

Andrews University

## Digital Commons @ Andrews University

---

The Student Movement v. 107 (2022-2023)

Student Movement

---

9-29-2022

### The Student Movement Volume 107 Issue 3: Running Home: Andrews Alumni Return to Campus

Caryn Cruz

Grace No

Gloria Oh

Wambui Karanja

Solana Campbell

*See next page for additional authors*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/sm-107>



Part of the Education Commons

---

---

**Authors**

Caryn Cruz, Grace No, Gloria Oh, Wambui Karanja, Solana Campbell, Amelia Stefanescu, Jonathon Woolford-Hunt, Alannah Tjhatra, Taznir Smalling, Terika Williams, Marcel Mattox, Valerie Akinyi, Abby Shim, Reagan McCain, Melissa Moore, and Desmond H. Murray

## Running Home

ANDREWS ALUMNI RETURN TO CAMPUS



Photo by Darren Heslop

# Humans

---

## HUMANS

# Meet Meryen Gonzalez, AUSA Religious VP

Interviewed by: Caryn Cruz [09.29.22](#)



Photo by AUSA Religion VP - Meryen Gonzalez

---

*I recently had the pleasure of interviewing Meryen Gonzalez (sophomore, digital communications). Born and raised in Panama as a pastor's kid, an avid animal-lover, and full of an unmistakable passion for spirituality, Meryen divulged the details behind her new position as Religious Vice President for AUSA this school year.*

**How do you think your position creates a better campus environment for AU's student body?**

I think the position of religious vice president is a blessing and an incredible opportunity to impact the campus. What solidifies our foundation for success is our ongoing communion with God. It is necessary that as a campus we are aware of the need we have in order to get closer to Christ every day. In this position I find the resources and opportunities to create spaces where students can have an encounter with Christ in community, discipleship, and fellowship.

**What is your vision concerning the student body this year?**

There's a big need to live in a relationship with Christ. I think that many of us have turned our religion into a routine. Among so many day-to-day tasks, Saturday has become a day off where "I go to church with my friends and nothing else." We must experience a revival where we can share Christ every second of the day. Where we understand that Jesus Christ is looking for a generation that knows Him in spirit and truth.

**What about the goals that you have in mind for the AUSA team?**

Our goal as a student association is to generate spiritually memorable activities for students. I want to organize events where the Holy Spirit can work powerfully in the hearts of this campus and where we can all feel like sons and daughters of the one who died for us on that cross.

**Why were you interested in holding the Religious Vice position for AUSA?**

I felt a call to put my talents at the service of God wherever I was. During the summer, I went through a challenging stage in my spiritual life due to situations in which I regressed spiritually and knew that they had distanced me from God. The voices of guilt and shame destroyed my self-esteem, worth, and relationship with God. One day while praying and crying, I told God I did not know what he wanted from me. I said to him that my life felt empty and that I did not have the desire to approach him, that I felt confused and lost. I begged him to show me the way, and as soon as I said Amen, I got an email saying I had been chosen to be RVP. I received the grace and mercy of God acting in my life and telling me that I am enough, worthy, and chosen despite the enemy's voices. This experience made me realize that there is a mission to make my generation see: Christ chose you before you were born, you are worthy and loved, and your sins do not detract from his love but rather make you the object of his healing grace to speak words of freedom and life to others.

**What prior experiences or positions have prepared you to take on the Religious Vice role?**

I think that growing up watching my father's work as a pastor, helped me to learn all the work behind coordinating evangelistic events for young people. I have been part of logistics teams at congresses in Panama and I have had the opportunity to participate in mission trips in different places. I think that has helped me understand a little bit about cross-cultural evangelism. And because our campus has amazing diversity and it is important to know about the different ways in which we express our worship to God. I was part of AUSA in the 2021-2022 year and that helped me to meet people and to create a support circle. I was a leader of small groups with PMC in Lamson Hall in 2020 and 2021. And lastly, I have a great passion to tell others about the God that changed my life.

**Do you have a favorite verse or Bible passage that helps direct your intentions for the school year?**

Exodus 4:11-12 encourages me and Micah 6:8 is what reminds me of God's desire and purpose for my life.

**What has been your favorite aspect of being AUSA's RVP so far?**

The opportunity to connect with other leaders around campus to grow in our spiritual life and to generate spiritual events for the students.

**Any last, parting words?**

Never give up on Christ because believe me, he will never give up on you. The king of the universe gave his life for you and wants to use you to save others. If you are interested in being part of the planning of religious events this year and putting your talents at the service of God on campus, write to me at [meryen@andrews.edu](mailto:meryen@andrews.edu). We are looking for people interested in event planning. God bless you!

HUMANS

# Seasons of Change: Alumni Weekend 2022

Grace No 09.29.22



Photo by Randy Ramos

---

Andrews University recently hosted an Alumni Homecoming event, honoring different graduated classes through many events over the course of the weekend. Students from Andrews participated in the homecoming through performances, organizing events, and enjoying the various programs hosted by our school. I asked students who attended different events about their experiences and what they enjoyed about Alumni weekend!

I performed at the Alumni weekend Wind Symphony concert, and here was a lot of work that went into the concert. Even though it felt a little last minute, in all my years attending the school it felt like the best Alumni concert we've ever done. The performance was really fun and it was good to see everyone putting in their efforts and hard work for the concert. One thing I was frustrated about was that the audience etiquette left a bit to be desired—there was a lot of coughing and talking

during performances. I felt a lack of appreciation for the music repertoire that we had put on which is unfortunate. However overall, it went well especially compared to the dress rehearsal. – Nathan Cheng (senior, music)

It was fun to meet other people who attended Andrews, like looking back on history. It made me realize how well established our school is and well connected. I can't wait for next year's events as well! The concert was also nice to listen to, and I appreciated hearing the gifts that God blessed them with. – Chris Adams (sophomore, computer science)

I went to the history and political science picnic and had a really engaging time meeting new people and chatting with my peers in different departments. I liked having the opportunity to socialize with Andrews alumni and getting to know past students. The food and weather were both really nice, and I'm excited for more events like this in the future. – Bailey Young (junior, accounting)

I participated in the health and wellness expo that took place after the run/walk relay. Personally, I thought the expo went really well. There were a lot of cool booths and cute therapy dogs, and I did hearing screenings for the communication and science disorders booth. I also went to the alumni basketball game which was so entertaining and fun! – Vernisha Hodge (senior, speech language pathology and audiology)

With parents who have been to Andrews, it was fun to take a peek at their youth, hearing all the memories they made while they were going to school here. I loved seeing another part of the Andrews community and of course the food was great. I loved that there were so many different events available to attend throughout the weekend on campus. – Tyler Lee (senior, business)

Since I'm the Impact social media coordinator, I was mainly working at the Impact event. I thought that the music had a really great impact that night on everybody, and there's a video we have posted on Instagram where you can see that the music stopped but people just kept singing and it was really the highlight of the night. The preaching was okay, but personally I felt the music in the beginning and end was what allowed us to really appreciate the alumni—the participation aspect of it where we all sang together. – Nzeyimana Juliette (sophomore, marketing and psychology)

The harvest event was really cozy and had good fall vibes! The weather combined with drinking hot chocolate, eating smores, and going on a hayride made a nice



vibe and all of it made me feel more relaxed and at ease. It really felt like fall was coming and it's making me look forward to more of this season. – Anali Guzman (junior, public health)

Overall, Alumni Weekend was packed with nostalgia, love, and vibes!

## HUMANS

# Summer Mission Trip Interview with Nick Bishop

Interviewed by: Gloria Oh [09.29.22](#)



Photo by Nick Bishop

---

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)

Whenever I think of mission work, the first Bible verses that come to my mind are these Bible verses from Matthew 28. These two Bible verses have been preached frequently in the context of missionary service, and I think many of us share a similar experience. These quotes have encouraged many to join the mission work, but personally, it deterred me from participating in those activities, as I interpreted mission as the spread of the gospel, and I did not see myself "filled with spirit."

However, Nick Bishop (junior, psychology) shares that every individual, regardless of their talents or belief, has something to contribute to the mission work. He describes the mission as a manifestation of love towards our neighbor through action, not words, just like it is written in Matthew 25:40 "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." And caring does not require Adventist background or even Christian background. We all have it. Thus, Nick believes we all have what is needed in the mission field. He tells us more about his thoughts and experiences in this interview.

**First of all, could you tell me where you went over the Summer and how everything worked out for you? I am pretty sure there was a variety of mission fields available to the students. How did you make up your decision?**

I went to the Hogar de Niños (which translates to children's home) in Santa Barbara, Honduras, over the summer. I actually have already visited them before summer back in December of 2021 as a part of a mission trip with Dr. Glenn Russell in the religion department. So I was able to have a preview of what my experience would be like if I visited them in the Summer. Most importantly, I absolutely loved my winter mission trip experience there, mainly because of the personal connection I built with the kids. Learning not only the names of the 55 kids, but hearing some of their stories made it very clear to me that the work is undone. I think that was what gave me assurance to decide to serve there for a longer time, as well as the fact that I believe God always has us where he wants, when he wants us. I followed my heart and his guidance, and that led me to Honduras.

**I also noticed on Instagram that you asked the Andrews community to support your mission trip by donating school supplies through Amazon. Could you elaborate more on how this project happened, and how the community has responded to you?**

Since I had the orphanage directors' contact information, I was able to research what the kids there needed and how to bring it to them. My mom suggested making an Amazon wish list based on those needs, so we worked on that together; some items were school supplies, soccer balls, shoes, hygiene products, medicine, and books. The list was extensive, yet every single one of them was provided by the community soon after I posted on my social media that I needed their support. I also fundraised a trip to the beach and doubled my goal overnight, which provided many of the kids the opportunity to see the beach for the first time in their lives. I was so shocked and blessed to witness how the Andrews community responded to the fundraisers. I am grateful to everyone, including the Andrews Instagram page, who reposted and shared the story. I truly felt supported by them.

