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## The Student Movement Volume 107 Issue 21: Evensong Vespers Honors President Luxton's "Gift of Service"

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# Evensong Vespers Honors President Luxton's "Gift of Service"



Photo by Blaise Datoy

# Humans

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## HUMANS

# Apple vs Android

Grace No 04.06.23



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*It's a debate as old as time, or as old as since smartphones were invented. It's common to see Android and Apple users engaging in online debates about the superiority of the respective tech companies, so it's time to see this discourse play out among Andrews students. Which is better? Android or Apple phones?*

Apple for the AirDrop function, because AirDrop is life changing. You can drop 300 pictures at one time. Anything else takes forever. I do feel like my phone is dying out on me though.

**Lauren Butler (senior, biology and Spanish)**

My mom has an Android and I'm sure it's wonderful when communicating with other Androids, but when my mom sends videos it's the weirdest, grainiest quality.

They also have a weird green color when you text and it's glaring and annoying, which isn't necessarily an Android problem, but I still don't like it. Granted, Apple has so many issues, but will I keep buying their products? Absolutely.

**Alaina Burghart (senior, Spanish and global studies)**

I have to say Apple—mostly because I grew up in an Apple family so it's really just a convenience thing.

**Izzy Koh (senior, English)**

Apple. Because it's better. It's more easily accessible, it makes more sense because it's less complex. They don't make you solve problems to get through to the computer. Whoever designed it, their graphic designer is good. My only complaint is why do they have to connect everything? I would use a PC for a computer, but it's so difficult to cross platform and I end up emailing stuff to myself all the time for schoolwork because there's no good function for sharing data between Apple and Android devices.

**Suvan Campbell (sophomore, biochemistry)**

As an Apple user, I have too many Apple products to count. I know technically Androids have better technology, but Apples just look nicer. I'm a minimalist and I like things to look pretty.

**Charisse Lapuebla (sophomore, speech pathology and audiology)**

Apple, because my parents were always Apple users. I've used Androids in the past and they were alright, but with Apple it's easy to have multiple devices, especially with the rest of my family using Apple, with sharing photos and stuff. Androids are definitely better for their price though; Apple phones are so expensive.

**Ashlee-Rose Wilson (senior, religion and French)**

I think that Apple iPhones provide a very nice experience and are obviously priced much higher than they need to be, but provide good benefits. Apple tends not to innovate as much, or as fast, but [it's done] well when they do [innovate]. Their recent phones aren't exciting but done well. More specifically for iPhones, I've heard that if you like an iMessage it sends a message to Androids, and that Google is thinking about interpreting the message and putting the actual heart on it. And it might work the other way around as well. It definitely illustrates a problem, which is that Apple weaponizes iMessage to get people to buy iPhones. Honestly, what's a better brand for a person really depends on what their close friends and family have. Androids are good for customization, and I have an Apple because they're

nice and shiny.

**T Bruggemann (senior, computer science and physics)**

I like Apple for its convenience. I used to not be a full on Apple user, but now I am because of how smooth everything works together.

**Irina Gagliu (senior, psychology)**

As a very loyal Samsung user, it makes me sad to see that an overwhelming majority of the students I interviewed chose Apple over Android devices, especially because they all acknowledged the shortcomings of Apple products that they experience. It looks like a big factor in the popularity of Apple is their clean design and the fact that Apple products work best with other Apple products and don't interact well with other brands. To me, this seems like a way of trapping consumers, but I can acknowledge that convenient features like AirDrop or FaceTime may take priority over more technical aspects of electronics, especially for college students. I guess I can only hope that in the future, brands will have a more collaborative spirit with each other and make devices that don't glitch when texting phones from other companies—but maybe I'm asking for too much.

## HUMANS

# Senior Plans

Interviewed by: Solana Campbell 04.06.2023



Photo by RUT MIIT on Unsplash

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*This week, I asked Andrews University seniors what their plans for after graduation are, whether they feel like Andrews prepared them well for the future, and what their feelings are about graduation. Their answers range from graduate school to entering the workforce. Soon-to-be graduates, we wish you all the best.*

After graduation, I will be going abroad for medical school. It's something I've always wanted to do and it will get me outside of my comfort zone, which is something I am looking forward to because that's how people grow. Andrews did a really good job when it came to teaching me the classes I needed, but to be honest I have to give a shout out to Dr. Benjamin Navia. Almost everything I know related to science is because of him. I also have to give a shout out to the Behavioral Science Department because they all were great teachers and mentors. They will have a special place in my heart. Overall, I am excited; it's a bittersweet feeling to graduate and leave friends behind, but that's life, and you have to move on eventually. I'm stepping into a new phase in my educational journey, so I hope I enjoy it as much as this one.

**Chris Mata (senior, behavioral science)**

My post-grad plans are to participate in a Youth Pastor Internship in Hawaii for a year. I think this opportunity will not only give more opportunities to get a job after but also give me experience. I also plan on working on some personal projects on the side. Andrews has prepared me well; the professors I have are truly selfless and answer any questions I have. They invested in me a lot. Although, I'm still very nervous as it warrants a lot of responsibility. It's just gonna take time to put what I've been taught to practice.

**Eddy Rivera (senior, religion)**

As of right now, my after-graduation plans are to move back home to Virginia. I plan to work at VCU Medical Center and I'm very interested in working at the children's hospital there, which is one of the reasons I want to work there. I feel like Andrews prepared me enough by giving me opportunities where I could do nursing internships and practice my nursing skills. I also feel like Andrews has helped me know how to make connections. I am also very interested in pursuing grad school. I think it's a great opportunity, especially if your employer is willing to pay for your school. I also want to expand my knowledge in nursing, specifically women's health! I don't want to lose an opportunity to get a higher degree. I'm pretty nervous because getting into the units I want is really hard as a new grad,

and I also have to think about passing the NCLEX, but I'm excited to go out into the big world and finally start using my degree!

**Aya Pagunsan (senior, nursing)**

My plans for after the next chapter aren't set at the moment. I've been applying to graduate schools in NY as well as California and Ohio for Spanish Translation. Personally, I've had to figure out the majority of grad school applications by myself. I don't know of any resources here on campus to help seniors (or juniors) apply to graduate programs. I'm personally fairly nervous for post-grad just because it's so different from graduating high school and there's so much pressure to either get a job or go immediately into further education.

**Alaina Burghardt (senior, Spanish and global studies)**

So I haven't decided yet where I'm going, but I have a couple of great offers from universities around the U.S. My current plan is to get an MA in English literature with an emphasis in Queer or Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. During my MA studies, I will not only be attending classes but will also be teaching an undergraduate writing course similar to the ENGL 115 here. Overall, I would say that I'm extremely excited to move into this next step in my career! I'm particularly anticipating being able to meet new people and to be exposed to new ideas that I haven't had the chance to explore here at AU. I would say that my time at AU and my English and Honors classes have provided me with extremely important tools and building blocks that my graduate studies can then improve upon and strengthen. I wouldn't be where I am today without the amazing professors within the English department and the Honors family!

**Alexander Hess (senior, English)**

I haven't decided on which hospital I'm planning to work at yet, but I do know that I am going into critical care. I've done a preceptorship in critical care and I love it because of the high acuity level, the variety of cases, and the "organized chaos" kind of overall feeling. I'm super excited to finally move into the "real world" of nursing, as opposed to the textbook version that I've been immersed in for the last four years. I don't feel as nervous as I would be due to the fact that I am applying for a residency program, where I will have a designated preceptor and a lot of resources at hand. I decided on nursing four years ago with the intention of using my BSN as a stepping stone for grad school. I know the path I've chosen can be extremely long, but I'm excited for the journey and grateful for the supportive people in my life. They are the ones who believe in me when I can't, and I owe them



so much.

**Jaylene Koon (senior, nursing)**

I work in consulting in San Francisco for Protiviti. I like my client work and the travel aspect. I like that it's hybrid. However, I don't really feel as if Andrews has prepared me. Similar to other finance majors before me, I worked it out myself to get where I'm at. I'm nervous but also excited for my current opportunity.

**Nilah Mataafa (senior, accounting)**

I am going into my second year of PT school here at AU. As a 3+3 student, my first year of grad school counts as my senior year of undergrad. Graduation simultaneously means nothing and everything to me. The big switch to grad school has already happened so there's no sense of accomplishment with receiving a diploma that has no worth beyond prerequisites for DPT, but also so many of my friends are moving onto their next steps. I've still got two more years (including summers) before I'm done. I'm planning to work as a PT but since I'm still a couple years from that, I don't have any jobs or even an area of PT decided on. Most of my undergrad didn't feel like it had much application so far. A&P, kinesiology, human anatomy, and exercise physiology have been the only applicable classes I can think of for my current classes. That being said, my writing and social media classes have been great for non-school activities. I definitely don't regret them.

