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The Student Movement Volume 107 Issue 23: So Long, Farewell: Students Step Into the Future

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So Long, Farewell

STUDENTS STEP INTO THE FUTURE



Photo by Scott Moncrieff

Humans

HUMANS

Advice to Younger Selves

Interviewed by: Anna Pak 04.27.23



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As this school year comes to an end, the senior class is getting ready to graduate and move on to the next stage of their lives. This past week I talked to multiple seniors around campus to gain insight into any advice they would tell their freshman selves, or anything they would change about their college experience!

“I think my main piece of advice is to remain open-minded. Don’t go into college—or life, for that matter—with overly specific expectations. Having these pre-existing expectations for academics, friendships, and experiences can sometimes lead to disappointment—so instead, I’d say to keep an open mind with everything. You might find the most solid friendships in the most unexpected places; you might find your calling in the most unlikely ways. The quality of your university

experience depends largely on your perspective, and if you're willing to give Andrews a chance, I think you'll find something to love about it."

Alannah Tjhatra (senior, biochemistry)

"I would tell my freshman self a few things:

- Some life experiences come with discomfort, and it is often these that help us learn about ourselves the most.
- Being kind to yourself in the midst of a difficult time is one of the most important things you can do.
- People are very complicated, so try to extend to them the kind of patience you would like."

Ashley Ramos (senior, physical therapy)

"I would say to be active on campus by going to AUSA and club events to meet as many new people as you can!"

Jasmine Cha (senior, biology)

"I would tell my freshman self to not be afraid to look at different career options that I might be interested in. Also, I would say to not be afraid to take a year for a student missionary trip because the experience is definitely worth it."

Jonathan Castiglioni (senior, medical laboratory science)

"Honestly, looking back at my freshman year makes me cringe. I was so young and immature, which compelled me to make some really dumb decisions at times. However, I have given my younger self a little grace considering that I was just figuring myself out and learning how to become the person I am today. That being said, I don't think I would change much about who I was my freshman year. Though, I would probably encourage my younger self to continually seek out strong friendships and to feel confident in who I am."

Caryn Cruz (senior, English literature)

"I would say to take every opportunity to have fun because college goes by a lot quicker than you think!"

Erica Shin (senior, biology)

"Don't do anything halfway. Undergrad is a unique experience that you only get to do once, so act with intention. Mistakes are okay as well as long as you learn from them."

Taehyun Lee (senior, biology)

“My advice to my freshman self would be to take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way. Whether it’s getting involved on campus activities or prioritizing your mental health, be proactive and take ownership of your college experience. Remember to stay true to yourself and to be open-minded to new experiences and perspectives. College is a time of self-discovery and growth, so embrace every challenge and opportunity with enthusiasm and optimism. Plainly, enjoy yourself.”

Nick Kim (senior, biology)

“To my freshman self: I hope you realize that it is okay to be unproductive and take a break. Remember that the most meaningful things in life are not things. Your college experience is what you make of it! A work/life/study balance is something that is achieved over a lifetime, so don’t stress about getting it all figured out right now.”

Jaylene Koon (senior, nursing)

HUMANS

Finals Stress Management

Gloria Oh 04.27.23



Photo by Christian Erfurt on Unsplash

Finals are just around the corner, and stress levels are hitting their peak for many of us. How should we manage the overwhelming amount of stress coming from tests, projects, assignments, and classes? This week, I reached out to several students to learn how they juggle all their responsibilities. I hope these methods will also come in handy for you!

I make sure to get lots of sleep and make sure my phone is on Do Not Disturb while I'm studying.

Jonathan Castiglioni (junior, biology)

The best way for me to deal with finals stress is to realize that it is my job to do the best I can, but the results are up to God. I study and take notes, but the results are beyond my control. I realize that grades aren't everything. It's more about how you get them. Also, it's good to find an activity to help you deal with your stress. For me, it is hiking and walking. I do this mostly every day and it helps me stay close with God.

Benjamin High (junior, theology)

I deal with finals stress by making sure to schedule all my studying and remaining assignments as precisely as possible. Making the schedule is easy; however, following it is a whole other story. That is why I am intentional about sticking to my schedule. Knowing that I'll cover all the material if I stick to my schedule, keeps me calm, lessens my anxiety, and relieves my fears.

Tsitsi Pazvakawambwa (sophomore, nursing)

I walk and listen to music.

Sarah Wolf (junior, biology)

Do not force yourself to understand all the difficult questions before the exam, this will make you more stressed and frustrated; it is wiser to do well on the questions you are sure of.

Anita Li (junior, medical laboratory science)

I take long walks for about one hour or so to deal with my stress. It helps me to re-energize and focus back on my tasks. It is difficult as a student, but I am doing the best that I can. With God on my side, I am all good.

Simei Munoz (senior, social work)

I don't get stressed.

Minji Kang (senior, music performance)

I usually try to spread out the tasks I have to do rather than saving everything for the last minute by spending a few hours daily reviewing each subject before the final. I also make sure to read devotionals, pray, and remind myself to keep pushing through until the end!

Zoe Oster (sophomore, biology)

I've been reminding myself that I'm not alone and that God is leading my way. I just need to focus on what I'm doing and push forward even though I still need to complete assignments and presentations and study for the tests. I try to think positively in remembering this song, "The Battle Belongs," so I don't overwhelm myself. Another thing that is helping me to reduce stress is thinking about my study tour. I'm excited to go; I just want to do everything and have fun while I'm there.

Yuseli Ochoa (junior, speech language pathology & Spanish)

Before, I used to take a nap to forget about finals, at least for the moment, but I realized that it wasn't quite wise to do so. Now I'm just trying to think about going home in two weeks and that's motivating me to focus better and study for the finals. I always try to do some physical activities every day to refresh my brain and reduce the final stress.

Heecheon Oh (sophomore, biochemistry & Spanish)

I read the Bible, especially Psalm 28:7: "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and He helps me"

KiHeon Chung (junior, religion)

When dealing with stress, I like to make a priority list of what I need to do so that I'm able to focus on the most important tasks ahead of me. I also like to listen to music or spend time in nature. Other ways that have helped me include praying or talking with friends.