**What were your expectations as you were heading to Honduras? Did things turn out to be the way you expected? If so, or not, could you describe more about your experience there?**

I didn't have many expectations going into my trip to Honduras; I thought it was better not to expect things so I wouldn't be disappointed if things didn't turn out the way I expected. I did pick up more roles besides my initial role as time passed. When I started out, I was told I would be helping with classes and making sure the kids there did their assignments. By the time I was done, I was given the roles of teaching reading, Spanish, English, mathematics, religion, welding, and helping kids learn maintenance work of all sorts. But the best role I had was to be a friend to each kid. Another key role I played was to be a listener, to provide a safe and warm place where all beliefs and desires were welcomed and were to be heard. My experience in Honduras was so beautiful, and the friendship I formed with the people there is the biggest blessing God has given me in this life.

**Other than gathering the school supplies by donations, how else did you prepare yourself for the mission trip? Did you find the need to learn something new, have counseling with pastors, or work to save money to make this mission trip start and end successfully?**

I prepared myself by praying and having trust; I trusted that God was leading me on the path to do something great. The biggest thing I did was trust God's plan. Although it was hard for people to understand why I was spending my summer there, I knew God understood, and that was all I needed. Other than that, I had to work to pay for the plane tickets. I also received advice from my mentors here at

Andrews, like Teela Ruehle and Chaplain José; they encouraged me and helped me out a lot.

**How, if it did, has the mission trip changed your perspective about our world or your spiritual life?**

Something that changed through my mission experience follows a quote that a dear friend of mine, Nathan Fernandez, shared with me during my time there: "Don't just read the word; live the word." In the gospels of the Bible, we don't see Jesus sitting in church for hours getting preached to or preaching to others. We see God forming relationships, healing, and always out with the community he has been placed to serve (Hint: His community is the world). We are called to live like Jesus, and all that means is to live in love. To do all things with love is not a matter of religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, social status, or economic status. I learned through my time in Honduras that my role was, and is, to love everyone I interacted with as Jesus has done.

**To extend the conversation about spiritual life, do you think that Andrews University's student mission trip could be a valuable experience for even those who are not spiritually active or are not part of the Adventist faith?**

Absolutely. Serving in the capacity of a missionary isn't just about religion. It's about devoting kindness and love, however that may look for you. Some use the Bible as a resource for that, and others don't. In my experience, they called me family, and I called them family. I didn't feel like I was there as a missionary but someone just having fun with his family. I enjoyed every drop of sweat that poured down my face under the sun and every hug that poured out of their hearts. And that has nothing to do with religion or spirituality.

Lastly, could you please provide a piece of advice to everyone who is considering participating in the mission trip? Or you could also encourage people who did not consider participating and tell them why so!

My advice is if you're already considering it, God has probably placed it in your mind for a reason, so go! If you haven't considered it yet, I strongly recommend considering the idea of being in a place where you could help others—and start there. Then, talk to people around you; see the mission director near you, and converse about the idea. I think once you've done that, your next step will be on the airplane to whatever destination God has placed you to. My time in Honduras was the greatest thing I've ever done or been a part of my entire life. I believe it will also

be the same thing for you if you devote yourself entirely to the mission you are a part of. So do yourself a favor and just go! And I'm here if there are any questions, my email is [nicklaus@andrews.edu](mailto:nicklaus@andrews.edu).

## Arts & Entertainment

---

### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Alumni Homecoming Gala

Wambui Karanja [09.29.22](#)



Photo by Randy Ramos

---

This past Saturday night: September 24 at 8 pm, the various musical ensembles of Andrews University presented a beautiful array of instrumental and choral pieces at the annual Alumni Gala Concert, held at the Howard Performing Arts Center. Performances featured the Wind Symphony, directed by Byron Graves; the

Symphony Orchestra, directed by Marc Élysée; and the University Singers and University Chorale, both directed by Steven Zork.

The Homecoming Gala is a fondly cherished event during Alumni Weekend each year at AU. Returning alumni gather to reminisce with affection on their time at Andrews, as many of them may have been a part of these musical groups. As a member of the Symphony Orchestra myself, I can imagine the added layer of excitement a performance like this may bring for someone who has performed in an AU musical ensemble. Being surrounded by various instruments that all function together to produce masterpieces of music is truly incredible. The Gala gives alumni an opportunity to reflect on these beloved memories while welcoming the talents of the current generation of fine musicians.

The night opened with several captivating selections from the Wind Symphony, beginning with “The Washington Post” by John Philip Sousa. This march has remained one of this nation’s most renowned marches since its composition in 1889, originally created for performance by the United States Marine Band. The piece has a steady percussive beat, simulating the beat of military drums. It evokes feelings of grandeur and magnificence. “The Washington Post” was followed by highlights from the American theatre classic “The Music Man” (Meredith Wilson/arr. Alfred Reed), which was more cheerful and light-hearted in nature. The symphony’s performance of “‘Danzon’ from Fancy Free” (Leonard Bernstein/arr. John Krance) would best be characterized as greatly intriguing, as there were many moving parts to the piece. It required the audience to be attentive and listen to how each distinctive part fit into the bigger picture. The Wind Symphony ended as it was begun—with a march. John Chetham’s “A.B.A Symphonic March (“Kitty Hawk”)” is both melodically pleasing as well as containing the staple component of a march—a consistent, repetitive beat.

Following the Wind Symphony was a performance by the Symphony Orchestra. The three pieces played, “Hungarian March from the Damnation of Faust” (Hector Berlioz), “‘Nimrod’ from Enigma Variations” (Edward Elgar), and “Romeo and Juliet Suite No. 2” (Sergei Prokofiev) followed a strategically and splendidly placed sequence. The performance started out with the lively composition of Berlioz, echoing some of the core elements of the marches performed by the Wind Symphony. This was followed by the slow and reflective “Nimrod.” This piece gave the audience the potential opportunity to ponder the deeper, more introspective aspects of life. The orchestra ended with a pensive and striking presentation of

Prokofiev's "Romeo and Juliet." This piece was intense, providing the proper backdrop for its accompanying story, Romeo and Juliet.

The night concluded with selections from the University Chorale and University Singers. The Chorale began with a delightful rendition of the classic "Amazing Grace" (arr. Will Todd). At the first sound of the singers' voices, the hall was filled with a sense of serenity and calmness. Johannes Brahms' "Ein Deutsches Requiem, op. 44 – How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place" was deeply ethereal and angelic in nature. The University Singers then took over with the short and refreshing "Bourée," composed by Johann Sebastian Bach and arranged by Ward Swingle. Their next selection, "Warm Summer Sun" (Stephen Chatman) featured a solo by Jason Marquez (senior, music performance major)—who masterfully added a layer of depth and artistry with his clarinet. This piece felt exactly like how I would imagine it would based on the title. It evoked feelings of warmth, ease, and comfort. The last pieces of the evening were the University Singers' performances of the timeless spiritual "Steal Away" (arr. Gwyneth Walker) and "Unclouded Day" (arr. Shawn Kirchner)—both of which were lyrically rich and empowering.

The Alumni Gala is a beautiful representation of what it means to present and share in the gift of music. Symphonic and choral music has a lovely way of making us more perceptive of the nuances and artistic details that make art so beautiful. It is of such value that we have the opportunity to experience such beauty on our very own campus!

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Currently...

Solana Campbell 09.29.22

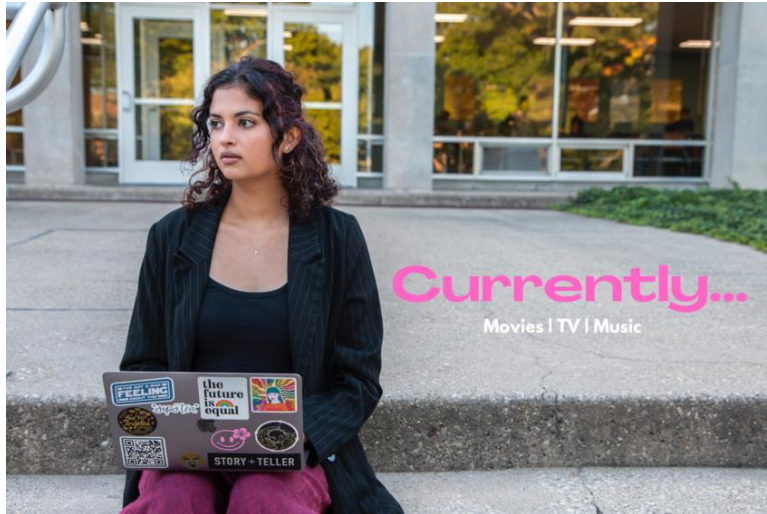


Photo by Kayla-Hope Bruno

---

It's Issue 3 of the Student Movement, and I cannot lie, the pressure is starting to build. Classes are ramping up, projects are starting, and clubs are organizing events. All of us are starting to feel the burn of a stressful college experience. So, why not something to take the edge off? Below, I have once again assembled a list of new fast and fun content for you to consume. So if you're looking for some way to reward yourself after hours straight of studying, maybe check out a new movie or start a tv show. Either way, "Currently..." is the place to find your new obsession.

