which he was also injured. Powell returned to the United States a national hero, and over time rose through the ranks, becoming both the first African American and youngest four-star general in the military while in his early fifties.

In 2000, Powell was appointed Secretary of State by President George W. Bush. Under the Bush Administration, Secretary Powell was crucial in the interactions between the US and the conflicts in Iraq, in addition to many other international endeavours. Powell later resigned and retired in 2004 after admitting to Congress that information he had been given to testify to the UN Security Council was false.

However, the tactical approach of Iraqi Invasion was solely based on the Powell Doctrine: a method of war in which nations enter with every intention to win at all costs using every advantage that they have. Everything was done in a cold and calculated fashion to fight against international crimes; however, I think that Powell overcalculated. Yes, these exaggerated actions such as administering numerous troops to the area, using superior weapons, and utilizing highly developed explosives quelled acts of terrorism for a time. Yes, Powell was only working with the misinformation that he had received from the CIA. However, that does not excuse how the severity of his response painted the picture that the rest of the world views as America's method of dealing with international affairs and conflicts.

Following his resignation, Powell openly criticized the Bush administration. Many people suggested that Powell run to become the first African-American president. For a time, Powell considered the endeavour; however, he was quoted to later say he "[did not have the fire in the belly](#)" for it. Instead, Powell endorsed Barack Obama's candidacy and openly celebrated when President Obama was elected.

It is important to note that at this time Colin Powell was a registered Republican. Honestly, that confused me at first, because I thought that it was imperative in the realm of politics to support the candidates from one's own party. However, Powell supported Obama's candidacy and later presidency without losing his own identity as a Republican. Powell had moxy for doing that, and I admire him for it. Sometimes the best thing that one can do for their country is the one that they do not initially agree with.

During the rest of his retirement, Powell enjoyed time with his family, giving speeches on leadership and endorsing his old college, the City College of New York. Colin Powell faced health challenges in the later years of his life, including multiple myeloma cancer. He contracted Covid-19 this year and died on [October 5, 2021](#), age 84. Powell is survived by his wife, three children, and many grandchildren. Powell is remembered as an American hero, general, world leader, first of his station, and ultimately a public servant.

## Pulse

---

### PULSE

# College on a Budget

Gloria Oh [11.03.21](#)



Photo by Public Domain

---

Many of us college students are in our early 20s, and some of us may even be in our mid-teens. So it could be that you feel indifferent about saving money—but really, it is never too early to start learning this skill. Later on in life, we will need to

save larger amounts of money, but those skills and habits won't be there for us unless we cultivate them today. So the question is, how do we develop this skill?

The first step is to know exactly *why* you want to save money. Without a purpose for your action, you will likely end up spending the money instead of saving it. You might be buying groceries, such as birthday presents for your friend, or cute clothes that you've been wanting to get. And that makes sense—you have a reason behind your actions when spending money. It works the same for saving money, too. Make clear goals for the money you are saving: what is the money for and how much will you need to save? Small goals such as buying AirPods are fine, as long as these goals are clear and you learn how to apply them with discipline and efficiency.

Once you have created goals, you need to make a roadmap to reach them. First, you have to decide within what range of time you would like to accomplish your goal. After that, you should calculate how much you need to save each month in order to achieve your goal by that set time. An important point is to be realistic in the amount of money you are trying to save. You cannot aim to save \$1000 a month when your job pays you \$1500. If you want to save up more money every month, you will have to either find a way to increase your income or minimize your fixed outcomes.

Creating your budget is crucial—and I cannot emphasize this enough. It is essential in creating a sustainable and realistic roadmap for your goals. Writing out all your monthly or weekly earnings and spendings will help you to see where your money is coming from and how you are spending it. This might sound too simple to be important, but you can barely start your roadmap without having a personal budget. You might notice that you are earning more or less money when you regularly keep track of your income. If your only income is the allowance you get from your parents, getting a campus job could be an excellent option for you. You will most likely discover some expenses in your budget that you did not consider before making the budget. You can also learn more about yourself through observing your spending habits—this often correlates with your psychology. If there's a trend of extravagant spending on food or anything that ended up being quite useless to you, for instance, you can try to identify why that happened. Are you going to experience burnout? Are you dealing with mental or emotional stress? Address those problems right away, not only to keep your money safe, but also your health.