Ariana Coast (senior, biology & animal science)

HUMANS

Farewell to Pastor Dwight Nelson

Student Movement Staff [04.27.23](#)



Photo by Peter Tumangday

The Student Movement staff shares reflections on Pastor Nelson's retirement from Andrews. We wish him a happy farewell and hope that he is able to get the rest that he deserves!

Pastor Dwight was one of the first individuals that I met when I arrived on the Andrews Campus for pre-view week. He probably doesn't remember me, but that moment stuck with me simply because he was so sincere and kind. Whenever I hear people talk about him, they only have positive things to say. I think this is a direct result of his genuine love of creating connections and fostering a welcoming environment.

Shania Watts (senior, music and English)

I remember hearing a Pastor Dwight sermon for the first time in my freshman year at Andrews University. It was titled, "Roommates, Bad Dates, and Soulmates." It struck me how he was able to captivate his audience and really drive home his message. I've always enjoyed his streamlined approach to preaching—it's easy to

follow and touches the heart.

Alannah Tjhatra (senior, biochemistry)

Pastor Dwight has always embodied the values that Andrews puts forward as a community and I know that for many of my friends, his sermons had a very healing effect. I admire his presence as a public speaker who knows how to impart powerful messages without losing relatability with us. I remember every Saturday when I'm working at the radio station, I would turn on the PMC service and listen to his sermon which was a really calming way of starting the morning. I'll be really sad to see him move on from preaching here on campus.

Grace No (junior, English)

For years, my family would travel from Kalamazoo to Berrien Springs on Saturday morning to hear Pastor Dwight preach. I've always appreciated how aware of current events he is and how he finds ways to insert these relevant topics into sermons about ageless values. He speaks with energy and passion from the front and it's going to be really sad to see him go.

Solana Campbell (junior, business management)

Pastor Dwight has certainly been an iconic member of the Andrews community for a long time. His sermons are always relevant and engaging, with this past Sabbath being a good example, as he brought out a baby sheep as a sermon illustration. He has earned some retirement rest.

Lily Burke (senior, anthropology, English, and Spanish)

I have really appreciated Pastor Dwight's ability to reinvent himself over the years, maintaining freshness, passion, commitment, and his ability to work with staff to create a dynamic ministry team, including working to launch and support Harbor of Hope. Not to mention his strong support of women in ministry.

Scott Moncrieff, Faculty in Department of English

HUMANS

What does AANHPI Heritage Month Mean?

Grace No 04.27.23

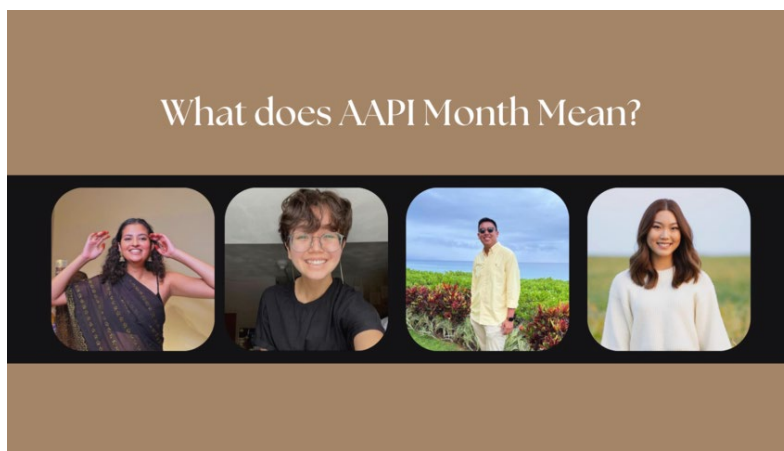


Photo by Kayla-Hope Bruno

Asian American and Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Heritage Month is celebrated in May, honoring the culture and contributions of all the diverse Asian Pacific American identities that exist in America. It's an important way of remembering various traditions across different cultures as well as an opportunity for raising awareness for the racism and violence that is perpetuated against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States. I interviewed some students of AAPI heritage as well as some of the presidents of Asian heritage clubs on campus for their thoughts on the meaning of this month and how they feel about it.

AANHPI and Asian Heritage has always meant community for me. Collectivism and the emphasis on the importance of family and friends that shines through our rich cultures has really shaped my upbringing. Whether it is insisting on paying the bill, making sure no one leaves potlucks hungry or empty handed, or having

plans to provide for my parents and family when I'm older, it's all about community. Being able to serve as AFIA President, I wanted to make sure that it shaped our year. I chose "Barkada" as our theme meaning "a group of friends" to make sure this shone through. With my amazing team, it has truly been such a great experience to have this opportunity as a student leader to build this space and grow our Barkada.

Jaden Leiterman (junior, MLS)

AANHPI month is a commemorative month where those of AANHPI heritage come together to celebrate the rich history and cultural influence that impacted the world we see today. As a Korean-American and representative for KASA, I believe Korean heritage emphasizes ancestral respect, cultural legacy, and traditional arts. Here at Andrews, the rich diversity and appreciation for each other's backgrounds allows us to express appreciation and spread awareness about Korean culture to the rest of the community. When we hold events such as Night Market and AUnited, we give a glimpse of the passion KASA has for Korean culture and introduce others to the music, food, and background of what being a Korean truly means and stands for.

Lauren Kim (junior, biology)

AANHPI month is super meaningful for the South Asian community on campus because it's a chance to spotlight our culture and celebrate the similarities and differences we share with other Asian cultures! It's an opportunity for collaboration, conversation, and celebration—and it is absolutely a necessity here on the Andrews campus! With so many students of AAPI heritage, this is an opportunity to understand our history and how our culture defines our experiences!

Solana Campbell (junior, business)

Before I came to America this year, I didn't know that this month existed for Asians. I definitely think it should be talked about more and I really appreciate that there's a time out of the year that is more dedicated to thinking about the history of people in America that come from these diverse backgrounds.

Belinda Mun (senior, business)

I'm glad that we are celebrating the diversity that is reflected in the Andrews community. I'm half Chinese, and I'm glad to be able to honor that part of my heritage along with all of the food, clothing, and family traditions that come along

with it.