### **Movies**

#### Blonde

Controversy has swirled around the NC-17 rated Marilyn Monroe "biopic" since its release was announced. The film is actually based on the 2000 novel by Joyce Carol Oates, and is a fictionalized take on the rise and eventual demise of Monroe's film career. Early reviews laud Ana de Armas' impressive acting, but say the story seems more trauma porn than anything else. It's already received a lot of flak for graphic sexual assault scenes and for encouraging more consumption of Marilyn



Monroe's oft-fraught-with-trauma life. Most critics think it's time to lay her to rest and find a new way to exhibit our feminism, and this film certainly emphasizes why that might be important. Whether you choose to stream this for the sake of pop culture or not (and I certainly wouldn't blame you if you chose not to), remember that Marilyn Monroe was a real complex human woman, not a fictionalized character to further a plot. *Netflix; September 28.*

### [Argentina, 1985](#)

Do you love a classic true story? Do you love courtroom drama? Well then you'll love this pick. "Argentina, 1985" is the true story of how a public prosecutor, a young lawyer, and their inexperienced legal team dared to prosecute the heads of Argentina's bloody military dictatorship. The film promises real-life intrigue, politicking, and the triumph of good over evil. It's also already been selected by Argentina as their Oscars candidate for the 2023 battle for Best International Feature. *Amazon Prime; September 30.*

## **TV Shows**

### [The Walking Dead](#)

The Walking Dead released the first half of their final season several months ago, but the second half wraps up the series in the next couple of weeks. Here's to hoping they do a better job than "Game of Thrones" with some of your favorite characters. A standout in the zombie corner of the film industry, "The Walking Dead" set standards for stories that had never existed before and helped us to explore the beauty of being human among those who have been stripped of that privilege. *AMC; October 2.*

### [The Girls at the Back](#)

Another banger of a Spanish-language series from Netflix releases just in time for Hispanic Heritage Month. "Girls at the Back" is an effortless, emotional show that explores the friendships among several women while pulling at your heartstrings. The plot is that one of the women has cancer, and so the group gets back together to complete her bucket list before she passes away. The catch is, we don't know which character has cancer. Stream for a heart wrenching look at female friendship, the fragility of life, and the beauty in the human experience. *Netflix; Already released.*

### [Entergalactic](#)

Entergalactic is a brand-new animated series from Netflix and acclaimed musician Kid Cudi. The series stars Kid Cudi as the main character, and features well-known

stars Timothee Chalamet, Ty Dolla \$ign, Teyana Taylor, and more in various roles. Critics are saying the series is a celebration of human connection and the various networks of love we all share. Kid Cudi brings a whole new meaning to “visual album” with this most recent release, since it accompanies his brand new album release that goes by the same name. *Netflix; September 30.*

## **Music**

### ["Entergalactic"; Kid Cudi](#)

What a lead in! The same day the Entergalactic series drops on Netflix, Kid Cudi releases his newest album, full of fresh tracks and sounds. Personally, I view Cudi as an innovator in the world of music. He imbued rap and hip-hop with a shot of emotional vulnerability, offering artists the space to sing/rap about their true feelings and tackling deep topics like depression. In his documentary [“A Man Named Scott”](#), he said fans shared that his music saved their lives and led them out of dark spaces. The documentary, which I recommend, also explores the convoluted path his music took, leading him from good mental spaces to darker ones, something noticeable if you really explore his discography. This upcoming album seems to explore a Cudi in love, and features Ty Dolla \$ign, Don Toliver, and Steve Aoki in various places on the tracklist. Skipping this one is not an option. *September 30.*

### ["The End, So Far"; Slipknot](#)

Currently... promises diversity, so Slipknot, a long-standing facet of American heavy metal culture, can't miss out on a feature. The group comes out with their seventh studio album this week, and although I can't say I'm as excited for this one as I am for Kid Cudi's “Entergalactic”, the release is still worth a feature. If you love music whose emotion is played out in heavy drum beats and screaming (maybe this is a cheaper option than a rage room!), Slipknot's new album promises to be worth your valuable time. Their artistry is top-tier in their genre, so this is worth checking out. *September 30.*

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Hispanic Heritage Month : Highlighting the Beauty of Hispanic Creativity

Amelia Stefanescu 09.29.22



Photo by Kayla-Hope Bruno. Images from Google.

---

It is once again that time of the year: an occasion to celebrate and highlight the contributions of Hispanic Americans to history and culture within the United States. For this week's Student Movement, we wanted to highlight the artists that you, the student body, enjoy and look up to, giving our readers the opportunity to celebrate Hispanic culture through the art you appreciate and love. Throughout this article, you have the occasion to meet someone who loves your favorite artist as much as you do, or maybe you can discover a completely new artist who you will absolutely adore!

Yulian A. Tinoco (graduate, clinical mental health counseling) talks here about an influential artist whose work he enjoys, saying:

“He is an actor that passed away almost ten years ago: Roberto Gómez Bolaños (better known as Chespirito [Little Shakespeare] or ‘El Chavó del 8’). What inspires me about him is that he always brought joy to people’s lives and had that as his motivator, which in a way, is what I look up to; just being a person who cares for other people, and he always just kept his community in mind.”

Bolaños was a Mexican actor in the 1960s who wrote and starred in children’s comedy shows. His most famous shows were “El Chavo del Ocho,” in which he played an 8-year-old boy who often took refuge inside a wooden rain barrel in a Mexican neighborhood, and “El Chapulín Colorado,” in which he played a good-hearted superhero who gets involved in humorous situations. He has been celebrated in Latin America for his creative writing and colorful characters, and continues after his death to inspire people to make those around them smile.

Abraham Bravo (senior, political science) speaks out about the impact that Julio Jaramillo had on his childhood:

“When I was younger, my grandfather and father used to play songs from an artist from the 1950s named Julio Jaramillo. His songs always consisted of themes of love, heartbreak, and a nostalgia for the past—all in Spanish. Old romantics, the patriarchs of my family are, and artists like Jaramillo remind me of those values that our culture long has forgotten. While I do this often, during Hispanic Heritage Month, I take time to reflect on the family histories and values that I’ve inherited. I scrutinize and take pride in my family; always looking back, learning to be better to bring them forward. For I haven’t forgotten my culture and nor shall my future children when it becomes their time. So I guess like my father and grandfather I’m still, in a way, a romantic.”

Julio Jaramillo was an Ecuadorian singer who, as Abraham Bravo mentioned, wrote and performed songs with his trustworthy guitar which related to the romantic aspects of life. During his childhood, he discovered his beloved instrument through the means of a neighbor, and he went on to make his own guitar out of bamboo before the age of 17. Of his 2,200 songs, his most famous one is “Nuestro Juramento” (Our Oath).

Brandon Alvarez (junior, biochemistry and business administration) discusses his passion for Juan Luis Guerra, saying :

“A Hispanic artist that inspires me is honestly Juan Luis Guerra. He’s an artist that gets you on your feet, all the while producing music that is so wholesome. I literally listen to him when getting ready or when the sun is out and I’m feeling my best self. I celebrate him during this month by blasting his music in my car or singing it in my head when brushing my teeth. So yeah, I love that guy!”

Juan Luis Guerra is a Dominican artist still active today who specializes in *musica tropicale* (tropical music) and a pop style of Merengue and Bolero and Afro-pop/Latin fusion. He is one of the most popular latin artists today, having sold over 30 million records worldwide. His most notable works include “Ojalá Que Llueva” (I Wish It Would Rain) and “Mi Bendición” (My Blessing).

Lastly, Nick Bishop (psychology: brain and cognition) talks about his personal experience with his younger brother, offering a moving personal story on how artists close to us can inspire us, saying :

“A Hispanic artist who has inspired me is my brother, Nolan. He is an Argentinian-American glassblower in a field where he is an underrepresented minority, but still manages to succeed at a high level. My brother is a dreamer and has inspired me to dream big my entire life, which is so important to the Hispanic community. I celebrate him by sharing his story to others, in hopes to light the fire inside of others like his story has lit the fire inside of me. Te Quiero Noli [I love you, Noli]!”

Nick’s story and admiration of his brother reminds us that all of us are artists who are going through the canvas of life painting our own personal stories with a unique brush. We can inspire others through our own actions as well as be inspired by those around us, may they be celebrities or loved ones.

Events such as Hispanic Heritage Month are always a wonderful time to immerse oneself in a new culture and to learn about the achievements, difficulties, and lifestyle of the highlighted people. We are reminded of and learn to understand the human experience through the eyes of those around us, and it can be an illuminating time for everyone involved. This momentous occasion is not only for those of Hispanic heritage, but is a celebration for everyone to grow together and to discover something new. Take the time during this year’s Hispanic Heritage Month to communicate with your Hispanic friends and loved ones and discover these wonderful artists who have changed the course of history. Watch one of Chespirito’s shows, listen to Jaramillo’s beautiful music, or watch the movie adaptation of “In The Heights” (2021)!

Happy Hispanic Heritage Month!

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Get Up and Go to Iceland

Jonathon Woolford-Hunt [09.29.22](#)



Photo by Jonathan Woolford-Hunt

---

I love to travel. Looking back on my childhood, some of my fondest memories are while traveling with my family. So when the opportunity to go to Iceland opened up, I was immediately compelled to go and experience Icelandic culture as well as take in what the country had to offer scenically. I had been to Iceland once before, but only for a ten hour layover. This time I was with a group of peers, and I stayed for 10 days. The Communications Department at Andrews University organized this trip from start to finish—and while I was looking forward to connecting with the people I went with, I was also excited for the new places we would visit and the new types of food I would have the opportunity to experience. I knew some of the group members already, but there were others I was not familiar with at all. This was something that worried me a bit, as during my last trip to Iceland, I remembered its overall lack of ethnic diversity. When looking around at my peers,

I noticed that I was the only African American going to Iceland. Although I looked forward to the challenge of immersing myself into a different culture, I was also a little sad to see the lack of cultural diversity within the group I was traveling with. This would end up playing a role in many situations to come.