As you fine-tune the details of your budget using all the financial records you have—such as your bank statements, card bills, and tax records—adjust your goals and plans accordingly. The 50:30:20 rule might be helpful—50% of your income should be spent on your needs, 30% on your wants, and 20% on savings. And, of course, you can change that ratio in a way that fits you the best. If you are a dorm student, you might not even have to spend anything on “needs” and instead save up to 70% of your income. However, be aware of your health, your other important commitments, and your time. Do not trade those factors just to save up your money a year or two faster. Your goals can wait, and they will eventually be achieved as long as you stay diligent and stick to good saving habits. After all, we are saving money to ultimately spend it in a way that increases our quality of life. Most of all, remember your ultimate goal—making your money work towards it will take you a long way.

## PULSE

# Spreading Kindness Daily

Wambui Karanja [11.03.21](#)



Photo by Public Domain

---

One early spring day last semester, I was walking to work after a long day of classes. It had been a truly exhausting week and honestly, I was not in a great headspace. I was drained from all the schoolwork, tired of the cafe food, and ready to sleep the day off.



So there I was, trekking my way to work when, along my path, I noticed a girl walking in my direction. Now, I am not sure if the same thing happens to other people, but I tend to panic a little when I walk past people I do not know—especially if it is just us. Questions start racing through my head: Which side do I walk on? Do I wait to make eye contact and *then* say hello? What if they do not want to be smiled at?

So as I was having this internal conflict, I came closer to approaching the girl. Before I decided what I would do, the girl looked at me and smiled. I smiled back, of course, and she said, “Hi, how are you?” Wow. I was surprised by that seemingly common question. This random person, who I had never seen before, looked me in the eyes and with genuine kindness asked me how I was doing.

While I did not proceed to tell her my entire life story, to which she may have replied, “I didn’t ask for all that,” I really, *really* appreciated that moment. It shifted my mood for that day and even changed the way I see life now.

Words and actions of kindness hold so much power. I know it is cliché to say, but it really is true that a smile can go a long way. Each person is a conduit through which kindness can be shown. Sharing kindness with others is one of the purest forms of human interaction.

Here are a few ways we can challenge ourselves to spread kindness and uplift others daily:

**1. Genuinely ask those around you how they are doing.** “How’s it going?” “How are you doing?” “What’s up?” These are questions we ask and get very often. But how many times do we anticipate hearing a genuine response? What if the person is not doing well? Be present and be able to listen. Share in their happiness if they are doing well and be prepared to lend an ear if they are not.

**2. Smile at people.** Studies show that smiling is contagious. You never know how your smile can affect the day of another, so just make it a regular practice.

**3. Express gratitude.** Having an attitude of gratitude makes others feel appreciated while also lifting your own mood. Truly give thanks for the things that others do for you—both big and small.

PULSE

# Starting the Conversation: The LGBTQ+ Community & the Adventist Church

Karena Lee [11.03.21](#)



Photo by Public Domain

---

*Disclaimer: The Student Movement is the official student newspaper of Andrews University. Opinions expressed in the Student Movement are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors, Andrews University or the Seventh-day Adventist church.*

For many of us, discussing the LGBTQ+ community and its relationship with the Adventist church seems unneeded. Either we oppose the LGBTQ+ community based on our interpretation of Biblical truth, or we reject [the church's prevailing viewpoint](#) in favor of supporting them. We know our opinions, and we don't intend on changing them. In fact, we often view the other side as immoral, so we assert that the truth is obvious and that there is no conversation to be had about the matter. Yet like most social issues, both stances' morality will always be debatable. If it were not, no divide would exist.

Like [Alyssa's article from last week](#), I am not here to debate whether or not homosexuality is a sin. Still, if this is your viewpoint, I understand where you may be coming from. For years, I believed homosexuality was sinful. I loved the gay people in my life, but I still believed having gay relationships was a sin. The solution to being gay seemed straightforward. Whether or not God chose to remove a gay person's same-sex desire shouldn't affect their walk with God. We are all burdened with a distinct struggle with sin. Walking with God requires sacrifice, I believed, so while some of us deny our tempers, others must deny their same-sex desires.

Growing up in the Adventist church, I became very accustomed to standing firm in what I believed to be right and defending against other viewpoints. But my opinions have since shifted. I have seen the harm the church's beliefs about queerness cause. Perhaps the time has come for us to reevaluate our treatment of the LGBTQ+ community.