Nora Martin (junior, English and psychology)

I would say that for me it's cool to have a month where I can think more deeply about AAPI history and how my family is a part of that history too. I don't really do anything in particular to celebrate it, though. I do wish that there was a Chinese American club on campus that I could join, but maybe there aren't enough of us that there can be a very active club? Either way, it's nice to have a month where people are encouraged to talk about their culture and share experiences with other people who have been through the same things or want to learn more about differences. Andrews is very diverse and so celebrating all the different cultures here is important, including Asian and Pacific Islanders.

Alexander Hilton (senior, physical therapy)

For us as women, especially Asian women, it's important to show support for each other not just this month but every day. It's been really eye opening to be informed to learn about different injustices and what people have been able to get away with in the past in terms of racism. I know that when I didn't know as much about social justice for lots of different communities, I was glad for my friends who educated me and had informative conversations with me. I hope that this month is able to let other people have the opportunity to do the same!

Tyler Lee (senior, business pre-dent)

Arts & Entertainment

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Currently: Reflecting on the Original Script

Solana Campbell 04.27.23



Photo by Kayla-Hope Bruno

I couldn't end my stint at the Student Movement without leaving you all with a final thought to meditate on. Over the course of the year, I have attempted to share thought-provoking new takes on the recent media entering our world. I hope this has encouraged you to think about what you consume, and about how your position, as a consumer and a creator, can make you a world changer. Use your choices wisely—every choice to stream something is, in essence, a “vote” for that content. In capitalism, consumers often choose which way markets swing. You have far more power than you might assume—so make good choices, uplift unique stories, and let's make the world a better place.

In recent years, Hollywood seems to have lost its appetite for originality, opting instead to reboot or remake classic films and TV shows. While some may argue that these reboots and remakes are simply a way to bring beloved stories to a new

generation, others are concerned about the implications of this trend for the future of storytelling.

The most recent examples of this trend are the announcement of the new “Harry Potter” and “Twilight” reboots. Both franchises were wildly successful in their initial runs, but now they're being revisited and reimagined for a new audience. While it's too early to say whether these reboots will be successful, it's clear that studios believe that they will be, or they wouldn't be investing so heavily in them.

So what's the problem with this trend? Well, for starters, it means that we're not getting as many original stories as we used to. Instead, we're getting rehashes of stories that have already been told, often with the same characters and plotlines. This lack of originality can lead to a sense of creative stagnation in the industry, as writers and directors feel pressure to stick to established formulas and storylines.

But the problem goes deeper than that. By constantly revisiting the same stories and characters, we're perpetuating a cycle of exclusion in which certain voices are heard more than others. Returning to age-old stories may be comforting, but it also hurts minorities whose stories have often historically been forgotten. If we continue to tell the same stories over and over again, we miss out on all the new stories there are to be told.

What can we do to remedy this? The answer is simple: encourage new and upcoming voices to write their own unique stories, and listen when they do. There are so many incredible stories out there waiting to be told, and we need to make sure that the people who are telling them are given the resources and support they need to succeed.

One recent example of an original story that's been getting a lot of buzz is Netflix's “Beef,” a series starring Ali Wong and Steven Yeun, that tells the story of the fallout in two people’s lives after they take part in a violent road rage incident. It’s a fascinating meditation on adulthood, money and power, societal pressure, and evangelical Christianity. The entire cast and creator team is almost exclusively Asian, but the story resonates with everybody. Personally, I think it’s one of the most fascinating and original stories to come out of Hollywood in the last few years.

Another example is “Everything Everywhere All at Once,” a film that blends elements of science fiction and martial arts to tell a truly original story. The film,

which stars Michelle Yeoh and Jamie Lee Curtis, has been praised for its inventive visuals and genre-bending approach to storytelling.

I recently read a really excellent book that I hope gets remade via film, and soon! Film offers a unique and accessible vehicle for all kinds of stories, which is why I think book-to-film adaptations are great! Not all people have the time or energy to sit down and read a book, but they might be okay with catching a movie!

These are just a few examples of the kind of original stories that are out there, waiting to be told. If we want to see more of them, we need to start actively seeking out and supporting new and diverse voices in the arts and entertainment industry. You have the power to do so. By supporting new and diverse voices and encouraging them to tell their own unique stories, we can ensure that the future of storytelling is as rich and varied as it has ever been. Use your streaming choices carefully, drive interest in new books and stories, and **write your own!**

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

In Memory of K.V. Rathnam

Ysabelle Fernando [04.27.23](#)



Photo by public domain

K.V. Rathnam passed away in his home last November.

K.V. Rathnam was a pillar of the South Asian community, the Andrews community, and the Southwestern Michigan community. K.V. was easygoing, funny, and friendly to everyone he came in contact with. He had a good sense of humor and could make people laugh. He always had a joke or two to tell anyone he met. He worked as a nurse for 37 years before retiring and pursuing his passion for the arts. He came from a village of artists, so art was always in his blood. He was a photographer, a painter, and a frame craftsman. He always gave back to the community whether it was his time or art supplies. He believed that children should have access to explore and experiment with art. He would often sponsor and provide frames for student art exhibitions at local middle and high schools. He was also known for donating art supplies to Andrews University. The Rathnam family would like to continue his legacy of giving.

K.V. was the President and one of the founding members of the Southwestern India Association (SMIA). He would often invite AU students to SMIA events to celebrate their culture and connect them to the community. He and his wife often hosted students from India at their home. He was especially supportive towards AU's SASA (Southern Asian Student Association). He was involved with the Food Fair and helped design the Taj Mahal booth display that is often seen and used for SASA events.

K.V. was an active member of Pioneer Memorial Church. He had a heart for service and was very kid-oriented. He was part of Mission Madras 1995, a mission trip to India. He founded "Let's Get Involved," a non-profit organization that provided AIDS education and education to poor and underprivileged children in India. He often spoke of these children in India like they were his own.

K.V.'s studio, Papachi International Custom Framing, is located at the Box Factory for the Arts in St. Joseph, Michigan. He was the first artist to have a studio at the Box Factory when it first opened. The Rathnam family has chosen to continue his legacy at the Box Factory. His granddaughter is taking over his studio and will continue in her grandfather's footsteps.