**Kaela McFadden (senior, physical therapy)**

I am still unsure about where I am going to end up because I am actually weighing options that I have (which has been a bit overwhelming). However, I have an idea of what I am going to do in the end—I just need a little more time to figure out a few things before I make a final decision. I do feel like Andrews prepared me with the academic resources that I will need for post grad; however, I am not necessarily prepared for post grad from a non-academic aspect. I think that preparation (finances, career advancement, etc.) will happen during my post grad experience.

**Kayla Hope-Bruno (senior, psychology)**

After obtaining my MS-SLP degree, completion of my clinical fellowship year, and obtaining my professional license, I would like to hopefully work either in early intervention, private or school settings. I like that my future career allows me to be an advocate for children with disorders who feel like they don't have a voice. I've always loved helping others, and this career allows me to do that. AU has prepared me for the upcoming future. This semester I had the opportunity to have hands-on experience with clients with various disorders. I got to take the lead and have two

clients of my own and got work alongside a graduate student in the MS-SLP program. I am excited and nervous transitioning into this new stage, but I am looking forward to it. The entry-level to become a certified Speech-Language Pathologist is your master's degree. So I guess you can say I didn't have any other option. I could have just decided to end with my bachelor's and apply to be an SLP assistant, but I didn't come to college to become an assistant.

**Vernisha Hodge (senior, speech-language pathology)**

I am moving to Orlando this summer to start a job—I will be starting out as a Supply Chain Resident in the Emerging Leaders Program at AdventHealth. The company and the people I will be working with have been very supportive so I am anticipating that I'll enjoy the work environment and overall experience. Overall, Andrews was a good experience for me, and I have the basis of what I need to know starting out in the business field. I am excited AND nervous but mostly excited for new experiences and opportunities!

**Isabella Rappette (senior, business finance)**

## HUMANS

# Student Workers: Claudia Ruiz

Interviewed by: Nora Martin 04.06.23



Photo by Claudia Ruiz

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*I sat down this week with Claudia Ruiz (senior, psychology and Spanish) to talk about her experience working as an RA and at the front desk.*

**Where do you work?**

I am a resident advisor (RA) at Lamson Hall, and I also work at the front desk at Lamson Hall there.

**How did you get the job?**

I applied to be an RA this year, and you have to have desk shifts as a part of the job, so that's how I ended up working at the front desk.

**Why did you decide to be an RA?**

I wanted to get to know more people in the dorm, try to form a community, and be able to help out if someone ever needs help with something or is going through something. I also wanted to get to know the deans better, and how they work. There are also, of course, the benefits that you get from working as an RA. You don't have to pay extra to get your own room, you get your own vacuum, stuff like that. I really like having my own vacuum.

**Do you like being an RA?**

I do. I do like it. The only downside is that you have to be up late at night, which at first was harder for me because I'm used to sleeping early. I am actually planning on continuing to be an RA in the next school year.

**Do you like working at the front desk?**

I like it okay. Sometimes in the middle of the day there are a lot of people coming in to get packages, so you don't have time to chill, but shifts that are late at night or early in the morning are more relaxed. You can do homework or whatever else you need to do. Since I'm an RA, I don't have to do late night shifts (2 am to 5 am), which is nice.

**Do you get to schedule your own shifts?**

Yeah. For RAs, at the beginning of the semester, dorm management asks you for your availability, and then you get to pick the shifts you want to do. I believe that it is different for people who just work at the front desk, though. I think they get assigned shifts.

**Is there anything you would change about the jobs?**

I think they work as they are right now. I appreciate that the deans ask you your

availability [for the front desk] at the beginning of the semester so that you always know when your shifts are, and you can prepare if you need to go somewhere. You can ask someone else to cover your shift as long as it's 24 hours before the shift. It's pretty chill. For being an RA, it's also a pretty flexible system. If you can't make a room check for whatever reason, you can let the deans know in advance and find someone else to cover it for you. For me personally, the deans are a blessing in my life. They're incredibly understanding and very nice, and I feel like I can always go and talk to them if I need anything.

**Would you recommend these jobs to other people?**

Yes, I would.

## Arts & Entertainment

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### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# WAUS: An Update on our Beloved Campus Radio Station

Grace No [04.06.23](#)



Photo by public domain

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*Change is difficult for everyone, and if there's one word to summarize how the year has gone for Andrews' classical music radio station WAUS, it's exactly that: change. After station manager Sharon Dudgeon's passing, trying to fill the gaps that she left while grappling with*

*the legacy that she handed down to us was an enormous task—especially for staff who were close to her, not just professionally but on a personal level. As I talked to some of the other student workers and staff at the station, I got the clear sense that many of us are still learning how to deal with the adjustments that are still in progress. However, I also feel grateful that we are able to work together in continuing to bring classical music to our listeners, something that Sharon was so passionate about.*

It's come with a lot of challenges. It's come with a lot of change. We have a brand new underwriting director. We have a brand new technical director. We're figuring out how we're going to move forward, like the innovations that we're interested in making while continuing what we're already doing. And we've learned that we have a very strong core team. We have really committed students who we've all pulled together to make it happen. We're still able to bring really high quality programming and we're hoping to continue leveling up and producing the same high standard of programming moving forward. We didn't understand how much Sharon was doing until she was gone. The first fundraiser (happening this week) has been hard because she was like the station mom, and now it kind of feels like I am the one having to take on that role. It still feels like Sharon is going to walk down the hall at any time. I wish she was here so I could ask her how she did it all. She made it look so easy.

### **Chelsea Lake, Music Director**

So this has been a big year of change. And change is...sometimes it's good. Sometimes it's bad. Oftentimes it's just what it is and it's what you make of it. How we navigate change is always going to be a challenge, and this year we've lost for us what's a national treasure. In one respect we'll never get that back. But the foundation that she laid, what Sharon did—her vision and her leadership—inspired all of us and we're still here. We're going to keep pushing forward. For me as general manager, a lot of that is taking all the pieces that she put on the board. And now we're going to start to change the game up a little bit, but the game hasn't changed. She gave us the dedication and the values and the desire to super serve our radio audience, and we're going to keep doing that. I look forward to the challenges that are coming up because I have a tremendous amount of faith in the team. I think we've got a great group of folks here. We work well together. We're excited to move forward and we will absolutely maintain our quality while still making improvements. The wonderful thing about Sharon is she allowed us to focus on what we were doing. She protected us from a lot of outside factors so we don't always know the details about the pots she was stirring and plates she was

spinning. It's a lot like picking up the mantle from a good mom—I mean, she did it for 30 years and definitely knew what she was doing.

**Jeff Smith, General Manager**

I was really close with Sharon so it's been a little rough getting used to her not being here. She was a good friend and more than a boss. I miss her quirky sense of humor. Last year, a lot of people passed away in my life so it was just a depressing year. I'm being optimistic for this year though, both professionally, with the changes here to the station; and personally, trying to get back in shape and getting rid of this pandemic belly. The future looks great for the station and I'm excited about that. You know, we're getting over the hump of Sharon being gone and we have to move ahead and also keep her memory alive. So this year, it's been better and a lot of great things have happened—my son got married and my daughter's also making big life changes.

**Teddy Weithers, Marketing Director**

Over the last several months since Sharon has died there have been a lot of changes, though I don't know if they would be noticed by the listeners. Things are changing slowly and I do tend to think the changes being made are for the better. We're still in the period of figuring things out and finding our new normal.

**Robert Raney (graduate, music ministry), student announcer**

*This week kicked off the start of our two week fall fundraiser, where all of the student and regular announcers get on air together throughout the day to raise money from our listeners, which helps keep our station running throughout the year. As we promote WAUS together, I remember how hard Sharon worked on air to get support for the station and hope that we can honor her memory by keeping WAUS alive and well. Readers can show their support by donating to [waus.org](http://waus.org) or giving us a call this week or next week at 1-800-553-9287!*

# Creatives on Campus: Mateo Banks

Grace No 04.06.23



Photo by Mateo Banks

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## **Introduce yourself for us!**

Alright, so my name is Matthew Jackson and my stage name is Mateo Banks. I'm Jamaican, and originally I lived in New York. I've been doing an MBA here in management since last year in May. So this is my second year at Andrews, but first year in the graduate program.