While the Bible says nothing about transgender people, asexual people, and many other members of the LGBTQ+ community, the church's disapproval of homosexuality somehow bleeds into other categories. At my Adventist high school, even student leaders openly engaged in insulting queer people and their community. When the language we use trends towards division, one side must give ground, and more often than not, it's queer people who absorb the loss.

Consider the common Adventist belief that it's alright to be gay as long as one doesn't act on it. We think that if someone is gay, they would simply choose to be single for the rest of their life, and things would work out. But while some people know they are queer from the very beginning, many queer Adventists repress their sexuality for years, even decades. If, day in and day out, the community says queer people are sinful, the last thing someone would want is to realize that they're queer.

Is this the ideal situation? If someone is able to live "normally" because they don't know they're queer, wouldn't this solve the problem? Unfortunately, this is not our reality. Repressing one's identity stalls their life. When someone denies being queer to protect themselves from a hostile environment, their relationships with others suffer. Their ability to understand their needs, their emotions, even their goals—suffers. Their self-confidence suffers. After all, how would someone expect others to know them when they don't know themselves? Queer people internalize not

only others' words, but the derision behind them, and because it is impossible to sequester repression to only one aspect of a life, they lead half a life.

Treating queerness as a sin isn't equivalent to treating something like pride as one. In the Adventist community, pride does not define someone—it's one aspect of their character. It's something they can and are expected to overcome. However, being queer is intrinsic to someone's personhood, unlike pride. In addition, for others, and sometimes for themselves, it becomes their defining trait. Queerness makes someone the bad example despite the heartfelt sermons they preached, the endless hours they poured into Pathfinders, or the way they cherished the Bible stories from cradle roll and on.

At least, with other things the church condemns, people know when they do it: they know when they lie; they know when they have sex out of wedlock. Yet queerness looms like a cataclysmic "what-if." One day, a person could simply wake up and realize they are what their community has branded as the enemy. Queer people absorb all of this confusion, pain, and silence. This is the human cost of ideology.

The kind of fear the church inspires in queer people is scarring. When someone is queer and Adventist, they cannot think it. They cannot say it. They cannot live it lest the people they love and respect most look at them with fear or pity or something even worse. Undoubtedly, [there are statistics citing the alarming rates of suicide for Christian queer people](#), but sometimes, numbers meant to sober us can simply be numbers. Stand in a queer person's shoes for a moment. They are hurting.

To open this conversation, we as a church must acknowledge how we have hurt people. I know it's uncomfortable. It's easier when queer people remain abstract concepts on television or when they seem normal. No one wants to think they've harmed anyone else, and it's simpler to excuse ourselves when we center it on an inarguable topic like religion when really, I believe it's an issue of humanity. We need to embrace queer people's humanity, not just the one gay person we know, but the humanity of the entire queer community. We owe them respect. We must step in the pain we've caused them and understand why so many people are angry. That's the first step.

# The Last Word

---

THE LAST WORD

## Politics and Humanity: Our First Steps Toward Resolution

Alyssa Henriquez 11.03.21



Photo by Public Domain

---

On October 21, Alec Baldwin fired a gun on the set of the movie “Rust” and mistakenly killed cinematographer Halyna Hutchins. The gun was declared “cold” before it was fired, leaving the crew members shocked in the aftermath of Hutchins’ death. An investigation is still underway as the friends and family of 42-year-old Hutchins mourn her loss.

Baldwin has since made an appearance in which he stressed, “She was my friend. She was my friend.” In an official [Tweet](#), he states, “There are no words to convey my shock and sadness regarding the tragic accident that took the life of Halyna Hutchins . . . My heart is broken for her husband, their son, and all who knew and

loved Halyna.” His wife Hilaria has likewise expressed remorse, in addition to highlighting her husband’s grief as a result of the incident. In an Instagram post on October 30, she shared a picture holding her husband’s hand with the caption, “I love you and I’m here.”

Baldwin’s shooting has provoked antagonistic responses from those who oppose his political views. He has formerly expressed discontent with the National Rifle Association (NRA), which sparked controversy from conservatives. In 2018, Baldwin tagged the NRA spokesperson in a [Tweet](#) that said, “The Second Amendment is not a moral credit card that buys you all the guns you want. That law needs to be rethought.” Statements like this combined with his fatal accident have created the perfect storm for his ideological opponents to attack him.