K.V. Rathnam leaves behind a legacy that is an inspiration to current and future generations to come. His life was proof that you are never too old to pick up a skill and use that skill to help those around you. His generosity and passion for fostering creativity within his community has shown how service and art can harmoniously create an environment that encourages and supports its youth, and

provides them the space to thrive. K.V.'s South Asian heritage was a strength to reach and uplift those within his community.

K.V. is survived by his wife, Sumathi and children, Venson and Vineesha, and granddaughter, Surekha who wish to continue his legacy of service and benevolence.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

“The Deal” Premieres at Sonscreen Film Festival

Solana Campbell 04.27.23



Photo by Khaylee Sands

For the first time in five years, an Andrews University student premiered a film at the Sonscreen Film Festival. Sonscreen is an Adventist film festival—held this year from April 13 to 15 in Loma Linda, CA—that is sponsored by the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. Over that Thursday to Saturday, a large

number of short films in categories ranging from comedy to drama are shown in blocks with similar short films in their genre. Films must be submitted prior to the festival, after which they are screened by the festival organizers and certain ones are accepted for showing during the festival. During each screening block, a special panel of the creatives behind each film is assembled and asked questions from the audience. Actors, directors, writers, and other creatives share their film know-how and creative inspiration. The event is a wonderful opportunity to network with fellow film creators, see your film on the big screen, and experience the medium of film in a weekend.

Khaylee Sands (senior, general studies) thought she was just completing the “8 words assignment” for her Intro to Film class with Professor Daniel Weber, but just a few months later, she was on a flight to Loma Linda for the only Adventist film festival in the world. “The Deal,” her original short film, is based on an assignment where students had to choose 8 random words and then craft a storyline from them. Then, each student pitched their idea to the class and the best idea was put into production as a short film. “The Deal” was filmed in our very own Rec Center and starred Jason Goliath (senior, public health) and Thandi Dewa (senior, biology). Simon Brown (senior, music performance) directed, Nathaniel Reid (sophomore, engineering) edited, Joel Pelletier (freshman, explore) produced and boom operated, and Moraya Truman (freshman, religion and communications) was the head grip. The short film tells the tale of a guy who wants to shoot his shot with a girl, but she won’t go on a date with him unless he beats her at Uno. Khaylee wrote and was the Director of Photography, the official industry term for the person behind the camera who chooses and sets up each camera shot.

Initially, Khaylee intended for the assignment to end there, but over spring break she received an email from Professor Weber asking if she wanted to enter her film into Sonscreen. Right after she got back from spring break, Professor Weber told her the news that her film had been accepted into the festival, making her a finalist! Her experience at the festival was very positive—she and Nathaniel Reid attended to represent “The Deal” and she sat on the panel for Comedy short films. She really enjoyed getting the chance to meet the editors of “The Chosen” and made lots of friends, saying “Everyone was really encouraging. Even if the film was only a minute, there was a lot of positivity and constructive criticism.”

I sat down with Khaylee herself to talk about the film, the festival, and what it means to be an Adventist in the film industry.

“One big takeaway is that I’m not alone in feeling lonely in this industry. A lot of people tend to say, it’s not a real job and you’re going to have to work twice as hard to get established. A lot of the films shown centered around this feeling, which was eerie. Other people recognized that as well.”

The festival gave creators an opportunity to commiserate and feel understood in these complicated human feelings.

We also talked about how difficult it can be to be an Adventist in film. After all, for years, Adventists famously didn’t even watch movies or go to movie theaters due to their religious beliefs. “I personally think that your religion, your Christianity, your faith, is not monolithic. Film is a form of creativity and expression that a lot of people use. So if film is a way that an Adventist sees as a way to express themselves, then it shouldn’t be an issue... I think there’s always room for learning and education. As an Adventist, I can show people that we are more than the commonly assumed stereotypes about us. What I did realize at Sonscreen, without even trying, some films had a second meaning, and you could tell it was tied to their Adventist faith. You can add your own flair of creativity as an Adventist without it having a negative impact on viewers.”

Khaylee found that her time here at Andrews University added to her experience with film. Professor Weber, who teaches Introduction to Film, helped bring together this chance for her to go to Sonscreen and she only spoke about him in glowing terms.

“I want to shout out Professor Weber for real, for always affirming me and giving me encouragement on the smallest details in class. He never let the little things slide and was always looking for things to positively affirm me with. He’s in it not for the ‘I’m your teacher at this point,’ but he is doing it for the well-being of his students. He’s really looking out for people.”

As for whether you should take Introduction to Film as well: “Take it! Do it—just do it. I was walking through the Gazebo when I saw this class [Introduction to Film] was posted and I was a PT major at the time, and it just struck a chord with me to just take the class because it was something I was passionate about. If you’re interested in it, just do it. Don’t second guess your own feelings about a passion that you have and don’t put anything that you know you’re good at to the side.”

What are her next plans? “I think I am going to continue exploring my creativity in film or cinematography. Anything that has to do with the digital creation world. I

have a passion for it and I don't see that subsiding anytime soon. It's only going to go up from here."

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Through Their Eyes: AANHPI Expression