## **What made you decide on the stage name Mateo Banks?**

So back home in Jamaica, it just used to be an alias that I had, pretty much from elementary school and straight through high school, but in high school I was fairly good at Spanish. So our Spanish teacher would give us Spanish versions of our English names, so since Matthew is Mateo, I put both of them together and it stuck.

**Tell us about your song, what's it about?**

It's talking about Psalms 14. So it's basically based on talking about my opinions and my experience with God through the lens of Scripture. Psalm 14 says, "The fool says in his heart, there is no God." But the chorus of the song says, "the fool says in his heart, there is no God but I know that He's beside me", meaning that you're (God) the one beside me. It basically means God is the one that's guiding me, the one that's beside me, and so even though some may profess that there is no God, I experienced that in my life in a really real way. So the verses talk about my experience with that. The song is very true to the dancehall and reggae style, so it's really cool.

**How long have you been working on music? And have you always been musical as a kid?**

I'd say I've always been musical, but I didn't really realize it until my first year of college when I joined the choir. But I've always deejayed, meaning rapping in Jamaican—that's what we call it. I've always done that in classrooms, just drumming on desks. I started writing music, I'd say, in about 10th grade, like a full song. I started doing my own music when I was about 18 and my first song came out in 2019. That's when I started officially putting out music.

**How would you say your spirituality and faith interacts with your music and how has your faith changed or grown through your music?**

Well, I'm not really a Christian artist. I try as much as I can to incorporate spirituality, but my main genres of music are dancehall and reggae. There are plenty of elements and room for talking about God in it though, and giving praise to God, so I tried to put that in my music as much as I can. I'm also an intentional person with my faith so that's something that I've developed in my song as well. Just as a person, I wouldn't say my faith is all the way seen in my music but it's something that I try to incorporate as much as I can.

**Do you have plans to go professionally into music as a career in the future?**

I'm in it right now. This is my career. It's not paying what it is supposed to yet but I would say I'm an artist right now, absolutely.

**What are some challenges and what are some of the highlights that you have experienced through your musical career?**

My biggest challenge is coming to terms with the stuff that I'm not able to do, my limitations in terms of trying to achieve a certain amount of quality or having to put aside things I wanted to do musically because the resources are just not there.



Also coming to terms with not being met with the same excitement that you have for your music and learning to grind your way up slowly. I'm a low key person, I'm not very gregarious or very outgoing, but I've learned to be that way for the sake of my music and the sake of promoting it. So yeah, I pretty much learned to accept that this is a process and it won't come easily at times. And sometimes it might be very slow. You might adjust the song and get on interviews. But I am learning to be okay with that and focusing on the positives. The good part is that the music itself is a joy to make and create and to share. And to always have people say things like, "Hey, this I really loved this," or "This was really fun. It's really special." I'd say those are the best parts.

### **Where can we stream your songs?**

Everywhere, like Apple Music, Spotify, Youtube, etc.

### **How do you want people to respond to your song when they're hearing it for the first time? How do you want them to feel?**

I think everybody will react to it differently, especially in this genre I'm in. Dancehall and reggae music are not as popular as they used to be, so it's a different sound. Some people might say, yeah, like this is different, or some may react differently—they may not be so sure what they're listening to or might not understand the dialect. So I'd love to hear them say yes, fine, or it's different or sounds good. But I've also adjusted my expectations for when people hear my music. This is usually met with good reviews. I probably draw some inspiration from an older genre.

### **Who are your musical inspirations?**

Well, one is Koffee. She's also a reggae artist. Masuka, Lauryn Hill, those are my biggest inspirations—but I listen to music widely. I draw inspiration from everywhere, unconsciously. So yeah, I listen to everything basically.

### **Sounds cool! I can't wait for your new EP.**

Yeah, I also have a launch party coming up this Sunday in the rec center, with live music and performances. Doors open at 7:30 pm, and you guys should all show up. My new album is dropping on April 8th and it's called Now or Never. Psalm 14 is track two from it.

Follow him on [Instagram](#) for new music updates!!

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Meditation for the Easter Season: Community Celebrates President Luxton

Lily Burke and Alannah Tjhatra [04.06.23](#)



Photo by Blaise Datoy

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On the evening of April 1, 2023, students, faculty and staff gathered together at the Howard Performing Arts Center (HPAC) to celebrate the Easter season and acknowledge Dr. Andrea Luxton’s incredible gift of service. Through prayers, responsive readings, poems, and sermon excerpts, various Andrews faculty and students paid tribute to the president’s time at Andrews.

The event was organized by Dr. Meredith Jones Gray and Dr. Beverly Matiko—both professors of English at Andrews University (Dr. Matiko is retired)—with collaboration from the Department of Music and Griggs International Academy. By

7 pm, the audience had filed into the building, filling the lower level of the HPAC auditorium. The two wooden podiums set up at either side of the stage lent to the regal atmosphere.

The program began with a prayer read by VP Michael Nixon, which was followed by a series of responsive readings, poems and prose, and musical pieces that emphasized the Easter season and our calling as Christians. Many of the readings were inspired by the book of Hebrews, as that was the focus of Dr. Luxton's thesis. A poem called "Sing the Lord, Wisely" by Gladys McKee was recited by Lily Burke.

In addition to the readings, the evening was also filled with music. A string ensemble composed of members of the music department played a prelude, "Sinfonia in B Minor, RV 169, 'Al Santo Sepolcro'" and during the program played "Arioso" by J.S. Bach with a cello solo by Jamison Moore (senior, music performance). A special music, "Be Not Dismayed and The Trusting Heart," was performed by Jamison Moore, Tyler Ninalga (senior, music performance), and Jason Marquez (senior, music performance). The University Singers performed two pieces, "O Day of Peace that Dimly Shines" and "Do Not Be Afraid," accompanied by Gabriel Palacios (senior, music performance and math) with Simon Luke Brown (senior, music performance) adding a beautiful violin solo. Throughout the night, Dr. Charles Reid and Professor Stephen Zork also led out in congregational singing.

The program lasted about an hour, and afterwards, participants and audience members filed into the HPAC lobby for refreshments. There were flowers on top of the tables and gorgeous desserts or appetizers. Bon Appétit had prepared four different British-themed dishes, each one aesthetically presented: vegetarian sausage rolls in savory sauce, vegetarian beef wellingtons, toffee pudding, and English trifle. Strawberry agua fresca and tea were provided as drinks.

As everyone enjoyed the refreshments, Provost Christon Arthur approached the microphone and spoke some words to honor President Luxton. He was followed by the rest of the VPs, who had all prepared statements for the President. These speeches were both humorous and heartfelt. Afterwards, people lined up to shake Dr. Luxton's hand and take pictures with her.

The Evensong event was indeed a beautiful way to pay tribute to Andrews University's dearly departing President.

# News

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## NEWS

# A Night of Avant-Garde

Solana Campbell 04.06.23



Photo by Nigel Maxwell

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Saturday, April One. It may have been April Fool's Day, but I can assure you that no one at the African Student Association x American Institute of Architecture Students banquet looked foolish. Last school year, the collaboration between these two clubs resulted in the creative, innovative Art Gala. This year, the theme, Avant-garde, had promises of so much more. It was to be the AU Met Gala, a night of celebrity. Banquet-goers dreamed up innovative and edgy red carpet-worthy outfits to attend. From Nilah Mataafa's (senior, accounting) luxuriously feathered

dress to Jewel Murray's (senior, physical therapy) long black train, the best-dressed of the night screamed opulence.

The night began at St. Joseph's Inn at Harbor Shores around 8:30 pm. Guests were served salad and large plates of delicious ravioli, accompanied by a side of roasted asparagus. Traditional African delicacies—roti and samosas—were available at a separate table as well. The room churned with color and chatting—the lights were blue- and purple- toned, and Nigel Maxwell's (senior, business administration) paparazzi cam flashed through the night. Guests had a chance to walk the red carpet at the entrance, get a good meal in, and participate in traditional banquet games. A small ensemble of students performed a traditional dance to a medley of songs. While musical chairs and family feud took place on the stage, with the beats of DJ Eazy [Esmond Appiah-Mensah (senior, nursing)] in the background, guests dispersed throughout the hotel grounds, snapping Insta-worthy photos in every corner.

Ife Kolade (junior, business administration), vice president of the ASA club here at Andrews, enjoyed herself. "The ASAxAIAS banquet was a wonderful and impressive event. I am incredibly grateful to have the opportunity to work with the most talented people. The food, music, and culture were fused perfectly, creating a sensational occasion. This banquet will forever be remembered as a highlight of my college experience."