In light of the incident, Donald Trump Jr. has begun selling shirts that say “Guns don’t kill people, Alec Baldwin does.” This is a parody of the common phrase “Guns don’t kill people, people kill people,” which is typically used by those who oppose gun control. For Trump Jr., this merchandise serves a multifaceted role: he can ridicule Baldwin, who infamously parodied his father Donald Trump on “Saturday Night Live,” while also furthering his own political beliefs. He also reaps financial profit from those who already agree with him.

Considering Baldwin’s outspoken remorse and the grief of Halyna’s loved ones, twisting the situation for political and monetary gain seems particularly insensitive. This behavior marks an instance where political alliances have resulted in cruel behavior that discounts the humanity of one’s ideological opponents. Importantly, this behavior is not unique to Republicans—citizens on both sides of the aisle have arguably contributed to the degradation of our political discourse. And the state in which it currently stands is tragic.

I realize that the phrase “both sides” reflects a notoriously controversial angle. To be perfectly clear, this is not intended as an argument for political neutrality. It is imperative that people determine their own views based on critical thinking rather than walk an indecisive tightrope. It also does not mean that all parties are equal in their shortcomings and inadequacies. Instead, my point in calling out both groups is that there are ways that we could *a//*learn to better communicate with each other. Furthermore, there are instances where we must be kinder to each other if we are to arrive anywhere good in the next several years. This issue is particularly relevant as fragmented, emotionally-charged battles break out each week across

social media—ones where people often seem to forget that they are speaking to other humans.

Rather than recount several instances of political incivility in America, I think it is critical that we pay attention to the roots of our political views. As Gregory Brown and Mitchel Moffit note in a fascinating [video](#) on the biology of politics, studies suggest that liberals are more likely to have a larger [anterior cingulate cortex](#), which is associated with the ability to control and manage uncomfortable emotions. Conversely, conservatives tend to have larger amygdalas, which aid in [processing](#) fear and threatening stimuli. This data is likewise discussed in [“Scientific American.”](#)

Brown and Moffit suggest that biological trends may explain why liberals and conservatives tend to see the world in such diametrically opposed ways. They state, “in a world that’s being increasingly characterized by its divisions, perhaps an important aspect of unity involves using neuroscience to better understand each other’s differences.” Indeed, considering the role of biology on our views may be a useful avenue for comprehending our varying perspectives.

In addition to the potential role of biology in influencing one’s views, another fundamental factor is the way that they are raised. As Christopher Ojeda and Peter K. Hatemi note in the [“American Sociological Review,”](#) the majority of children align themselves with whatever political party they think their parents are a part of. Sometimes this characterization is incorrect, but most children align themselves with what they perceive to be their parents’ political beliefs. This underscores the idea that respect and loyalty for one’s parents is another crucial, influencing factor.

One other fundamental trend in politics is that people tend to remain in the party that they register for when they are 18. As Ethan Kaplan and Sharun Makund state in an [empirical study](#) of voting data, “taking a political position such as a decision to register (or not register) for a political party, can in and of itself be a critical determinant of future political identity.” Furthermore, they state that the 9/11 attacks caused over 2% more of new Californian voters to register for the Republican party. This research further contributes to the list of potential factors—biological, familial, and environmental—that often affect a person’s political view.

So what is the significance of this data, and how does it relate to political civility? Does it mean that we should attribute everyone’s politics to factors that are outside of their control or conscious perception? I don’t think so. It does mean that our

political allegiances are often more nuanced than we like to admit. It is common in today's society to label those on the other side of the spectrum as evil, vile, and immoral—which is what gives people like Trump Jr. the motivation to use a fatal shooting for profit. In reality, most people do not wake up in the morning and think “what is the most negative, selfish way that I can influence the world.” We support what we think is right based on the values that were instilled in us as children. We follow our biological and social inclinations. Sometimes these positions are incorrect, and sometimes they are not—and it is our duty to set aside our egos, to critically think, and to make the most informed decisions that we can.

Ultimately, it is imperative that we recognize the unique combination of biological, social, and external factors that may affect our outlook on the world. We should take care to remember this when we are inclined to attack one another—when we are moved to insult peoples' families, their character, and their livelihood. We should remember it when tempted to take advantage of tragedy for political gain. Most of all, we should remember it in order to retain our humanity in every interaction that we have with those around us.