Amelia Stefanescu 04.27.23

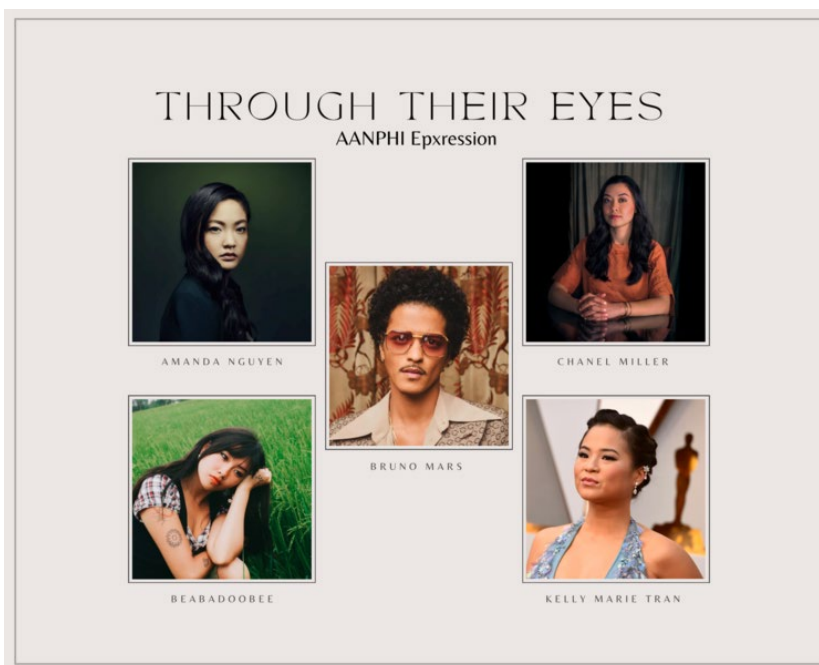


Photo by Kayla-Hope Bruno

AANHPI's (Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander) presence has always been important in the domain of art—whether it be music, literature, or any other type of entertainment. Many who belong to this identity find art to be a wonderful vehicle of expressing their experiences and sharing what they have gone through. AANHPI heritage is also nationally celebrated through the White House Initiative on AANHPI and AANHPI month, which is in May, encouraging the

population to make themselves aware of the importance of the community and their experiences. To celebrate the wonderful presence and art of the AANHPI identity, we have decided to ask you, the student body, to talk to us about various AANHPI artists that you appreciate.

An AANHPI actress that I personally appreciate a lot is Kelly Marie Tran, known for her role as Rose Tico in the Star Wars franchise. While born and raised in the United States, her parents were from Vietnam, having immigrated to the US as refugees because of the Vietnam War. She graduated from UCLA with a BA in Communication and went on to become an actress in 2011. In 2022, she did an interview with Star Wars called, “[“Imagine Yourself Doing Impossible Things’: A Conversation with Kelly Marie Tran for AANHPI Heritage Month.”](#) In the discussion, Tran brought up how she struggled to find representation in her search for a role. She says, “The first agent I had was a commercial agent, and he was awesome. He was Asian, and honestly, he told me at the meeting, ‘You don't have a lot of experience but I want to take a chance on you because I know a lot of people don't take chances on Asian people,’ and I was like, ‘Thank you.’” She also discussed the joys of being the first Asian lead in the Star Wars franchise, saying, “The first emotion that I felt—and I try to remind myself of this—was just pure joy and pure ecstasy. [...] It’s the same thing that I think happened for my parents where something in our brains just changed, when it was suddenly the idea that impossible things were possible and that there’s room for everyone. Like that just changes you as a human being.”

An AANHPI artist that a student enthusiastically talked about was Beabadoobee, also known as Beatrice Kristi Ilejay Laus. Beatrice was born in the Philippines but grew up in England. She later went on to create music, starting her career in 2017 at the age of 17. Vivienne Lupu (sophomore, social work) discusses, “I think that her Filipino background has influenced her music in some small ways. She recently visited her hometown back in the Philippines where she was able to record a music video for her newest song ‘Glue Song’ which went viral on TikTok.” In an [interview](#) with People magazine, Bea opened up about Filipino representation, saying, “It's almost like it's the same feeling I get when a little Filipino girl comes up to me and is like ‘I've never seen anyone like me up on stage with an electric guitar.’ I'm like, ‘This is totally what I needed.’ And it's so awesome to be that person for someone.” Her happiness at the opportunity to be someone to help others realize that it is possible to do what one wants with any identity speaks of the importance of inclusion. Vivienne ended with, “I think her art is impacted by

adding small little hues of her culture here and there because I think she likes to incorporate it as much as she can.”

Valerie Akinyi (senior, political science) expressed great admiration and appreciation for two personalities: Chanel Miller and Amanda Nguyen. Chanel Miller is an American writer and artist, known mostly for her memoir “My Name: A Memoir,” which discussed her case of sexual assault. Amanda Nguyen is the founder and CEO of the non-profit civil rights organization Rise. She was also involved in proposing and drafting the Sexual Assault Survivors' Rights Act in 2016. Valerie commented, “They are Asian women which means that they've experienced a certain type of experience that informed them of whether they should or should not speak up about what happened to them.” Both of them ended up speaking up about their abuse, which impacted the world in a positive way, thanks to the courage of these strong women.

Nailea Soto (sophomore, global studies) talked to me about Bruno Mars, a popular singer of Hawaiian, Filipino, and Puerto Rican origins. She said, “I really appreciate his artistic work, the way he expresses himself artistically. I think that he has influenced a lot of our generation because of his music.” When rumors emerged that he adopted an Americanized name instead of his birth name, he replied, “I never once said I changed my last name to hide the fact that I’m Puerto Rican. Why would I say that? Who are you fooling? And why would anyone say that? That’s so insulting to me, to my family. That’s ridiculous. My last name is Hernandez.” He embraces his heritage and is proud to show it.

Looking at all these strong artists, whatever their art may be, one can only feel a sense of pride and astonishment. When all odds are against you, stories of success serve as a powerful drive to reach for more, and one can never be thankful enough for the strength and courage of these individuals. Remember this as you go into finals week: you guys got this! :)

News

NEWS

A Night at AU: SASA Cultural Night

Solana Campbell 04.27.23



Photo by Nigel Maxwell

It's Saturday, April 15 on the Andrews University campus. 8:30 pm. Newbold Auditorium is buzzing with excitement as students and community members fill its seats in brightly colored clothing. Music unfamiliar to some ears plays through the room, setting the stage for the South Asian Student Association (SASA)'s annual culture night. Suddenly there's a buzz of excitement echoing from one of the side entrances. Several students rush in to the tune of "Ghintang" and the night begins.

First on the docket for the evening's festivities is a traditional Nepali dance. The four students, a mix of undergraduate and graduate students, South Asians and non-South Asians, dance in perfectly timed cadence to the piece and their shalwars sway to the beat. SASA's yearly culture night is always a blend of

traditional dance and music, sure to offer a good time, but this year the program boasts a storyline as well. Two students are getting married, well, fake married, in an opulent wedding celebration. As the Nepali dance ends, a freshman takes the stage, weaving the ins and outs of his experience growing up as an Indian in America into a delightful story. He balances humor about the downsides of his culture with appreciation for the beauty of it. When he takes his seat, audience members are treated to a rapid-fire look into the South Asian wedding festivities that precede the ceremony—the mehndi, the haldi, and the sangeet. Each “event,” or portion of the program, features a slightly different style of dance- from Bollywood to bhangra! There’s a short fashion show before the wedding ceremony to illustrate the diversity of clothing found among South Asians and then the ceremony takes place! They ended the night with a rousing dance medley of popular South Asian songs.