While in Iceland, one of the hardest things to get used to was the [four hour] time difference. I was exhausted for the first three days and had just started to get in sync with local time by the time we were getting ready to return. Once I got over the time difference, I was finally able to enjoy all of the things Iceland had to offer. We saw different natural wonders like waterfalls and mountain ranges; we bonded with each other and got used to the dynamics of the group. Traveling with a group is much different than traveling by yourself, or even traveling with your family. Everyone has their own way of handling themselves and everyone has different habits and perspectives about how to manage different situations. Although people might think this was a hard thing to handle, I believe it's what made this trip fun. We were tasked with helping out Hope Channel Iceland. They needed us to take pictures and interview leaders such as the Hope Channel president. We also had to help revitalize their website as well as generally find ways to bring a young person's perspective to Hope Channel Iceland. When we started shooting B-Roll and conducting the interviews, that's when I believe we really came together as a unit. Many of the locations we were doing the interviews in were cold and windy; it took a lot of time, energy and focus to get things right. In the first run-through, we were like deer caught in the headlights. Although we had the technical knowledge from classes, we did not have the experience of shooting in the field. This was a challenge for all of us, but when we banded together and started designating different jobs to each individual on the team, shooting began to go a lot smoother. This experience opened my eyes, and I realized that I could see myself doing this as a job. The routine of traveling to different locations and talking to people of different backgrounds as well as being able to capture beautiful landscapes is something that I don't think I could ever get tired of doing.

There were lots of memorable moments on this trip, whether it was playing music loudly as we drove through the Icelandic tundra or stopping to eat at a traditional Icelandic restaurant. Unfortunately, among those good experiences were also challenging ones. One that sticks out to me was my experience in an Icelandic supermarket in downtown Reykjavík. We were tasked with shooting B-Roll that day, and we were hungry after a few hours of filming. A group of us (students) went into a supermarket and picked up a few snacks. Now, as a result of growing up in

America as an African American, I have developed different habits that protect me from the reality of racism: things like never leaving a store without buying something, making sure my hands are visible at all times, or always getting a receipt from the store before I leave. Although I was no longer in America, I still, out of habit, did these things. On our way out of the store we got to the edge of the street and I heard a voice screaming “Sir, Stop!” I immediately stopped in my tracks and looked back. One of the cashiers was standing at the door and he said I did not pay. I knew I had paid and I was taken aback because he is the same one who was looking at me the entire time I paid. I complied and went back into the store only for him to realize it wasn’t me—it had been some other person who stole from the store. All he saw was that someone had not paid and went running after the ‘Black guy.’ This was particularly annoying because it wasn't like I was alone, either. I was with a group of my peers, and as mentioned before, they were all Caucasian. Out of a group of five students and various other customers that walked out when we did, he singled me out. Although the situation was quickly resolved and I was not arrested, there are far too many instances of Black people being wrongfully arrested and incarcerated.

Being Black, male and being wrongfully accused of stealing while I'm not even in America, showed me that the issue of racism has been spread all over the world. The media specifically has had an influence across cultures and national borders. The reality is that the population of Black people who live in or travel to Iceland is very low, so most native Icelandic people have little to no contact with Black people. This means that their only exposure to African Americans is through mass media and social media. All the imagery of African American males engaging in criminal activities spreads stereotypes around the world and impacts individuals perceptions. As a person who loves to travel and interact with different cultures, I am saddened by this reality, but I remain committed to trying to change stereotypical perceptions through positive interactions.

All in all, this trip was an awesome opportunity to experience Iceland culturally and expand my skills in the art of cinematography and photography. I also got the opportunity to connect with some very talented peers. As I move through my undergraduate years of college, questions arise such as ‘What do you hope to do in the future?’, ‘What jobs do you see yourself doing?’, and ‘How do you hope to grow as an individual while developing your career, as well as your purpose in life?’ It is my belief that trips like this help in this process. Being able to move outside of your comfort zone both with the use of different techniques and technology helps



expand your perspective. Additionally, getting more cultural exposure helps build character and develops you into a person who can live God's purpose among diverse people and in diverse populations. If you're interested in seeing a music video I shot abroad while in Iceland, click this [link](#).

The Communications Department plans on doing this trip again this summer. For more information about this trip and others like it, look out for the announcements from the Communications Department.

## News

---

### NEWS

# Alumni Take a Win at Saturday Night Game

Alannah Tjhatra [09.29.22](#)



Photo by Randy Ramos

---

Saturday, September 24 was a lively night for the Andrews University campus. Amidst music concerts and Hispanic Heritage celebrations, Alumni weekend was also in full swing. On Saturday night, the Alumni vs. Cardinals basketball tournament took place, in which the Alumni took the triumphant win, 68 - 65.

Michelle Thomas (sophomore, biochemistry) commented on her experience, saying, "I wasn't able to experience the alumni game during my freshman year, so I'm glad I was able to watch it this year. I have always loved basketball—and between the amount of fans showing up and the intensity of being neck [and] neck with each other, the game kept [us all] on our toes...It was quite a night to remember!"

It was a packed event: the bleachers and seats on the sidelines were soon crowded with students, staff, and Alumni; and as those seats filled up, only standing room remained. The players warmed up with free throws and three-pointers. The fluorescent lights flooded the whole gym space. Neon orange sneakers skidded against the freshly-shined floor.

At 9:00 PM, the event began. There were new and old faces on the court. Seasoned players on the current Cardinals team included Jesse Franklin (senior, wellness), player number 1; Andre Crayton (junior, exercise science), number 15; and Timmy Duado (senior, marketing), number 33. Familiar faces on the Alumni team included Mylon Weathers, a fresh Andrews graduate; and AU's very own VP Nixon.

During the first half, the Alumni team always remained just a few points ahead of the Cardinals. But with the large crowd cheering them on—there was a healthy support system for both the Alumni and the Cardinals—it was evident that all players were doing their best.

The halftime break soon approached, with the score at a close 38 Alumni - 34 Cardinals. The Gymnics took the court and delighted the audience with a bold gymnastics routine full of back handsprings, round offs, two-highs, and elevators. At the end of their routine, the male gymnasts took turns running to the net and, with the help of a mini trampoline, attempted to dunk a basketball. Cheers erupted every time someone made a bucket or jumped especially high. It was a good way to keep the audience energetic. Gymnics member Matthew Bourne (freshman, music education) commented later that night: "I'm happy our performance went according to plan. The dunks were good, especially since we only practiced that portion once."

Everyone was in high spirits by the end of the break. The Gymnics had infused the audience with more energy, and the players had gotten a little bit of downtime to catch their breaths. Good-natured betting went on among the spectators about who would dominate the rest of the game.

During the second half, however, a solid outcome remained unclear. The teams were tied 40 - 40, and scores remained close throughout the rest of the game. The middle portion of the second half was filled with missed buckets and loose balls as the players tired. At one point, two players literally dove into the audience sitting on the floor as they tried to take the ball.

The end was drawing near, and the players gave it one last push. It seemed that whenever the Cardinals caught up to the Alumni, the Alumni would pull ahead by a few points.

The last few minutes on the clock slipped away, and the audience erupted in cheers. Spectators jumped, hollered, and yelled, "Defense!" continuously.

In the last ten seconds, the Alumni were three points ahead. They tried to buy time by fouling the ball, and the tactic worked: when the buzzer went off, the end score was 68 Alumni - 65 Cardinals.

While some fans had come to support friends and loved ones, perhaps others had come to revisit their college experience for a little while. The game was a fun way to cap off Saturday night, especially for those visiting. Andre Crayton (junior, exercise science) reflected on the night, saying, "It was awesome to see some of our program's best players from the past face off with all the young talent of the current team. A great contest."

His fellow teammate Timmy Duado (senior, marketing) shared his experience, too: "Playing in the Alumni game [was] a very fun experience....I definitely felt [the energy] on Saturday night," and Mugabe Menani (freshman, nursing) shared this: "This year is a whole new chapter [for the Cardinals team], and we're just going to take every single day [to] make sure we get better. We are going to compete the hardest on the court, no matter [if we] win or lose. We will play until that final buzzer."

Spectator Kwesi Tuffour (senior, biology) shared his satisfaction with the Alumni's win: "I was rooting for the Alumni from the beginning of the game, and luckily they were able to secure the win in the last few seconds. The energy of the game was

fantastic, and it was nice seeing the Gymnics team perform during half time to keep everyone entertained for the rest of the game.”

Nick Zimmerman (junior, business) summed up the weekend as a whole quite nicely: “It was really awesome to see the Andrews students of old walk the campus that they helped create.”

Overall, the basketball game was a lovely way to spotlight current Andrews students as well as pay homage to the Andrews students of previous years. Both teams gave their best, showing their dedication to the sport and to our wonderful school.

## NEWS

# Bradley Harvest Run Interview with Andrews Students

Interviewed by: Gloria Oh [09.29.22](#)



Photo by L.M. Pittman

---

The Annual Bradley Family Harvest run was coordinated again this year by the Office of Alumni Services and the Andreasen Wellness Center. Although the weather was gloomy, the faces of the runners and walkers remained bright from the beginning to the end, reflecting the spirit of Dr. Bradley, who promoted running and an active lifestyle for the majority of his life. Out of the multitudes of participants, Grayce Kim (freshman, biology) ran the 10km race, while Ashlee-Rose Wilson (senior, religion and French), who “really hates running,” and Melissa Moore (sophomore, nutrition) ran the 5km race. Below, they share their experience.

**Have any of you ever participated in the Bradley Family Harvest Run before? Please share what motivated you to sign up this year and your experience during the race. If you are a returning runner, was this year any different from previous years?**

GK: This was my first Bradley Family Harvest Run, and I signed up because I wanted to get involved in more school activities as well as complete a personal goal, which is running a half marathon by the spring. This 10k was a perfect milestone for me to complete.