One of the key aspects of the Andrews University experience is the vast opportunity we have to celebrate different cultures during our time here. Each of the cultural clubs run their own separate roster of events, which means you probably have the opportunity to try an international food or enjoy an international event at least monthly.

Lydia Boateng-Sarpong (junior, speech language pathology) says, "I always enjoy culturally influenced celebrations and ASA is no exception. I love having the chance to celebrate my culture with the people I care about. My favorite part of the night was definitely the cultural music performance. I think it is important for Andrews to continue to have nights like these because it gives the opportunity for cultural exposure. People are recognized and are able to share a part of themselves with others."

The yearly collaborative banquet between ASA and AIAS was yet another victory. It hit every note of a good banquet: good food, good entertainment, good outfits, and a chance to expand my knowledge of the world's cultures. Personally, I really

enjoyed the distinct and unique theme—I had the chance to experiment with some new makeup looks and put together an outfit that made me feel like a red carpet queen. I'm immensely grateful that Andrews allows our clubs to put together such memorable experiences, and I'll be keeping an eye out for next year's innovative ASA x AIAS experience.

## NEWS

# Environmental Events Bring Awareness to Berrien County

Andrew Francis [04.06.23](#)

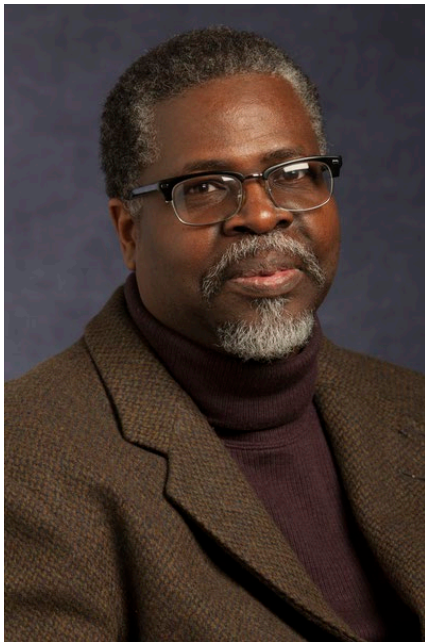


Photo by Darren Heslop

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*In a world that appears to be perpetually on fire due to the ever-increasing pollution, toxic waste, and negligence humanity seems to have towards their environment, initiatives to bring awareness and change to these problems have arisen with varied results. Among these*

*initiatives is a program that has been ongoing on our own Andrews University campus for the past two years: Dr. Desmond Murray's Environmental Fridays lectures. Environmental Fridays is a virtual lecture that occurs every Friday morning at 9:30 AM. The series seeks to educate viewers about the different environmental issues and programs that exist to bring about a healthier natural world. With dozens of different speakers appearing to make presentations on their specific fields of work, hosts of high school students, college students, and other community members have been prompted to seek out the betterment of their own environments as a result.*

*Beginning in the fall semester of 2021 with its "Season One" debut, the program has gained a lot of traction and interest with it now in its fourth season. Dr. Murray, chemistry professor and leader and founder of Environmental Fridays, was able to explain in more depth what Environmental Fridays seeks to accomplish, how to get involved with the program, how to continue learning more about the environment and the issues it is posed with, and what to look forward to in the program for the rest of the semester as well as its season five appearance next fall.*

**How would you describe the purpose and intention of the Environmental Fridays events that you organize?**

“The purpose of Environmental Fridays is multifold; one of the main things is for us to try to nurture and to allow others, [including] our youth, to be aware of environmental issues that cut across a lot of different areas. Environmental Fridays have to do with things...like indoor pollution and outdoor pollution. It [even] has connections to things like the clothes we wear. So, we try to cover a lot of the traditional topics with speakers who are experts and experienced in their fields. Topics range from climate change, to conservation, to nutrition. ...We live in an environment and what we do impacts it on a daily basis. Being able to bring this consciousness to young people, as well as to the wider general public, is part of what we're trying to do.”

**What impact have you seen these events and information sessions have on the Andrews University community as well as the Berrien County community?**

“As a result of Environmental Fridays, two campaigns or organizations [are] getting started. One is called 'A for Asthma' and it is a campaign that seeks to address and educate on the issue of asthma, in Berrien County and particularly in Benton Harbor. That campaign has been going on for at least a year or so now, and it was a direct result of a lecture given by Dr. Susan Buchanan from the University of Illinois. We've also had speakers from Ukraine during the [ongoing] war...telling

us about the impact of the war. We've also had speakers from Kenya...so the impact is broad. We've done at least two or three topics dealing with environmental issues in Tobago. On one of those there was a [biology] student from Tobago who, from one of our lectures, was inspired to form a group along with some other biology students called 'In Tobago.' It is meant to bring education and awareness to the youth and people in Tobago about what's around them."

**Are there any specific initiatives that you would like to highlight or are close to your heart?**

"One thing I'd like is to hear from journalists, because there are journalists who focus specifically on the environment—[I'd like] to hear from them and the stories that they gather. So, I believe we have lined up a journalist that focuses on the Caribbean area, and she will be able to tell us more about some of the main environmental topics from that region. I would like to be able to get some people who are called 'celebrity environmentalists.' There are some celebrities that are very active in the environment and it would be cool to get them to talk for us. People like [Jane] Goodall."

**Are there any specific demographics or groups that you recommend attend these events?**

"[Environmental Fridays] is for everyone. We are all a part of the [natural] environment, and that is one of the things that we'd like to emphasize. We are not above it. That sort of approach has led to a lot of environmental destruction, us thinking that we are better than it. Without the environment we wouldn't exist. As living things, we exchange both energy and nutrients with the environment. So, this applies to everybody. We try to target young people, but young people in many cases are a step ahead of older folks, in terms of environmental awareness. Environmental Fridays would seek to bring them the information, the facts, and the situations in which the environmental impact is an important issue."

**Where can students find more information about Environmental Fridays?**

"We have our own website. It's called [theenvironmentalfridays.com](http://theenvironmentalfridays.com). We also have our [YouTube playlists](#), and I basically organize them by season."



NEWS

# Interview with Dr. Heather Thompson Day: Becoming an Author and Inspiring Change

Brendan Oh 04.06.23



Photo by the Days

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*This week I talked with Communications professor Dr. Heather Thompson Day about her new book “I’ll See You Tomorrow: Building Relational Resilience When You Want to Quit,” co-authored with her husband Mr. Seth Day, to learn about the process of writing a book, what they hope people get from it, and the core ideas they aim to share.*

### **What was your inspiration for writing this book?**

I was watching “The Last Dance,” the Michael Jordan documentary series. There's this scene where it's before the Bulls became the Bulls, and they're facing off. They finally make it to the playoffs for the first time; they face off against the Orlando Magic and they lose. That's the end of the season. Everybody has their team talk and they get dismissed, and everybody's about to go home. Michael Jordan's trainer Tim Grover turns to Michael and says, “Hey, Mike, just let me know when I'll see you.” And Michael says, “Well, I'll see you tomorrow.” It was this really beautiful moment in the documentary where you realize the reason Michael Jordan is Michael Jordan is because when everybody else gave up, he always went back to the gym. He didn't see it as a singular game, but a perpetual season you can keep going in. I thought that was a great anthem that we all need in our lives.

### **What core ideas do you want people to learn from your book?**

I have a fear that we are raising an entire generation to have a really good understanding of boundaries and knowing when to leave. But I think we should also raise a generation that knows how to stay. I see this book as including both aspects in that dynamic and conversation. Something else I think is important is recognizing that we are all exhausted for various reasons. It's not necessarily that you don't want friendships or that you don't value relationships; at the end of the day, we're just exhausted. I hope what people realize as they read the book is that choosing to embark on a relationship despite being tired from school, tired from work, etc. is the antidote to your tiredness. I have research that backs that up. The very thing you don't want is actually the thing you need to have energy again for your life.

### **Could you describe the process of writing a book?**

For a traditional publisher, you write a proposal which is like a marketing pitch: who this book is for, and why you're writing it. You give a little synopsis about what the book is about and who the target market is. Then you'll do a paragraph for every chapter that you think is going to be in the book and then you'll give a sample chapter one...After that, you get a book deal with a publisher, and then they sit with you with an editorial team that says things like, “We like this, we don't like this, we think the book needs to have these elements. Make sure you add a chapter about this, etc.” Then you start turning in drafts based on those recommendations.

### **How has your religious background influenced your journey as an author?**

I made the decision a long time ago when I was 22 years old when I said, “Lord, if you open up the ability for me to do this, I will always be faithful and honest with people about the experiences that you and I have together.” I write in spiritual formation and spiritual living categories, so much of it is just like my own life experiences, but so much of that has to do with the journey that I've been on with God and how that journey keeps evolving.