Over the course of the year, SASA’s vision has been to tell a story of South Asian culture that is inviting and appealing, without trying to present themselves as a monolith. They have worked hard to showcase different cultures within South Asia, from India to Pakistan to Sri Lanka and beyond. A space that would formerly have just been “Indian” is now allowed the cultural diversity it deserves. The team is supported in this vision by the “chai guy,” Kevin Wilson, the club’s sponsor. Culture night is always a night for celebration and education. Students can expect to laugh, dance, and feel the music each year, as well as go home with a greater appreciation for and renewed interest in South Asian culture. Each year, officers and South Asian students work hard over the course of their events to introduce AU students to varied aspects of their culture and heritage. One of the beautiful parts about being on the Andrews University campus is just how many opportunities for cultural celebration there are.

Pretty much each month there is a large cultural event or banquet that celebrates a different culture’s food and music, and every year, with AUnited, there’s a weekend of celebration for all our cultures! Unlike most universities’ social events, where there is little education taking place, each cultural event is formatted specifically to give attendees the opportunity to educate themselves on the history and practices of a culture, as well as enjoy the culture themselves. Over the course of the year, an Andrews student can celebrate everything from Filipino food to Korean holidays to Black fashion, among many other things. Attendance at these events is like a crash course in culture and equips students for the real world- where they will encounter a wide variety of cultures and traditions. Andrews helps their students learn

respect and admiration and appreciation for what makes each of us different, in part largely due to their very active cultural clubs.

Cultural clubs on this campus began from a desire to find community, belonging, and identity with people similar to oneself, but they have evolved since then to become a very valuable source of education when encountering somebody with a different lived experience than your own. While they still offer a place for students to belong and celebrate their own culture, they now offer the opportunity to experience cultures other than one's own, and each club heavily encourages participation from members outside of their culture! These clubs (and their activities) are responsible for not only the social life on this campus, but also help students prepare for a life as world changers.

NEWS

Interview with Professor Daniel Weber: Envision Magazine

Interviewed By: Brendan Oh [04.27.23](#)



Photo by David B. Sherwin

This week I talked with Professor Daniel Weber, assistant professor in the Visual Art, Communication, and Design department at Andrews University. He is the managing editor of the Envision magazine, which releases today (April 27), and I spoke with him to learn more about the magazine's origin, purpose, and mission.

What inspired the Department of Visual Art, Communication, and Design to start this magazine?

The magazine was started 13 years ago with the intent of creating a visual communication tool that would require our students from multiple disciplines to work together. We want it to serve as an example of creating a project in the real world; we often focus on theory and practice but actually having projects that basically represent what it's like to work in the industry is important for the students. This is now a recruitment tool for our department; when parents come through with potential students or we go on a recruiting visit to a school we pass this out and can proudly say this is 100% created by our students. We've won national awards and our issue in 2018 actually won the top student-produced publication in the entire United States. Our school beat hundreds of other schools like Harvard, Duke, Ball State, and Notre Dame due to the quality of our publication.

How did you choose the topics and stories featured for this year's publication?

The theme for this year was transitioning. We picked this theme because it's something students can relate to as they are coming into college. You're 18 to 23 years old, and you go through major changes in your life, whether it's professionally, personally, or even theologically. I went to two different writing classes, Professor Caldwell's Advanced Writing class and Scott Moncrieff's Writing ENGL 115 class. We pitched the concept and said, "Hey, if you're interested in writing for the publication, you'll get published if your story is chosen, and you'll have a printed piece that you can use to promote yourself in the future." Between both classes, we had more than 20 students agree to write. We went through the stories and selected the ones we thought worked the best. It's important to think about the whole magazine, not just one story. We asked questions [pertaining] to content flow, whether it is interesting, and whether there are a variety of topics covered. We came up with some good stories for this publication and we're very happy with them.

What are your plans for the future of the magazine, and where do you see it going in the next few years?

I want to increase the distribution of the magazine. We want to make sure we send it to every academy in North America so that high school students are aware that our program is available.

Something else I'd like to do is grow the interdisciplinary part of the publication. This year, we worked with the English department, and I want to continue that and grow the relationship further. It ends up being good for both departments and the university as a whole. I think the more interdisciplinary stuff we can do, the better, and it will make the publication stronger overall.

What has been your proudest achievement as a magazine creator?

This is my first time working as the managing editor of this publication. Seeing the whole process come through is a proud moment. We had this concept, and I was the one that discovered the story that's on the cover, which is the main feature story. It was really cool finding that story and seeing the story being told in a really good way. It is the capstone story of the whole issue, but I was also very happy to see all the other pieces tied together and flowing nicely.

As a magazine produced primarily from a Christian background, what role does Envision play in spreading its Christian mission to audiences of all backgrounds?

I think this magazine is important because as a Christian higher ed institution, we can put something out to the broader secular world in which Christianity is often criticized. We're able to present something that shines a positive light on our university and on Christianity as a whole. Hopefully, some of the stories will make people pause and reflect on things. It's not intentionally or overtly evangelistic; it's the fact that it's representative of who we are as a Christian institution.

What is one piece of advice you would give to someone who is interested in creating their own magazine or media business?

It's a lot of work and it takes a good team of people. I'm blessed to work with Professor Myers and Professor Sherwin; they've been involved in almost every issue, probably every issue. I've seen their dedication and I can rely on them, and I know that their parts are going to be handled well. It is a blessing to see this publication come through because I know it's a benefit for our students. It's a benefit for the institution and it's ultimately a benefit for future students.

NEWS

Interview with Gloria Oh: Transforming an Idea into Reality

Interviewed By: Brendan Oh 04.27.23



Photo by public domain

This week I talked with Gloria Oh (senior, biology) about her recent success with the 2023 Andrews Pitch Competition, a platform for students to present their innovative ideas for new businesses, products, or services to a panel of judges, to learn more about her groundbreaking idea “Refill To Reduce,” her mission, and her future plans.