ARW: As you can guess, I've never done the Bradley Harvest Run or any run, really. I decided to sign up to join my friend Gloria and do something I had never done before. Before the race, I was honestly excited, especially since I knew I wouldn't be racing. Still, I was worried that the rain would ruin the race. During the race, I walked and talked most of the time. It was fantastic to make new friends and have a relaxing bit of exercise without any pressure. That was until the last mile of the run. A couple of the 10k runners began to catch up, so a few other walkers and I started to run. We wouldn't come completely last! That part was definitely the most difficult part of the race. Gasping, aching, and feeling like I was kind of dying. I ran, then walked, and then ran and walked some more. At last, I sprinted over the finish line! Finally, it was done!

MM: This is my second time participating in the Bradley Family Harvest Run 5k, as I also participated last year. I registered for the race because I am a runner, and I love participating in races. The energy from the spectators and the good sportsmanship of other participants encouraging each other make races like this a positive experience. I noticed a few changes this year, most of which were out of the control of the alum team that planned the event. The first difference was the

weather, which obviously no one at Andrews has any say over. It was very overcast and raining on and off (thankfully not during the race itself), while I remember the sun shining for most of the event last year. The drop in attendance was noticeable, but it's expected on rainy race day. Finally, this may sound like a tiny difference, but they did not hand out boxes to store the first-place finisher awards like they did last year. It is a small difference, but I very clearly noticed it because the first-place finisher awards are made of glass, and I am scared that being the clumsy human I am, it might break somehow."

**What aspect of the Bradley Family Harvest Run do you appreciate the most?**

GK: I appreciated how the run was on a trail. I've missed trail running since I got to college, and I wasn't aware of the different trails near campus, so this was definitely a fun race to participate in. I also appreciate the positive environment people at the stops made. It really helped me to get going.

ARW: I appreciated that I didn't actually need to run. In fact, I walked most of the 5k. The cool thing is that I wasn't the only one walking. A couple of other people were walking too, and we became new friends! It's a great reminder that being active doesn't have to look like fitness modeling. It's encouraging to see people of all races and fitness levels doing things like this. Also, I very much appreciated the precious post-race water and donuts!

MM: I appreciate the story behind the event. The naming of the event is a great way to honor Dr. Fay Bradley for his support of the school and his accomplishments. He qualified to run the Boston Marathon more than 30 times, which is very impressive! Even more importantly, it promotes a healthy lifestyle, which I am very passionate about. I want to help people improve their quality of life using lifestyle habits, and fun events like this are a good way to motivate people to live healthier.

**Do you think there is any space for improvement, and if so, where?**

GK: I think the only thing was making sure the trails were less slippery or difficult. I had a friend who was running, and it was her first time trail running, so she wasn't familiar with the techniques necessary to run in nature. The trail is nice for advanced runners, but people who just started picking up running would have had a difficult time.

MM: I think the health event afterward was a good idea, but the logistics of coupling it with the race could have been planned a little better. Also, making sure more people are aware of the event so that there are more participants would make it

more fun. Overall, I think the race is well planned for one of its size. I have run in races that didn't have running bibs with chips attached, or such a well-marked trail.

**I find races like this to encourage me to start training and stay active. It also reminds me of some memories of my cross country teammates and coaches back when I was in high school, so personally, it became something more than just a simple swift switching of legs! I would like to know whether running or exercise is a meaningful part of your life. If so, why, and what other events or things do you think the university can plan to help encourage the Andrews community to engage in a more active lifestyle?**

GK: Running and exercise are definitely a meaningful part of my life. It was the best coping method I found throughout my primary and secondary educational career, as well as growing mentally and physically into the person I am today. I think doing group hikes or backpacking would help many people to be actively engaged.

MM: Running is a significant part of my life. I work out using a lot of other methods as well, but running is my first love when it comes to sports. I started running in eighth grade and have been running ever since, although my training has toned down a lot since high school. Running is meaningful to me for many reasons. I used to hate running, but I started the activity to have a special time with my dad since my brothers got to play other sports with him that I didn't enjoy very much. Running became our special shared interest. The idea of running for fun grew on me, and then I continued running for the stress relief, health benefits, and ability to work towards a goal I never thought I could accomplish. One of the main reasons I run, however, is based on something said by the coach for the running club I was part of in the academy. He said, "I run because I can." I run because I do not want to waste the blessing of two good legs that so many of us take for granted. I run for all those who cannot run but wish they could.

Moving forward, I think the university can do a lot to promote a healthy lifestyle, like continuing to offer dorm cocurricular once a month for those who work out. They can also host active fun events like a 1-mile color run or games in Almost Anything Goes that don't make you realize you are doing something active. However, I think the greatest change will only come if more students get involved. Invite your friends to work out with you, go roller skating, or rock climbing. Also,

you shouldn't pressure people too much, especially if you know it's starting to make them uncomfortable, but positive peer pressure is a thing. Encourage your friends to be physically active, try new healthy foods, and live a healthier lifestyle in general. I know I have already had friends tell me I am inspiring them to try and live healthier lives. You can do the same.

## NEWS

# Hispanic Heritage Month-Mosaico: Colorism and Racism

Taznir Smalling, with additions by Terika Williams [09.29.22](#)

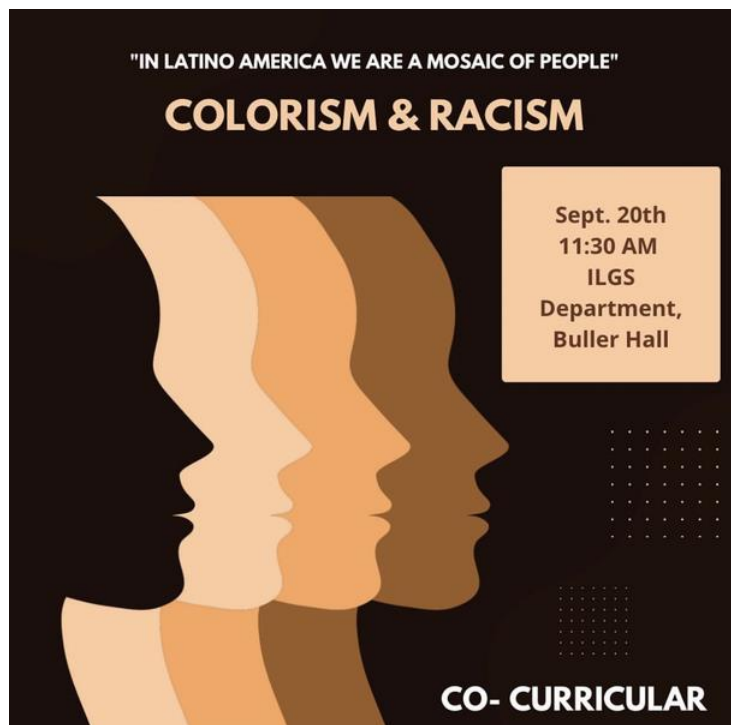


Photo by Jennifer Orozco, graphic artist

On September 20, during the Tuesday co-curricular short courses, Andrews University Latino Association (AULA) held an informative presentation on colorism and racism within the Hispanic community at Buller Hall. Dr. Maxwell, the



speaker, is the founder and CEO of Destined2Excel, an executive and life coaching firm in operation for almost 20 years. He earned a Ph.D. in Organizational Development Psychology with an emphasis in Executive Coaching, a Master's degree in Fine Arts. He is a Master's Certified Coach and Certified Coach Practitioner. Mr. Maxwell is a member of several organizations, including the World Coach Institute (WCI) and the Certified Coaches Federation (CCF). He was born in Panama and identifies as Afro-Latino.

Dr. Maxwell began his presentation by acknowledging God's creativity: "God is a very curious God," he said. "Look at the variety of animals He created—they are all of different shapes and sizes, and they have different interests." This observation can also be applied to humans. We are multifaceted, hold various worldviews, and have unique phenotypes. This is generally a positive aspect of our complexities as a species but at times our preconceived orientations can prevent us from understanding other perspectives. A very important point he made is that humans can choose to be closed-minded or open-minded. Testimonials were shared for the purpose of painting a picture of the world we live in. While we are all unique some people groups are elevated more than others. We live in a world where some people valued more than others due to their sexual orientation, skin color, ethnicity, and more.

After the presentation, during the question and answer session, I asked Dr. Maxwell, "Aren't you tired of asserting yourself in society?" He responded, "No, I am not. I make it my mission that people are educated on the current state of the world so that no one can live in a state of negligence." It's safe to say that his attitude towards sharing the story of marginalized people is a resolve that we should all have. Dr. Maxwell ended his presentation by encouraging the students to travel—and during our travels, we should go where the real people are. Travel is a tool that can help us to acquaint ourselves with the struggles of different people and our responsibility to aid their cause. To the question, "Should people of color be on guard against society so that when racism strikes, we are not deeply affected?" Dr. Maxwell responded, "Don't anticipate racism; develop a thick skin against it, deal with the problem at hand, and don't go looking for one." The application of Dr. Maxwell's advice is helpful for encountering those who choose to remain ignorant to the voice of subaltern people groups.

Only by getting to know the people can you understand them and experience their beauty. As a writer, student, and a person of color, I was blessed to not have encountered experiences where the world has been unkind to me because of my

skin color. But even if I do in the future, I have a new outlook because of Dr. Maxwell's presentation.