### **What were the advantages of co-authoring the book with your husband?**

I think it could be a very dangerous thing if you have different visions. I got really lucky in the sense that my husband and I share a very similar worldview. We have a very similar vision. I think it was really important that he wrote the book with me because we have very different lived experiences. I talk about relationships and friendship from the standpoint of my lived experience, and he talks about relationships and friendship based on the standpoint of his lived experience. I believe it is a massive advantage to have the two different perspectives because some people will relate to me and some people will only relate to him.

### **What's the best part about being an author?**

For me, it's about encouraging people through written words. The best part for me is when somebody says, “This was encouraging to me,” “This helped me get through my day,” or “This helped me see a perspective of my life differently.” It doesn't have to be in a book. I write a newsletter that I send out every single Friday night for people. That's just as fulfilling for me as writing a book. The point isn't necessarily publishing a book. It's about asking, “Am I able to encourage people, yes or no?” And if that answer is yes, then I'm walking in what I believe to be my God-given purpose and gift.

### **What is one piece of advice you would give to aspiring writers?**

You write whether or not you're published. You write whether or not anyone's reading it. You write because you have to; you have to put your thoughts down on paper and stay engaged in that process. I realized that it's not about getting a book; it's about knowing that I'm being faithful to the gift that God has given me. Let God worry about how that avenue might see fruit and how it may grow, but be faithful, at least to the gift.

## NEWS

# The Living Library: Stories from the Andrews Community

Isabella Koh 04.06.23



Photo by Blaise Datoy

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In celebration of its 85th anniversary, the James White Library hosted a “Living Library” event from March 28-30. Over the course of the three-day event, various individuals from the community were invited to share their wealth of interests, knowledge, and advice with visitors. Each presenter acted as a “book” to be read by attendees, who were invited to listen to presentations, ask questions, and learn more about diverse topics, ranging from law to anthropology, mission work, business, ornithology, and chai. The speakers included Gianluca Bacchiocchi, Kim Pichot, Judith Nelson, Stacie Hatfield, Kathy Demsky, Hyveth Williams, Lucille Sabas, Gordon Doss, Cheryl Doss, Kevin & Vicki Wiley, Brynja Davis, Kevin Wilson, and Scottie Baker.

I visited the Living Library on Thursday evening and had the pleasure of meeting three living “stories” from the community. The atmosphere was relaxed and

collegial, and I appreciated that the smaller scale of the event allowed for individual connection and conversation. Upon arrival at the library's circulation room, guests were directed to select a "book" that interested them and sit with two to three other people to learn about the presenter's topic of choice. Each session lasted approximately 15 to 20 minutes, but participants were encouraged to roam between different sections and get to know both the hosts and one another.

The first story I engaged with came from Brynja Davis, professor of Speech-Language Pathology on campus, who gave a presentation about her love for birds. She displayed a slideshow of her own stunning photos, which she had captured over 13 years of studying and observing the diverse creatures. "It's like going on a treasure hunt in nature," she enthused, indicating the incredible array of shapes, sizes, colors, and habits. I was introduced to a multitude of new facts about hummingbirds, warblers, swallows, puffins—her favorites—and many more, and learned to appreciate their many complexities.

Central to her presentation was the verse Luke 12:6-7: "Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God." In her eyes, the intricate variety present in the many kinds of birds gestures toward a caring and innovative creator. Although she is saddened by the ways in which some species must fight to survive, she believes in a heaven where all creatures will coexist harmoniously. With a continued appreciation for the many birds of the current world, she looks forward to future discoveries and revelations.

Next, I sat down with Kevin Wilson, digital and social media coordinator for the University. His story centered around his upcoming book, "The Way of Chai," which will be released in October of this year. As an individual of South Asian descent, he has used chai—a traditional spiced milk tea—as a tool for building community, sharing his faith, and telling his story. Growing up, making and drinking chai was an important hallmark of hospitality and forming new relationships. "Chai became a storytelling canvas and vehicle for me," he described. "It was a way for me to connect with my roots."

He explains that his book is part chai history, part technique, part memoir, part biography, and part philosophy for a general audience. Readers will be taken through a landscape of the tea experience, accompanied by stories from the author's life. One of his favorite chapters speaks to grief and sadness, and how, much like tea grounds can be recycled for new plant growth, death can foster new

life. He passed on an important kernel of wisdom at the end of the conversation as he shared, “Grief is not the absence of joy, but the strongest memory of joy.”

My evening came to a close after a discussion with Kevin and Vicki Wiley, a missionary couple who now serve in the Andrews community. Together, they have lived in Ireland, Japan, and Korea, experiencing new cultures and seeking to “help people see God in a new way—in a loving way.” When asked what the best and most difficult parts of missionary work were, Vicki affirmed that the process truly “opens up your world” through learning about new cultures and meeting new people, even in the face of missing family and being challenged in personal faith. Kevin shared, “Some of the hardest things are what help you grow.”

When I asked them what life advice they might have for students setting out on their own life journeys, they emphasized the importance of centering God and letting Him lead. “God has a way of instructing us,” Vicki reassured. They also encouraged an openness toward future growth, change and development, using their lives as an example that even when life doesn’t go expected places, it can lead to more fulfillment than one might ever imagine.

The Living Library, to me, was an indication of the richness of the Andrews campus and the many hidden gems that are offered to students and community members. Without a prompting by the newspaper, this event might have passed me by completely. I appreciated the opportunity to learn from people I otherwise would not have crossed paths with, and felt like I had connected with my community in a new way. The event also reminded me of the value of sitting down with people and listening to the wisdom they have to share. You never know what stories are surrounding you right now, from your family, friends, or that person sitting next to you in class. I encourage you to take the extra time to find out—you might just be surprised.

# Ideas

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## IDEAS

# Enough with the Self Help Books

Valerie Akinyi 04.06.23



Photo by Shiromani Kant on Unsplash

With graduation right around the corner, I feel like I've been bombarded with all sorts of advice—from what financial moves I should avoid, to suggestions of books I should read when I have more free time, such as “The Power of Habit” or “The Mountain is You.” And while appreciative of the advice, I can't help but notice that most of the books that have been recommended to me by my post-grad friends fall under the self-help category.

The self-help industry, in the Western context, is understood as an industry that “provides products and services to help people improve their [lives](#).” [The self-help industry](#), and more specifically the publishing genre, came into popularity through the 1859 publication of Samuel Smiles's book “Self Help,” which gave rise to the genre's name, and was later revived in the 1935 publication of Napoleon Hill's best-selling book “[Think and Grow Rich](#).” [The](#) book's publication coincided with the Great Depression and famously

suggested that if one had the proper habits and followed certain principles, anyone could become successful.

The self-help industry today pedals much of the same idea, only rebranded and remarketed. It is estimated to be a \$13.2 billion-dollar industry with dozens of new books and courses released [daily](#). The subject matter in self-help books can range from anything to do with romantic relationships to one's relationship with their coworkers, but the one consistent thing across the genre are the self-titled gurus and expert authors who regularly aim to help make people become more disciplined, productive, and successful by offering advice. Many have credited the advice imparted by self-help books for helping them form better relationships with others, gain a new perspective, and get their life back on track.

[Others](#), however, have argued that the self-help industry promises unrealistic transformation and thrives on people's insecurities by suggesting they do and be more to prove their worth as humans. Others go further and critique self-help books for being highly individualistic and for rarely noting the systemic and societal factors that make it difficult for someone to “succeed,” as one cannot simply budget themselves out of poverty, nor can they be disciplined or productive enough to keep mental health issues away.

Both sides of the argument can be heard if one visits any social media platform long enough, but neither truly addresses the question behind why people are drawn to such books. Perhaps the reason is more philosophical in nature and has to do with the fact that, despite having all the material comforts available one could imagine, humans are still unable to answer what the purpose of life is.

[Regardless](#) of what camp you belong to, self-help books continue to play a substantial role in contemporary society, particularly with the Millennial and Gen Z demographic, as many struggle to come to terms with who they are and the world around them. Self-help books, however, can serve as another form of escapism that encourages people to retreat rather than find strength in community. This is what I find particularly concerning, as we don't need to learn how to be more productive; we need to learn how to be in community with others and be more empathetic towards others. Please understand, I am not critiquing one's desire to improve and grow. I am simply saying that we should acknowledge the limitations inherent in self help books and seek to understand that what drives us to seek out self help books in the first place isn't a desire for more material possessions, but a desire to be seen and recognized in community.