What is the mission of “Refill to Reduce?”

The ultimate mission of this idea is to reduce plastic waste. A refillery is a shop where people can stop by with their reusable bottles like plastic bottles or glass bottles and fill them with whatever they need such as shampoo, body wash, and laundry detergent. Since people are using what they already have, they're not contributing to the production of new plastic bottles, which is why our pitch competition title was called “Refill to Reduce.” We want people to refill whatever

they need while reducing the plastic waste that would have otherwise been caused if they didn't visit a refillery.

What inspired you to join the Pitch Competition?

In February, there was an article in the Student Movement where I interviewed Dr. Matias Soto, the Director of the Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship. I was inspired to talk with him regarding my idea to see if it was even pitch-worthy. At that point, it was just an idea and he encouraged me to work on it. I asked my club members Ariana Coast (senior, biology) and Sarah Wolf (junior, biology) if they could help me. My officers and I made a survey to ask the students if they were interested in a refillery on campus or in the community. We held a small refillery station right before Spring Break, worked on the application, and turned it in. We got the semifinal result and then went to the finals!

How did you come up with this idea?

During my entire four years in college, I didn't have a car; I just got my license over the summer. Not having a refillery station made it hard for me to get basic necessities and the Gazebo can be pricey. Amazon is an option, but I felt bad about buying new plastic bottles every time I needed a refill. I thought it would be nice to have a refillery on campus and I was low-key hoping someone else could do it during my senior year. I heard about all the innovation classes that Dr. Soto was offering, but I couldn't take any more classes because this was my last semester. When I heard about the pitch competition I thought, "This is my last chance to see the change that I wanted to see all my four years in college," which is what motivated me to enter the competition.

What is your vision for how this idea can transform the Andrews community?

I really want it to happen on campus because I want to help students to experience a low-waste lifestyle. Recycling, as far as I have experienced at Andrews, has been minimal, and I'm a bit doubtful of what happens with all the recycling because recyclables can just be sent off to different places. I also want to create a place where people can buy more affordable daily necessities compared to pricier options on campus. You don't even have to wait for delivery; you can just walk right up if it's on campus to get whatever you need, which makes the refillery accessible, affordable, and sustainable.

Your project was honored with the social innovation reward, a special award category in the AU Pitch Competition that recognizes innovative ideas that aim to make a positive impact on society. How do you plan on advancing your project after winning this award?

Ariana and I won \$9,000 in total; \$4,000 was from winning fourth place in the pitch competition and the \$5,000 came from winning the social innovation award. The condition to receive that prize was to make the refillery happen in Benton Harbor and we agreed to it. My priority is to find a place where we could set up a refillery in the Benton Harbor region where the need is the greatest. Our second option for the Berrien Springs community is approaching Neighbor To Neighbor because they were open to having a space for us to set up the refillery station. But right now, I'm really hoping Andrews would be willing to offer us a space to set this up.

What is some advice you would give to students who are interested in developing an idea?

I think students, regardless of their major, should think about making the change that they want to see in the world. Also, it's going to be much easier to start making that change while they're in school. Use all the resources Andrews has to offer, such as your professors, the people around you, and professional networks. Reach out to one person, and that person can open doors to more people that can offer you help. My first step was going to Dr. Soto, which led me to meet someone who is a professional for a nonprofit. Doing this can ultimately widen your perspective and your network.

Ideas

IDEAS

All at Once: How AANHPI Media Representation Took Over 2023

Bella Hamann 04.27.23



Photo by Kayla-Hope Bruno

Growing up as someone of Asian descent, I regarded it as a rarity to see someone of a similar ethnic background as me on television. In fact, if I took the Disney movie “Mulan” and the character London Tipton from “Zack and Cody” out of the equation, I didn’t really see anything (unless you counted my Lola’s Filipino soap operas starring a very very pretty Coco Martin, but that’s besides the point). The reality was, essentially nothing existed in mainstream media—and to an extent, options are still limited today. Delightedly, however, this year was a huge leap in

Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) representation in the entertainment industry.

One huge example of this can be found in this year's Academy Award recipients, where there were *four* Oscar nominees who were of Asian descent. Now, at first glance, that may not seem like much, but when various factors come into play, this outcome is quite shocking. For starters, we must take into account that of the over 13,000 [nominees](#) for this prestigious award since 1929, only *six percent* have been from underrepresented demographics. This means that—not for every one person of Asian descent, but for every one person of *any minority population*—there have been *seventeen* white individuals who have also been nominated for an Oscar. This harrowing statistic highlights just how diminished Asian American representation in mainstream media has been, and helps call attention to just how rare it is that AAPI individuals dominated this year's award ceremony, particularly in the film "Everything, Everywhere, All at Once."

[Three](#) of the four actors nominated were in this film: Michelle Yeoh (best actress), Ke Huy Quan (best supporting actor), and Stephanie Hsu (best supporting actress). In addition to these three, actress Hong Chou was also nominated for best supporting actress for the film "The Whale." Yeoh and Quan ultimately ended up winning, and so did Daniel Kwan, who shared two Oscars with Daniel Scheinert for Best Director and Best Original Screenplay for "Everything, Everywhere, All at Once." This result is, to say the least, happily shocking.

Not only is the recognition of high achievement remarkable for AAPI individuals in terms of simple acknowledgement, but sweeping the Oscars this year brings to light another issue that has—while slowly improving—still very much prevalent within mainstream media, and that is the issue of the way in which AAPI individuals have been portrayed. Asian women in popular culture are portrayed as exotic and hypersexual, and men are seen as passive, weak and unable to adjust, with white actors even playing Asian characters to further harm the stereotype (think [Charlie Chan](#)). Even today, when someone says 'American,' it is very likely that someone of Asian descent will not appear in one's mind, even to AAPI individuals themselves. However, the gap of equity for this demographic has been narrowed by more fair and accurate representation in media, people speaking out on how toxic mainstream expectations have damaged them and belittled their culture and opportunities, and many more things pertaining to how they are viewed by the general public.