## Ideas

---

### IDEAS

# Ezra Miller and “The Flash”

Marcel Mattox 09.29.22



Photo by Gage Skidmore. Link - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/gageskidmore/27996260623/>

---

*Preface: Ezra Miller, as a genderqueer individual, uses they/them pronouns. So, in respecting their identity, those pronouns will be used throughout the article.*

Growing up, I've always been a superhero fan. Characters like Batman, Spiderman, the Avengers, and the Justice League were heroes I grew up with. They have played a central role in my life, so much so that I still feel like a kid as I see them on screen. So, naturally, I was thrilled to see DC's favorite speedster, Flash, hit the big screen in recent years. I was a huge fan of the earlier seasons of the CW's “The Flash.” I loved how hopeful the character was and the light that seemed to follow

him as he ran throughout the city. Because of these things, the Flash sped into my heart and is now my favorite superhero. So even though I was partial to Grant Gustin's version of the character, I was excited to see Ezra Miller's take on the role in Warner Brothers' live action "The Justice League." I was nervous about the mantle being passed on, especially to an actor I wasn't familiar with, but thankfully Miller brought a refreshingly quirky feel to the character, while still maintaining the familiar geekiness I've often seen with The Flash. The Flash was full of wit and hope, and that was still evident in Miller's portrayal. They were still the hero I loved. So the kid in me smiled and I was hyped for the upcoming film "The Flash" to hit big screens in 2023.

I was hyped. As of recently I am more concerned about the character's future and who the mantle has been passed on to. In recent years and even months, a string of [incidents and allegations](#) have surrounded Miller—from allegations of grooming, to assault, to even running from the police. The actor seemingly started spiraling down a dark path from their acclaimed career as the pandemic came onto the scene. I remember feeling conflicted and concerned when hearing this—concerned about what their actions entailed, but also what it meant for my favorite speedster. The actor's mental health and ongoing incidents have become noticeably dangerous—so much so that Stephen Chbosy, writer and director of "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" (a movie Miller had been in 2012) sent a [letter](#) to them during the allegations. He said, "I hope Ezra finds the light that they shined so brightly back when we shot the movie, because the kid I met was a remarkably magical person. And I always like to believe that that person is always there, and I hope that they can find the help that they need." As a movie nerd, I can't help but hope they find their light and help too.

Ezra recently provided a [statement](#) to Variety on the events, saying, "Having recently gone through a time of intense crisis, I now understand that I am suffering complex mental health issues and have begun ongoing treatment." They continue, "I want to apologize to everyone that I have alarmed and upset with my past behavior. I am committed to doing the necessary work to get back to a healthy, safe and productive stage in my life." They are now also seeking professional help since the incidents. Ezra, up to this point, has had several notable roles in movies and TV shows. They have been heralded as a LGBTQ+ icon for their openness on their sexuality and identity. For me, they were a new take on a character I've loved, and now I'm not so sure. It can be nerve wracking when a problematic person represents a beloved character, or even more broadly, represents identities, such

as being LGBTQ+ or a minority in a high position in media—especially since representation is so important. Growing up and seeing that representation in good or bad light can mean everything. It meant everything for me as a kid, and even now it means something for me as a Flash fan.

## IDEAS

# Greyhound Therapy and Forced Relocation

Valerie Akinyi [09.29.22](#)



Photo by Ash Gerlach on Unsplash

---

When most people think of long-distance trips, the four main viable transportation options are cars, planes, trains, and buses. In terms of the latter option, the Greyhound company is often the top contender for use. The popular bus company, however, has also been used to relocate specific demographics for decades—so much so that a term has been created to address the phenomenon: Greyhound Therapy.

The term Greyhound Therapy refers to authorities, either mental health or governmental, providing individuals with ‘free’ one-way tickets to transport them from one jurisdiction to another, often one thought to be better resourced and equipped to handle these so-called “troubled” [populations](#). Some cities that offer

these tickets, such as Key West, Florida, go as far as banning individuals from returning to their location of origin upon acceptance of the relocation [ticket](#). The term Greyhound Therapy originally, however, referred specifically to the solution some mental health facilities used in the mid-20th century to rid themselves of psychiatric patients, but in modern times has been adopted by some to refer to how cities and states handle their unhoused [populations](#).

As cities across the country grew, so did their unhoused populations. This growth created material constraints for cities and states and often created economically and politically charged environments. As a result, Greyhound Therapy in practice took on different monikers (such as patient dumping and homeless dumping) but became formally adopted in municipal and state policy. In San Francisco, for example, the practice of Greyhound Therapy serves as the foundation of the city's "[Homeward Bound](#)" program. Meanwhile in New York City's relocation program, the city pays to relocate an unhoused individual not just to other mainland cities with large unhoused populations, but also to Puerto Rico or to other foreign [countries](#) entirely.

The existence of these programs is meant to, ideally, aid in relocating people to areas where they have a support system and to alleviate the economic and resource strain experienced by growing cities with large unhoused populations, as these programs are a cost-effective and simpler way to address immediate political and fiscal [stress](#). These programs have been criticized, however, for not having proper checks in place to ensure the relocated individual is safe and accounted for and instead have been accused of increasing the likelihood of a person returning to the streets. In addition, many have argued that such programs merely transfer the issue to another city or state rather than actually addressing the underlying causes of [homelessness](#).

Okay, so what? Why do I bring this up?

In recent news, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis boarded around fifty migrants and sent them to one of the wealthiest areas in Massachusetts: Martha's [Vineyard](#). Many across the country were struck by the move, a blatant and highly visual example of forced relocation, and were quick to use the situation to push partisan talking points. But forced relocation is a common political tactic in the West. In the US alone, Native populations were forcibly removed from their ancestral lands, Japanese Americans were forcibly placed in internment camps, and unhoused and

mentally ill individuals, as discussed at the beginning of this article, are at times forcibly relocated to locations unfamiliar to them.

While the prior stated examples were all legally authorized and even supported, enough cannot be said about the impact such actions have on the human beings involved. It is easy to move things from one location to another, but human beings (no matter their legal status and circumstance) are not things to merely transport and dump in a new location. While much can be said about how governments should craft humane policy to address migrants, the unhoused, the disabled, and other groups deemed troublesome enough to remove from public view and consciousness, one thing must always be paramount in how these discussions and those we have on a day to day, are had. At the center of it all are human beings that deserve respect and dignity. Failure to place this fact at the core of such conversations has and will continue to have deadly consequences.

## IDEAS

# The New Era of Standardized Testing

Abby Shim 09.29.22

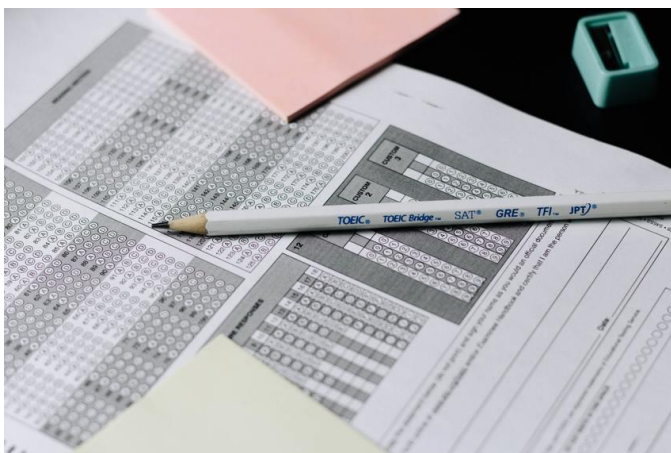


Photo by Nguyen Dang Hoang Nhu on Unsplash

---

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, many colleges and universities have revamped their standardized testing policies—most have gone “test-optional” (students may choose to submit scores alongside their application), and some have even gone completely “test-blind” (meaning the institution will not consider test scores as a factor in the admissions process). Top-ranked schools such as the Ivy League members, MIT, NYU, and many others have followed suit for at least the duration of the pandemic. As more controversy arises over whether or not standardized testing has outlived its usefulness in college admissions (or whether it was useful in the first place), many have called for the termination of its utilization completely in the application process. The University of California system has entirely scrapped its usage of the SAT and ACT, following a lawsuit filed by a coalition of predominantly minority group leaders and advocates of Compton County in Los Angeles. Although many have hailed the change as a more inclusive and equitable step to higher education, others have argued that the devaluation of standardized testing removes a measure to ensure fairness in the college admissions process.

Those in defense of standardized testing cite concerns over grade inflation, a problem that underlines education disparities between US high schools. At the core of grade inflation lies the “rigor gap,” or the difference in how academically challenging courses may be across different schools. For example, while students at one high school may not have to study as hard in their AP biology class, students at another high school may consider it one of their most challenging courses. Because academic rigor is dependent on a number of factors, such as the teaching staff, resources available, and workload, the “value” of a grade varies.

Thus, standardized testing provides a way to “level the playing field,” in a sense, for college admissions. The uniformity of tests such as the SAT or ACT provides a more “reliable” benchmark to account for the differences in school curriculums.

Yet complaints about accessibility to standardized testing are rampant. Although both exams are available to all students, each test administration costs money – and oftentimes, students are inclined to take the test more than once to improve their score. Those from low-income backgrounds who cannot afford to take the test as many times as their higher-income counterparts are at a deficit. Beyond the costs for taking the test itself come fees to prepare for the exam. Higher-income families are able to pay for specialized tutors and college coordinators who provide highly-focalized one-on-one counseling for the admissions process, while poorer families do not have the same kind of access to those resources.

In response to such criticisms, students in favor of the SAT/ACT argue that the advantage of providing an equal metric to use in evaluating students is necessary to maintain a fairer admissions process. Waivers are provided for students who cannot afford to take the test, and more and more resources such as Khan Academy and practice tests from the College Board are becoming available for free.

Here at Andrews University, while test scores are not required, ACT/SAT scholarships are available for those who decide to take the exam(s). Based on your score, you may be eligible from anywhere between \$8,000 a year to a full-tuition scholarship. Although test scores are not considered as part of a student's application, Andrews still honors the merit efforts of standardized testing.

Despite its pros and cons, one thing is for certain: standardized testing – or any other quantifiable measure of achievement or intelligence – is not the end-all-be-all of one's existence, and the focus of education should always be on accessibility and quality. To challenge standardized testing entirely may eradicate a fair measure that aids in assessing student applications, but it may also open up opportunities to under-privileged communities and encourage a more diverse approach to applying to college in general.