# Social Media and Authenticity

Nathaniel Reid 04.06.23



Photo by Maddi Bazzocco on Unsplash

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Let's play a game—I'll give you three words, and you blurt out the first thoughts that pop into your head after reading them. Deal? Ok, let's begin: Twitter. TikTok. YouTube. If you're like me, the words that pop into your mind might be conflicting. Words like entertaining, comical, and educational seem to describe these platforms equally as well as words like toxic, mind-numbing, and unhealthy. The sites, and the internet as a whole, is a place filled with millions of positive and negative voices. I want to take a moment to focus on how individuals are using their voices to reshape social and change social media platforms. To do this, I've contacted several small and large influencers, asking each of them for their insight on social media platforms and how they're changing.

Social media, at its best, should be a place of authenticity. Influencers who genuinely enjoy posting content generally go further than those who post with little enthusiasm or drive. Alongside this, comments that have more likes and comments generally aren't dull, matter-or-fact comments, yet instead authentic

ones that express genuine emotions, inspire laughter, or that showcase a degree of relatability. Not only do these types of comments positively affect other viewers, but also the contents' creators who receive interesting and fun feedback on their content. This interaction is part of what makes various social media sites so popular. These sites allow for users to view and interact with friends and creators in an authentic and human manner. However, several factors have led to a reduced amount of authenticity on many social media platforms, a good example of which is YouTube.

YouTube has quickly gone from being a website for people to share fun, homemade videos to an industry where top fulltime YouTubers make, and spend, tens of thousands on videos—oftentimes attempting to gain subscribers in the quickest manner possible. This has left many users' noticing a decrease in authenticity due to many creators prioritizing growth and trend chasing over creativity and individuality. Regardless of the way in which a creator grows, the fact that there are now so many more users on the platform has led to a disconnect between creators and viewers. When a creator has less subscribers, oftentimes they form a tighter knit community with those who watch their videos. [ImpulseSV](#) is a content creator with over a million subscribers who first started posting in 2012. When reached out to and asked about YouTube and its comment section, he responded, "The comment section was almost like a close knit community... Everyone was super nice and very helpful and we got to know each other... and I still have those people I recognized from back in the day, but now... there's a lot more [criticism] of the things I do. There used to be a lot more praise; 'Oh this is amazing', 'You did a good job', 'Keep it up', 'I like what you are doing'. But now, it seems like because there are so many more comments it's a lot easier to see a lot more negativity... [coming] through." ImpulseSV, in saying this, exemplifies how many large channels are now struggling with more negativity and less community. With a select few YouTube channels now gaining more popularity and controlling more of the platform than ever thought possible, this can lead to viewers feeling unable to connect with their creators. This disconnect can lead to a lack of community and therefore a fall in the overall number of meaningful interactions on the platform.

Societal changes along with recent events have also changed the atmosphere on YouTube alongside other social media sites. ImpulseSV puts it best when saying, "the tone has changed a little bit. Mental health these days has definitely taken a hit... I think we see some of that in the comment section. Not everyone is in the best mental health state—and they take it out [on the creators]." As Impulse pointed

out, the mental health of many individuals has struggled as of recently. In 2021 “drug overdose deaths reached [record levels](#)”; in 2022, suicide rates were back [near an alltime high](#) after having been declining for two years, and a study this year showed that [37% of adults](#) rated their mental health as “fair or poor,” which is even higher than last year. While there are several causes leading to this decrease in mental health, ImpulseSV noted the Covid-19 pandemic as one of the worst. “I'd say the pandemic has put more people in not such a spirited mood anymore,” ImpulseSV said, “and so they kind of take it out [in] the comments.”

Whether it be a heightened sense of competition or society’s wavering mental health, many social media platforms seem to have decreased in the amount of authentic interactions they contain over time. This can lead many influencers to feeling burnt out, always trying to either ride the next trend or pump out more content all while fighting against the negativity of other users.

The simplest and most profound way to contribute to a better environment on social media sites is to think of everyone we come across as more than just a faceless entity to be talked at. While it can be easy to become frustrated with all of the wild takes one can see across the internet, respect doesn’t evaporate the second you disagree with someone. Everyone has bad days but taking your frustrations out in a public comment section only perpetuates the negativity. [WELN](#) is an influencer with over 2.8 million subscribers whose observations about the nature of comments ties into this topic. When DMed for his opinion, he said, “the language of the internet is hyperbole. ‘This is the best thing I’ve ever seen’, ‘This is the worst thing I’ve ever seen,’ as opposed to something in the middle.” While hyperboles can make for funny, authentic comments, they also cause a multitude of pain. When individuals allow their emotions to get the best of them, they usually aren’t mild with their comments. Instead, they rant about their frustrations, leading to creators or other commenters having to deal with their extreme negativity. We may think that alone we have no power on YouTube, but in reality fellow consumers and creators can be affected more by negative comments than one would think is possible. Sometimes one genuinely positive or unnecessarily negative comment is all it takes to light or extinguish a fellow user’s enthusiasm. So next time you post something, realize that anywhere from hundreds of individuals to one unconfident content creator will likely be positively or negatively affected by your words.

Oftentimes we think of “influencers” as popular online creators with millions of fans at their command. In reality, influencers are simply those whose actions have

a voice that can impact others. While not everyone has a huge platform, everyone has an influence. Every time you post a picture, leave a comment, or retweet an image, you promote an idea, emotion, or mentality. It's up to us all to decide how we will use our influence. Every individual has the potential to guide the direction the platform takes one comment at a time. Being kind isn't hard, and when we ask ourselves to be mindful of our posts, you'd be surprised at just how much of an influencer you really are.

## IDEAS

# The Resurgence of the Jim Crow Era in America

Shania Watts [04.06.23](#)



Photo by public domain

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On May 18, 1896, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld state-imposed Jim Crow laws brought forth by the landmark Plessy v. Ferguson case, effectively ruling that state-mandated segregation was not a violation of the [Fourteenth Amendment](#). In the Court's [majority opinion](#), Associate Justice Henry Brown stated, "the enforced separation of the races, as applied to the internal commerce of the state, neither

abridges the privileges or immunities of the colored man, deprives him of his property without due process of law, nor denies him the equal protection of the laws, within the meaning of the fourteenth amendment” (Plessy v. Ferguson). This ruling introduced the “separate but equal” doctrine, complicating the post-slavery course of racial relations within American politics for generations to come. It wasn’t until 1954 that the “separate but equal” doctrine was struck down after the United States Supreme Court ruled in favor of the landmark case, Brown v. Board of Education.

When the Jim Crow Era is discussed within our general education system, it’s handled with a sense of obsolescence and detachment. However, for most African-Americans, the Jim Crow Era is a lived experience for many of our older relatives. My parents were born during the Civil Rights Movement, and both my paternal and maternal grandparents grew up in the Deep South during the height of the Jim Crow Era. They were among the estimated six million African Americans who fled the Jim Crow South during the Great Migration, in hope of finding a better future. While they were alive, my grandparents would tell vivid stories detailing the oppression they were forced to endure. They recounted the times when they would be walking on the sidewalk, and if a white person were approaching, they would have to step into the street and not dare to make eye contact with that white person. I remember the times when they would tell me which southern towns weren’t safe for Black people to travel through, or how it wasn’t safe for Black people to be outside after dark. Hearing these stories, I would always think to myself, *America will never return to such an awful time. There’s no way...*

However, in 2023 it seems my inner reassurances were rooted in wishful thinking. On March 7, 2023, the Mississippi [House Bill 1020](#) passed in the state Senate, posing [significant implications](#) for the judicial system and policing of Jackson, Mississippi’s population, which is approximately [83% Black](#). HB 1020 was initially proposed by Mississippi Representative Trey Lamar, who isn’t a resident of Jackson. He cited the high crime rates as justification for the proposed bill. When questioned about constituent cooperation behind the bill, [Lamar stated](#), “I don’t live in Jackson ... but you know what I like to do ... I like to come to Jackson because it’s my capital city.” If put into law, HB 1020 would increase the presence of the Capitol Police throughout Jackson, and add five *appointed* judges to the Hinds County Court system. If you still don’t see the problem, here’s the run-down:

Lawmakers from overwhelmingly white districts are ratifying legislation that would disproportionately and negatively affect the Black population of Jackson, MI, without having to recourse to Jackson representatives. This would directly infringe upon the voting and political autonomy of the Black citizens living in Jackson, and redirect tax dollars away from their communities.

By referencing the [Capital Complex Improvement District \(CCID\)](#) boundaries, Mississippi legislators would create an entirely new district and court system, which would allow judges appointed (not democratically voted in) by the Chief Justice of the Mississippi State Court *and* prosecutors appointed by the Mississippi State Attorney General to oversee cases in Jackson. Furthermore, HB 1020 would divert millions in sales tax away from Jackson and into the pockets of the CCID. Essentially, this bill is a prime example of taxation without representation, with many coining it the “Jim Crow 2.0” Bill. Jackson Mayor Chokwe Lumumba [blasted the constitutionality](#) of HB 1020.

“It’s oppressive because it strips the right of Black folks to vote. It’s oppressive because it puts a military force over people that has no accountability to them. It’s oppressive because there will be judges who will determine sentences over people’s lives. It’s oppressive because it redirects their tax dollars to something they don’t endorse nor believe in,” Lumumba was quoted as saying.

As of right now, HB 1020 has moved back to the Mississippi House of Representatives to be revised. Seeing that it was already passed by the state Senate, it’s probable that it will be written into law.

If you think the madness stops there, you’re wrong.

Unfortunately, the spirit of Jim Crow is ravaging rampantly across the South. Last month, Tennessee lawmakers proposed [HB 1245](#), which would allow inmates on death row the choice to be shot by a firing squad in lieu of electrocution and lethal injection. Representative Paul Sherrell (R - Sparta), who indicated overwhelming support for the Bill, [further expressed](#) “I think it's a very good idea, and I was just wondering if I could put an amendment on that would include hanging by a tree also? And I would like to sign onto your bill, sir." Considering [44% of Black people](#) make up the incarcerated population in Tennessee and only 17% of the state’s general population (based on the 2010 U.S. Census), it’s clear that Sherrell was proposing a practice that salutes the Jim Crow Era.

While Sherrell has recently apologized for his repulsive statements, the damage and pain he caused is irreversible. At 64 years of age, Mr. Sherrell grew up in a time where lynching Black people was socially acceptable and even celebrated. It's highly likely that Mr. Sherrell's parents and grandparents were witnesses to lynchings. When you put his words into perspective, it's chilling to see our close proximity to the Jim Crow Era. It's easy to believe that the famous saying "history repeats itself" is overused, but when we're witnessing the human rights of the BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ communities being actively stripped away, it's hard to dispute the unfortunate truth behind it.

## Pulse

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PULSE

# At Home at Andrews University

Elizabeth Dovich 04.06.23



Photo by Anthony Tran on Unsplash

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According to the Oxford English Dictionary, home is "the place where a person or animal dwells." A second definition states that home is "the place where one lives

or was brought up, with reference to the feelings of belonging, comfort, etc., associated with it.” For many students at Andrews University, home is a long, long way away, sometimes under both definitions. Throughout the semester, students have dealt with missing loved ones and homesickness. In spite of this, however, there are many different aspects of life at Andrews that help students feel at home, even while missing it.

Some students said that having family close by helped them feel at home. Gabby Schmidt (freshman, social work and Spanish) is from New Hampshire. She says, “I feel at home because my aunt lives close to Andrews.” Erin Trutwein (junior, business management) from Berrien Springs says, “Having my family close by helps me feel at home.”

Other students cited friends as a reason they felt at home. Yu Lei (junior, nursing), who is from Hong Kong, said, “What makes me feel at home is my group of friends who study here.” Maddi Vath (sophomore, English) from Illinois, says, “Home doesn’t have to be a place; it can be more about the people you are with. I consider my close friends here to be part of my home.” Guillermo Acevedo (junior, architecture) from the Dominican Republic says, “Friends and family friends around the area make me feel the most at home on a daily basis.” Additionally, Kimberly Agosto (sophomore, digital communication) from Chicago says, “My mentors make me feel at home because they believe in me.”

In some cases, the feeling of home did not necessarily come from the people, but from the culture of the university. Kevin Alba (sophomore, agribusiness) from California says, “the religious environment helps me feel at home.” Gabriella Srikureja (junior, biochemistry) from Washington says, “The diversity makes me feel at home. Also, hanging out with people who have grown up with similar experiences to me.” Jakob Kwon (junior, accounting and business finance) from Ontario, Canada, says “Andrews has always had a welcoming grace, but what makes me feel at home is the overall atmosphere: friends, teachers, and the recreation.” According to Meryen Gonzalez (sophomore, digital communication), who is from Panama, “My roommate helped me feel at home. Also, the cultural activities that AUSA has done have helped me feel at home.”

All in all, there are many reasons why students feel that Andrews University is their home away from home, and there are many different aspects of campus that help students feel like they belong. The semester is coming to a close, and students are anxious to return to their homes, summer jobs, or vacations. But in the



meantime, there are still ways for students to feel like they belong. From having friends and family close by to religious activities, diversity, and cultural events, Andrews University has a place for everyone.

PULSE

# Sex Education in Adventist Institutions

Lexie Dunham 04.06.23



Photo by public domain

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*Disclaimer: This topic is being written because it is relevant to the experiences of many individuals on our campus. In talking about it, we hope this campus will have healthy conversations about it in the present and future. Some individuals I interviewed wished to remain anonymous because of the sensitive nature of their experiences.*

Sex education has been integrated into school curriculums for nearly sixty years and maybe even longer. The curriculum on such topics varies from school to

school, whether it is just an anatomy lesson or an in-depth analysis of what sex is and whether or not it should be encouraged. In most Seventh-day Adventist schools and other institutions, the view on sex differs somewhat from some of the world around us. Sex in our institutions is often discussed as something to stay away from at all costs. Sex education ought not to be only about whether to perform the act but also about what to do in harmful situations. This also includes sexual orientation, ways to know your body, your rights of consent, and even about contraception and safe sex. Seventh-day Adventist institutions have taken a “don’t talk about it, and it won’t happen” approach without taking much time to discuss other possibilities in sex education. Although getting married and having children is generally encouraged in the Adventist church, sex outside of marriage is still taboo. What does this all mean for the conversations about sex in the SDA world? Should Adventists schools talk about sex more? Let’s talk about these issues.

First, I would like to talk about my experience. I went to the same Adventist school for about twelve years. In those twelve years, sex education and sex, in general, were only mentioned twice. We had the reproductive system and puberty talk in fifth grade and another seventh-grade anatomy lesson. My high school science teacher blatantly refused to go over the topic of sex in our textbook. Even when I switched schools in my junior year, I received no further mention of sex education. Luckily, my parents were open to me asking them questions about what sex was and the boundaries I needed to set for my body. Unfortunately, I know that many individuals on this campus have families who were never open to having conversations like this. Whether it was because of religious discomfort or embarrassment, parents trusted Adventist education to represent sex education accurately, but in my experience, they didn’t.

But I can’t go only off of my own experience, so I decided to ask a few of my peers what they had experienced regarding sex education. I asked each person three questions: Do you think your school gave you sufficient sex education? If not, where did you learn this information? And whether or not they believed Adventist schools should place more emphasis on sex education or if there are some things kids should not know about. One individual, who wishes to remain anonymous, said, “I did not receive proper sex education in school. I didn’t learn about sex until my freshman year of high school, and even then, it was skimmed over very quickly. I had to learn about it from bits and pieces of things I heard from the world around me. I did not learn from school or home. At least in middle school, there should be

some form of sex education. I didn't know what a menstrual cycle was until I had one. At least basic things about people's bodies should be taught."

Another anonymous individual said, "I don't think I had a satisfactory sex Ed at school. I pretty much learned about it from other people and from online. I think Adventist schools should teach that subject at its utmost capacity so that it becomes unlikely that kids [will] get misinformation on the subject."

Moriah Coleman (sophomore, pre-physical therapy) said, "I don't think I received a satisfactory sex ed in school. I have been in Christian schools my entire life, and I have seen that sex is not a topic most Adventists like to talk about. Very often, we tend to hide the topic from discussion. I would even say that talking about it in a casual way is frowned upon. One can never be really old enough to learn about it. However, I would rather learn about sex ed formally than from the situations we usually do. It is never good to walk into an environment blindfolded and I feel like that is what is produced when hiding such topics."

All three of these individuals make very important points. If kids are not learning about this from their teachers and parents, they will seek the information elsewhere. Those other sources may give them negative views on sex or bodies or promote violent and aggressive behaviors. These conversations also apply to university students. Asking questions and conversing will lead to healthier outcomes instead of being misinformed by the world around us.

It is very clear from the stories of the individuals I interviewed, as well as myself, that Adventist education has been lacking in the topics of sex, puberty, and other ways of perceiving our bodies. This article is intended to bring the issue of insufficient sex education to light and help start the conversation on our campus and other SDA institutions. If you feel you would like to speak with a professional about this topic, please feel free to contact our campus support at the [CTC](#) or a trusted adult. Otherwise, we encourage you to continue having conversations like this on our campus, and we hope you stay healthy in these final weeks of school.