# Pulse

---

PULSE

## Andrews Celebrates the Opening of New Career Center

Reagan McCain [09.29.22](#)

---



Photo by Dawson Par

September 22 marked the first day of fall, and all around campus, students donned their coats and sweaters for the first time as they rushed to their classes. This year, alongside the cooler weather and colorful autumn leaves, the university welcomed an exciting new addition to Andrews. While the Career Center's official opening was celebrated on the third floor of the James White Library with balloons and a tasteful snack spread, the center has actually been operational since January. It has already serviced over 350 students and alums, but Jordanne Howell-Walton (graduate, clinical mental health counseling) tells me they're looking forward to helping many more.

Howell-Walton works as a Graduate Assistant Career Coach at the center and is one of the two primary staff who helps conduct one-on-one mock interviews and

career counseling. An Andrews graduate student and undergraduate alumnus herself, she understands the struggle for students to figure out the next steps in their career journey. She said, “[A Career Center] was not available when I was an undergrad, and I super wish that it was because I dabbled a lot in what I wanted to do after I graduated.” She also said, “if [she] had something like [the Career Center, she] may have been able to streamline that.” Figuring out a career path can be a daunting challenge for anyone, as Lucille Borges (sophomore, speech pathology) can testify. She said this: “I think generally around this time in college, about when you’re in your sophomore or junior year, you start to feel a little bit lost because you’re getting a degree and you know kind of what you’re doing but you don’t really have any kind of connections into that world.” This is a common issue, as Howell-Walton says, “a lot of times it's easy to choose a major, but a major is not a career.” “Other times,” she says, “students experience it backward where [they] know what [they] want to do but don’t know how to get there.”

Whatever the situation, the Career Center promises to be a place where students can go to receive help. Howell-Walton explains, “the Career Center helps make tangible steps for people to accomplish their career goals.” So whether a person needs assistance practicing for an interview, advice on how to find and apply for jobs and internships, general career counseling, or someone to review and edit their resume, the Career Center and their knowledgeable staff are ready to help, completely free of charge. “So,” Howell-Walton implores, “take the opportunity to use its resources... it’s only 30 minutes of your week, but it can make a huge difference!” Students and Alumni can be connected to various services by booking an appointment on their [website](#).

PULSE

# Hispanic Heritage Month: How to Celebrate

Melissa Moore 09.29.22



Photo by Peter Tumangday

---

One key aspect of Andrews University that makes it unique is the diversity of its student body. People travel from all over the world to study here, as it is a school renowned among Adventists across the globe. Whether it be going to church in a different language every week, or celebrating at events hosted by various cultural clubs on campus, there are many ways to expose yourself to new customs and educate yourself about others' lives. This month provides us, as a student body, with a special opportunity to celebrate our Hispanic representation on campus.

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated each year from September 15 to October 15 ([National Hispanic Heritage Month](#)). The event was created to set aside a time to recognize the accomplishments of Americans who come from a Hispanic background. In addition, many non-Hispanic, Latino cultures, such as Brazilian culture, are often celebrated during this month. Although members of these groups do not speak Spanish, they also deserve a special time to be remembered.

Due to the nature of the month, it is an excellent time to learn about the various cultures represented by Andrews students who identify as Latino. Here are some fun and immersive ways to learn and connect with our Latino community.

### **Attend events hosted by Hispanic clubs on campus (and celebrate like a Latino!)**

This is one of my favorite ways to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month. There are a number of Hispanic and Latino groups on campus, including AULA (Andrews University Latino Association), Makarios, and Genesis Fellowship. To commemorate this special month, they have planned multiple events, including co-curricular choices, weekend worship services, and other fun events. The end of Hispanic Heritage Month will culminate in a special event called Noche Latina on October 15 at 8 PM. Andrews University Latino clubs are excellent at planning events with fun activities, great music, and good food, so Noche Latina is something you will not want to miss.

### **Enjoy media produced by Latinx creatives**

Another great way to celebrate Latino cultures is to add some Latino-inspired content to your media queue. The library is a great place to start by checking out its collection of books by Hispanic authors at no cost to you. Still stuck and looking for ideas? Goodreads has compiled a list of books for Hispanic Heritage month. You can find it [here](#). I have read some of the books on the list myself, and there are some excellent choices. You can also support Hispanic influencers on social media or watch movies produced by people with Latino heritage.

### **Use the internet for an at-home experience**

Although one of the best ways to experience a new culture is to travel to another country and visit for yourself, the internet offers an alternative since flying to another country is often not possible. New technology has allowed websites to produce 360° interactive experiences where you can see a view in all directions. Google has even managed to include some street view experiences of the Amazon basin (see it [here](#))! Whether you choose to learn more about the [Teotihuacan Pyramids in Mexico](#) or watch a [virtual tour](#) of historic artifacts, the possibilities are endless.

There are so many easily accessible ways to celebrate this month dedicated to our Hispanic friends. For more ideas, check out [this](#) list. However you choose to celebrate, be sure to make time to experience and support the beautiful Latino culture. Happy Hispanic Heritage Month!

<https://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/about/>

PULSE

# Tips for Relaxing on Campus

Wambui Karanja 09.29.22



Photo by Radek Grzybowski on Unsplash

---

As busy college students with overwhelming schedules and seemingly never-ending lists of things to do, it is critically important for us to make the time to relax and let our bodies recharge. Some people may hear this and think that finding ways to relax requires a great deal of effort or preparation, or that maybe it is just too time-consuming. However, I want to suggest a list of accessible places that students can go and simple activities that can be done right here on campus to de-stress.

## **Healing Oasis at the Andreasen Center for Wellness**

Whenever I am feeling overwhelmed, the Healing Oasis at the Wellness Center is the first place that comes to mind. Complete with an indoor hot whirlpool, dry sauna, steambath, infrared light therapy, and an outdoor healing garden, this space is perfect to unplug from all the things that may be causing stress.

### **Have a paint day**

Over the summer, I picked up several new hobbies and one of them was painting. There is something about the sound and feeling of paint brush strokes on canvas paper that is extremely relaxing. I would encourage anyone to try it. Not only is it relaxing, one has the potential to create something that they really like, which can bring a sense of fulfillment and joy.

### **Take a trip to the Andrews Botanical Conservatory**

The Andrews Botanical Conservatory is a wonderful place to relax and enjoy the beauty of nature year-round. If you enjoy botanical gardens filled with beautiful arrays of plants, the Conservatory is for you. It is located atop Price Hall (in the science complex) and is perfectly positioned to bring in the warmth of beautiful sunlight throughout the year. It is home to several botanical families and even a goldfish pond. It is perfect to take a solo or group trip with friends and enjoy all that the Conservatory has to offer.

### **Go to a concert**

As someone who has taken music lessons for most of my life, I know the calming effect that music can bring. Here on campus, we have multiple music groups including the Symphony Orchestra, Wind Symphony, and the University Singers. Concerts are held at the Howard Performing Arts Center at various times in the school year and getting out to go to one of the concerts may be just what you need to allow your mind and body the time to sit back and enjoy the music.

In conclusion, creating time for relaxation during the school year is essential. If we do not, we will eventually burn out—rendering ourselves incapable of achieving our goals. In planning this relaxation time, it is important to note that the above list of places and activities are merely suggestions. Plans for relaxation should be tailored to each individual's personal interests, likes and dislikes, and to all the other aspects of what makes each of us unique. Once we put the thought into creating and implementing a consistent plan for relaxation, it will become a fundamental aspect of our school life and lead to overall greater success. Happy relaxing!

# What Comes First is a Question, Part I

Desmond H. Murray 09.29.22



Photo by Trnava University on Unsplash

---

In her 2016 bestselling book, “Lab Girl,” University of Oslo geoscientist Professor Hope Jahren wrote, “People will tell you that you have to know math to be a scientist, or physics or chemistry. They’re wrong ... What comes first is a question.” I believe this is an important universal and actionable message for us all to contemplate and implement at the start of a new school year.

Data from multiple studies indicates that 4-year-olds ask as many as 200 to 300 questions a day. Another says that between the ages of 2 to 5, kids ask an average of 40,000 questions. How many questions do you ask each day now? The following somewhat familiar sounding statement is attributed to Sir Francis Bacon (1561 – 1626), celebrated as the ‘Father of the Scientific Method’: “We must become as little children to enter the kingdom of science.” The ‘kingdom of science’ can

appropriately be extended to all knowledge and learning, for indeed, in its Latin origin, the word 'science' means knowledge.

Asking questions is a gateway to universal knowledge and human advancement. It is prerequisite to discovery and innovation of every kind – religious, scientific, philosophical, literary, technological, legal, artistic, and for normal everyday living. So, it is important to develop a lifelong mindset of questioning. School, at every level, ought to provide a great nurturing environment to master the important life skill of asking questions. Teachers should nurture questions with the immaculate care of a farmer for their seeds and seedlings.

Another immediate reason for asking questions is for enlightenment in the midst of the viral false claims and misinformation that have now become an everyday part of popular culture, politics and media. Questions can bring transparency, elicit evidence, or ascertain the lack thereof, foster critical thinking and clarity, reveal biases and misgivings, they can rend asunder veils and masks, and shine much-needed light in our search for truth. Like light upon darkness, so too are questions piercing through ignorance and myth. Questions can reveal inconvenient truths about even our most cherished beliefs. Every human era should be an age of Enlightenment; it ought not be limited or stipulated to specific times and 'ages.'

What comes first is a question. Indeed, even the all-knowing God asks questions, and He does so with childlike persistence. His first was in the Garden of Eden in the cool of the day after Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit. God asked, as recorded in Genesis 3:9, "Where are you?" That was not the last of His questions: "What is this you have done?" (Genesis 3:13), "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?" (Job 38:4), "Son of man, can these bones live?" (Ezekiel 37:3), "Who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15). Then there is God questioning God, in the darkness of Calvary, there comes a plaintive question that sends shock waves throughout the universe: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46). Right there, in the raw existential fact of these questions, is a message about the humility of God and a poignant rebuke to those who think they know it all. These are essentially divine preemptive strikes upon our human vanity and pride.