PULSE

# The Importance of the Office of Culture and Inclusion

Zothile Sibanda 04.06.23



Photo by Peter Tumangday

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Andrews University is a diverse community that seeks to foster an environment of inclusion for all students. And to achieve this goal, the university established the Office of Culture and Inclusion, which is dedicated to promoting diversity and equity across all areas of the university. The office has played a crucial role in shaping the culture of the campus, promoting dialogue and understanding among students, faculty, and staff, and ensuring that all members of the community feel welcome and supported.

This office has partnered with many student-led clubs (Black Student Christian Forum, Andrews Filipino International Association, Andrews University Latino Association, African Student Association, Women's Empowerment Association of Andrews University, etc.), and there has been increased support for events that

explore a wide range of topics. These events have included a workshop on microaggressions, a co-curricular series for Filipino American History Month, and an assembly for National Native American Heritage Month. Having these organizations shines a light on the campus and proves that diversity is not just accepted but celebrated. I spoke with the Andrews University Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, Michael T. Nixon, to hear his thoughts about the importance of the clubs. He said, “the student clubs and organizations are a huge part of what we do, and the engine of a lot of the efforts that we have on our campus because we feel that the campus is centered around student experience and achievement, so our programming should promote that. [It should] be by and for students and work to empower them to that end.”

The Office of Culture and Inclusion has important tasks that go beyond cultural diversity. For example, they have a partnership with WEAAU and had a hand in celebrating Women’s History Month. They held a service Sabbath and hosted a co-curricular series that spoke about the different waves of the American women’s movement, which brought a lot of awareness to how far we’ve come, but also how much more work there is to do. The office is also a support system for groups that have not always received adequate representation or care. As one example, [Haven](#) (co-facilitated by professors Shannon Trecartin and David Sedlacek) was established through our Campus & Student Life office to protect LGBTQ+ identifying students and give them a space where they can receive spiritual and emotional care and be given certain protections from harm. Dean Yeagley, from Student Life, as well as Michael Nixon, serve on the advisory board of Haven, along with advisory board chair Dr. Judith Fisher. The Office of Culture and Inclusion has also partnered with the Student Success Center and acknowledges disability as an important component of diversity. When students reach out for [assistance](#), Student Success will work to make appropriate adjustments to aid a student's access to the experiences on campus.

As Andrews is one of the [most diverse universities](#) in the U.S., having faculty who echo the diversity of the students would create a more comfortable campus climate and would also improve the quality of interest and learning. Having a professor who looks like you or understands the things you may be going through creates a connection that brings a relationship, and a relationship brings understanding and knowledge. As a result, many students would feel more understood and seen if they were to see a more proactive effort to have our faculty reflect the students. “Studies have shown that having a diverse team with different perspectives will

come up with better and more holistic ideas rather than a monocultural team,” says VP Nixon.

Additionally, as this is an Adventist university, it is important to have a religious point of view that inspires this office. VP Nixon described Luke 4 to me and the message of social justice it presents. “Jesus’s message to the people was to give good news to the poor, liberty to the oppressed, restoring sight to the blind, and ministering to those on the margins that are oftentimes excluded—and many people did not like that.” The heart of the message aligns with this office, which is “pointing out systems and structures, policies and practices that may seek to limit or oppress certain people groups. We carry the mantle to provide the work of restoration: restoring the sight to the blind speaks to restorative justice, and helping people who have lost things as a result of those oppressive systems.”

Overall, the Office of Culture and Inclusion has made significant contributions to the campus. Through its initiatives and programs, the office has helped cultivate a more welcoming and inclusive environment for all students. By promoting a culturally aware sense of community, this office is helping to prepare its students to become global citizens who can thrive in a diverse and interconnected world.

# Last Word

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LAST WORD

## Last Word

Solana Campbell 03.06.23



Photo by Matthias Wagner on Unsplash

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A blank page. I have so much to say.

Ever since I was a child, it was always my greatest desire in life to be heard. My mom tells this story often. Before I was born, she purchased a journal and promised to write every word her baby said in the journal. However, as soon as I began talking (which was quite young), she gave up on it. I just said way too much. Videos from my childhood show a young girl with lots of personality, always begging to see herself in the camera (“I see lana. I see lana.”), and always with something to say. Luckily for me, my parents loved to listen. Few are blessed with parents as amazing as mine—just last night, I called them, only to go on and talk for an hour about everything going on in my life, how overwhelmed I felt, the minute problems I had to solve each day. They listened. They always have. They never asked me to stop talking.

It wasn't their fault I learned too young that nobody likes a woman who speaks. I don't remember when I accepted this about myself, but I discovered early that I was (the dreaded) *annoying*. I would play back videos of myself, disgusted by the whiny tones of my voice and irritated that I talked so loudly. It's still a knee jerk reaction for me to cringe at the thought of myself in middle and high school. Always yelling, it felt like—my shrill voice penetrating the minds of everyone in earshot. With my crazy, curly hair and my height that towered over the girls and the boys, I constantly fought the feeling that I wasn't who I should be. I should be quieter. I should be smaller.

I can't pinpoint who taught me these beliefs about myself, or where I picked them up. I can't recall a comment from a classmate or an elementary school teacher. It was like I understood something secret about the world that no one wanted to admit. I was unexplainably, fundamentally, *wrong*. There was something wrong with me. I wasn't what a woman should be, because a woman should be *quiet* and *small*. She shouldn't take up space or speak unless spoken to. She should keep her opinions to herself.

I lived a life of constant conflict. Conflict about who I was, who I was supposed to be. Shame when I was too loud, shame when I wasn't loud enough. It all came to a head my junior year of high school, in boarding academy, where I stood before a board of men and women who, politely, told me to shut up. They said sometimes, even when you're treated unfairly, it's better not to cause a fuss. Learn from your mistakes and grow, *quietly*. That is what smart and successful women like you should do.

Growing up, I loved reading. I was the kind of kid whose parents punished her by taking her books away. One of my favorite books was Louisa May Alcott's "Little Women," a tale of four daughters and their different paths in life. I always wanted to be a Meg or an Amy (once she grew up). They were the picture of femininity: soft, quiet, pretty. Amy spent hours listening to Laurie, hoping for him, and being there for him. She wasn't loud, rowdy, and opinionated like Jo. The truth is, though, I've always been a Jo March. I'm just not ashamed of it anymore.

I fell into a deep depression during my senior year of high school. I was quiet, sleepy. I went to class and stayed in my room during my free time. I avoided people, proclaiming that I hated everyone and just had to survive. I gave up trying to talk so much. It was *exhausting*. The shame I had carried around for years about being too loud lifted. After all, I wasn't saying much of anything.



Ironically, I think 2020 saved my life. I was back home with my family overnight, and suddenly, I didn't have to worry about talking too much. I had hours of time to catch up on my favorite shows, meet with my therapist, and do some deep introspection. I changed out my entire closet. I practically remade myself, shedding the trauma of the last few years and accepting myself as I was.

Now, I write a weekly column for the Student Movement. Students, professors, and coworkers read my words—words I'm not afraid to say anymore; opinions I can share openly and freely. I've learned how to distill my words into something more palatable. I've learned when to speak and when to be quiet. When to feel ashamed of speaking and when to speak through the shame. You see, each person's words matter. Their stories, their opinions, their feelings. In Dr. Stacie Hatfield's class "What is Other," I learned about Gayatri Spivak's term [subaltern](#). The subaltern describes a group of oppressed people, Other, minority, or disadvantaged, that are essentially unable to speak for themselves in the existing structures of power. Their stories are never told in the annals of history and their opinions are never heard in the here and now. Those missing stories are the pieces of the puzzle that allow our life experiences to be defined by those in power. The teachers at my high school told the stories, set the tone, and asked generation after generation of young women to *keep quiet*.

But that is only because they understand the truth: that the quieter you are, the less ripples you make, the more you follow blindly, and the less likely you are to be recorded as a person, with equal footing to those doing all the talking. I'll admit, I've learned the value of shutting up. There is a time to speak and a time to be silent, and both help you be the best version of yourself. But I've learned never to let the shame and fear of how you will be perceived keep you quiet. Troublemakers have always been those to sway the tides of society.

These days, I speak and speak and speak until I can't speak anymore. I speak to anyone who listens: my family, my coworkers, my friends, my partner. I don't care about *keeping quiet* or taking up space. I was born with a voice and I will be using it.