Questioning is an essential value and practice for all learners and seekers that is distilled in these familiar words found in Matthew 7:7, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." I refer to this



text as the Researcher's or Seeker's Creed. Yet, it is more. It is how we 'seek knowledge, affirm faith, and change the world.' Our affirmation of faith should not come by mindless repetition or by being 'mere reflectors' of tradition and doctrine but by careful inspection and thoughtful introspection. We cannot change the world unless we question its status quo and ascertain which practices are most civilizing. Yes, for World Changers to be made here they (we) must master the deep discipline of questioning. Included in this discipline is exercising due consideration to the time, place and social-emotional aspects of the query and the questioning process.

Asking questions comes out of our innate God-given desire or need to know, which is in a word, curiosity. Indeed, all human learning and knowledge flows from curiosity, either in its origination and/or transmission. Asking questions is an outgrowth, a manifestation, and evidence of a curious mind. Here is what some scientists have said about curiosity:

"I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious. The important thing is to not stop questioning." – Albert Einstein, 1921 Nobel Prize in Physics

"... I've already got the prize. The prize is the pleasure of finding things out." – Richard Feynman, 1965 Nobel Prize in Physics

"Satisfaction of one's curiosity is one of the greatest sources of happiness in life." - Linus Pauling, 1954 Nobel Prize in Chemistry

"Every little kid is a natural scientist, because they are naturally curious ... that's what science is." – Dudley Herschbach, 1986 Nobel Prize in Chemistry

1981 Nobel Prize chemist Roald Hoffmann was asked in an interview, "What sets scientists apart?" Hoffmann replied, "First, and foremost, curiosity."

In private communications, Andrews University English Professor Scott Moncrieff noted, "Sometimes I ask my writing students what the most important quality for a writer is. They often make useful suggestions having to do with writing itself, but then I tell them that in my estimation it's curiosity. Without a high level of curiosity, the writer has little motivation to learn and little chance of adding value to a reader's experience."

These statements all speak to the supremacy and universality of curiosity. Asking questions is what scientists do as 'enshrined' in the scientific method. But it is also what all learners do and what all seekers do. Curiosity is our entry to a world, our world, this world which American poet Emily Dickinson wrote "is not conclusion."

Regardless of what we know and how much we know, there is always more to know and more questions to ask. As we pursue good grades, a satisfying career, and a life of generous service, may we never lose our curiosity and never stop asking questions.

Part II will provide specific how-to tips about asking questions.

## Last Word

---

### LAST WORD

# Marvel's Storytelling: Why We Need to Ask for Better

Alannah Tjhatra 09.29.22

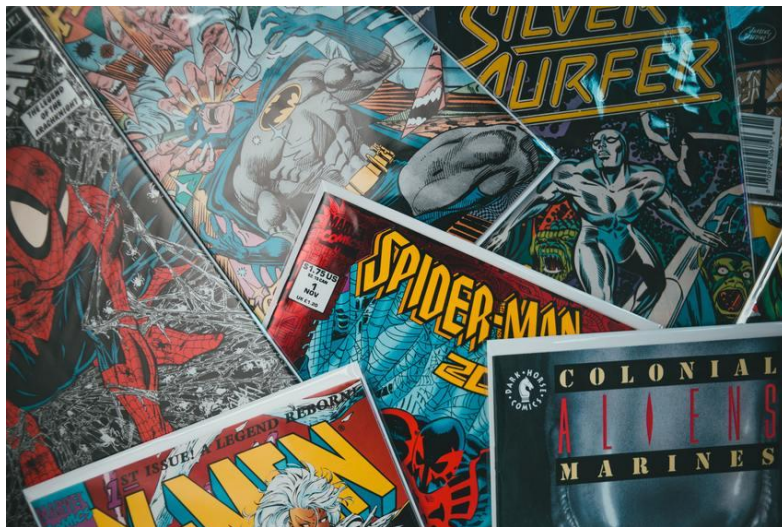


Photo by Erik Mclean on Unsplash

---

I had the opportunity to watch “Thor: Love and Thunder” recently, and frankly, it made me quite mad.

I know that's maybe a hot take, but let me explain myself. See, I didn't care too much about the sad CGI. I didn't mind the bad jokes. What bothered me the most was the carelessness with which this entire story seemed to be crafted—and by extension, the carelessness with which Marvel has been treating its entire franchise as of late.

On the surface, the [storyline of this film](#) is fairly straightforward, as superhero movies go: we are introduced to a villain (Gorr the God Butcher), a hero (Thor, God of Thunder), and the hero's current state of affairs (Thor has ultimately lost his sense of identity and purpose). We are given a quest to follow (children are kidnapped; Thor has to save them) and introduced to the additional key players (Jane Foster, Valkyrie, Korg the gladiator). We watch the quest unfold, witness the main characters undergo a bit of character development (maybe), and boom—the movie is complete.

Now, I have watched an adequate number of superhero movies over the past six years—especially the Marvel ones—and I know numerous issues have arisen recently. It seems the writing quality is declining, the jokes aren't landing, and many beloved original characters are either dead or reduced to sidekicks in their own movies. The latter point has been done in part to (rightly so) introduce a new, diverse generation of superheroes—but I can say with confidence that I have a problem with *how* Marvel has been doing this. “Thor ” is just one film that exemplifies the company's storytelling problems.

One main reason for the decline in production quality is Disney's desire for massive profit. In addition to Marvel Entertainment, [Disney has absorbed](#) some of the largest filmmaking companies to date—including Lucasfilm and 21st Century Fox—over the past few years. Disney has also released [more than 25](#) remake, sequel, and spin-off movies in the last five years. It's clear that they're mining nostalgia, and that's fine—as long as they're doing it well. But the thing is, they're not trying to do it well. And they're beginning to cut more corners.

Marvel specifically—already a large company before Disney acquired it—attempts to hook as many viewers as possible with palatable, non-confrontational storylines. Their unwillingness to push boundaries results in underdeveloped and even badly-written characters, especially when it comes to marginalized identities. For instance, the upcoming movie “Captain America: New World Order” has faced criticism on various [social media platforms](#) for “promoting genocide against

Palestinians,” and the 2022 “Eternals” film received backlash for their disappointing [South Asian representation](#).

In a similar vein, Marvel commentators keep a running joke going about the company’s yearly introduction of its [“first” queer characters](#). These characters are touted as “groundbreaking” in movie promotions—but when the films actually come out, audiences are disappointed with what often turns out to be queerbaiting. With “Thor,” for instance, Marvel promised great representation in the character of [Valkyrie](#). It turned out the film contained just a single scene where Valkyrie’s sexuality was discussed in one forced and preachy exchange.

Marvel has also historically done a bad job with their female characters. It took them [ten years](#) to give Black Widow (played by Scarlett Johansson) her own movie, and it didn’t even introduce a female-centered film until 2019 with the release of “Captain Marvel.” And the company has been trying to change, but given its history, its current attempts to “represent” in mainstream movies have been [falling rather flat](#).

To Marvel, “good representation” of women means making “strong female characters” without emotion, characters who are not allowed to lose a fight. They are not allowed to fail lest they show their weakness and thus no longer serve as feminist figures. In “Thor: Love and Thunder,” this is manifested in the way Natalie Portman returns to the franchise: she is given no unique spin—she literally comes back as female Thor, with all the same powers that man Thor has. But now it’s feminism because she’s a woman.

But good representation does not come from crafting “strong” characters who are so overpowered that they will never lose a fight. It does not come from simply making female versions of male superheroes or non-white versions of white superheroes. And it does not come from hailing every single LGBTQ+ character as the “first ever,” only to give them flimsy plot lines and put patronizing lines in their mouths. In doing so, the company is not empowering these individuals—it is taking away from their personhood. It is refusing them the space to have real stories.

Instead of putting new faces in old, Eurocentric narratives, we need to put new faces in new stories—stories that showcase rich cultural backgrounds and identities in sincere ways, stories that give characters the space to be multidimensional, to display vulnerability, loss, and even weakness—to ultimately experience a fuller, more dynamic range of humanity.

Some may argue that at least Marvel is *trying* to do better. And others may argue that it doesn't matter the motive, so long as change is happening. To an extent, I agree: I'm glad that Marvel and Disney are putting out more minority representation, regardless of their core motives (i.e. money). There are even some standouts, like the new miniseries "Ms. Marvel," which displays South Asian culture through more nuanced performances and better writing. But that is just one miniseries out of the numerous films and shows that Marvel has released. And something needs to change.

Good storytelling begins with compelling characters—so it cannot happen when characters are given three personality traits ("minority" being one of them) and didactic, vacant lines to hammer home how much Marvel cares about representation. I acknowledge that Disney as a whole does not have a great history in terms of these subjects. The company has a lot of [racist](#) and [homophobic](#) roots that it has spent years trying to hide. So you may wonder why I am choosing to pick at it so much when other companies are doing the work, telling the stories. To be honest, it simply frustrates me that the [second largest media company](#) in the world—and the most popular—is not trying to push more boundaries. It disappoints me that an entertainment corporation as large as Marvel is choosing to essentially be the people-pleaser of the movie industry, remaining in a safe and unassuming space. Ultimately, Marvel's desire for profit outweighs their desire for a good story—and thus, for compelling, meaningful characters. But Marvel is reaching a breaking point. If they want to stay afloat, they have to start increasing the quality of their films. Nothing will ever be perfect, but there is always room for growth and change. And as a movie-going audience, it's our job to start asking for much, much better.