Sweeping the Oscars is only the beginning for proper representation for AAPI individuals this past year: Anetra and Sasha Colby becoming finalists in “RuPaul’s Drag Race;” Simu Liu’s upcoming role in the “Barbie” film, and many other examples exist to further the positive narrative in regard to equitable opportunities in all areas of popular media.

Not only is seeing more major representation in the entertainment industry an example of how AU students can see AAPI culture, but several school events that happened locally within the past few weeks highlighted various aspects of its diversity as well. KASA Banquet, SASA Culture Night, and the International Food Fair all added unique perspectives that contributed to the recognition of the many aspects of AAPI life, and how that in turn helps shape the campus dynamic at Andrews University.

This upcoming month is AAPI Heritage month. It is a breath of fresh air to go into this May knowing that things have improved—and, although there is still a long way to go, I know both the five-year-old me and present me are absolutely thrilled.

IDEAS

Raise A Glass to Freedom?

Terika Williams 04.27.23



Photo by public domain

As “Hamilton,” the famous Broadway play, popularized, the United States of America fought for independence from the British. Settlers in the U.S. on July 4, 1776 celebrated the freedom from domineering systems of power. It was with this same sentiment for equality and just treatment that these same settlers displaced, murdered and terrorized countless native indigenous peoples. All in the name of expansion and liberty, early Americans committed genocide against Native tribes in an attempt to erase their existence. This genocide was not only physical but metaphorical. The [definition](#) of genocide is, “the deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, political, or cultural group.” The metaphorical erasure of these groups is seen in the American educational system. For example, renaming the Trail of Tears—the path that indigenous peoples were forced to take as they were displaced from their homes—to Manifest Destiny, the “divinely led” mission American settlers had to expand the U.S.A. More recently, another example of this is the potential reversal of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

Okay—so what is the [ICWA](#), you may ask? Well, it is a federal law that was enacted in 1973, which allows for Native tribes to have jurisdiction over cases where their own Indigenous children are being adopted. You see, before 1978, Native American children who were up for adoption were usually adopted by non-Native, white families, even though there were loving families within their communities who could take care of them. A [press release](#) from 1966 by the Bureau of Indian Affairs reported, “One little, two little, three little Indians—and 206 more—are brightening the homes and lives of 172 American families, mostly non-Indians, who have taken the Indian waifs as their own.” This seemingly positive statement does not show the reality of what was actually happening during that time.

As previously mentioned, the U.S. government does not have the best history when it comes to the treatment of Native Americans. This fact can be clearly traced through the laws regarding the treatment of Indigenous peoples. On March 3, 1819, the U.S. Congress authorized the [Civilization Fund Act](#), which allowed the president “in every case where he shall judge improvement in the habits and condition of such Indians practicable” to “employ capable persons of good moral character” to introduce to any tribe adjoining a frontier settlement the “arts of civilization.” This act was an attempt to solve the “Indian question.” The “Indian question,” similar to the “southern question” in Italian history, and the “Jewish question” during the WWII era, prescribes blame and moral illness to the Other, Native Americans, while championing any endeavor to “fix” these humans. The Civilization Fund Act brought forth the Indian Boarding School era, in which

Native children were taken from their homes and put in predominantly Christian boarding schools to help them [assimilate](#) to the “American way of life.” These institutions forced these children to give up their native language, religion, and traditions, inevitably erasing their memory of home. Essentially, the U.S. government in the years pre- ICWA used adoption and education to “[to destroy tribes by destroying families.](#)”

In 1978, the U.S. government moved in the right direction by enacting the ICWA, which protects Native children from being disconnected from their families. However, some believe it to be one step forward and three steps back. There have been many complaints about the ICWA over the years particularly, in the [Haaland v. Brackeen](#), [Cherokee Nation v. Brackeen](#), [Texas v. Haaland](#) and [Brackeen v. Haaland](#). In these court cases, American citizens have argued that the ICWA is unconstitutional because it does not adhere to the Fifth and Tenth amendments. [In basic terms](#), “[The Fifth Amendment](#) says to the federal government that no one shall be ‘deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law.’” The fifth amendment is one of the amendments that gives us the equal protection clause, preventing the federal government from enacting laws that discriminate against people. We also get the substantive due process clause from the fifth amendment, which protects U.S. citizens from the government creating laws that [infringe](#) upon fundamental human rights like life, liberty and property rights.

Additionally, the tenth amendment has an anti-commandeering clause, which [prohibits](#) the federal government from issuing commands directly to the states. All in all, this means that Chad and Jennifer Brackeen, the Texans who filed the adoption petition, believe that the ICWA is unconstitutional because it prevents the adoption of Native American children by prospective parents which is a violation of the Equal Protection Clause and Substantive Due Process Clause. Also, Texas holds that the federal government should not be able to commandeer states into upholding ICWA. The Supreme Court will make a decision by the end of the 2022 term on July 1, 2023.

Since the inception of the United States of America, Indigenous peoples have been displaced and set in the margins of society. Their culture and traditions are continuously trampled upon by the descendants of those who forcibly took their home. One of the only laws in place that protect their families and generations to come is in jeopardy. In a way, if the ICWA is revoked, the U.S. would be responsible for bringing a second period of lamentation like The Trail of Tears for Native Americans. America loves to say that the children are the future without acting in

the best interest of them. Just like other American citizens, Native groups should have access to their own children, the very ones that can carry on the legacy of their forefathers. I encourage you to research this issue and to follow this case as it unfolds. [Here](#) are some [resources](#) you [can use](#).

To learn more about Andrews University's land acknowledgement click [here](#).

IDEAS

The Gem Off the Back of a Lorry

Gabi Francisco 04.27.23



Photo by public domain

On December 25, 1066, the first English coronation took place, crowning William the Conqueror as King. Over the course of 950 more years in England's history, all the ceremonies have taken place at Westminster Abbey since William the Conqueror's coronation. Some interesting incidents have happened in lieu of coronations, like the boy king, Edward V, being murdered in the Tower of London

before he could be crowned and Edward VIII abdicating the throne 11 months after succeeding his father. William III and Mary II were the only joint monarchs, whereas George IV didn't allow his own wife in to witness the coronation.

Naturally, there has to be plenty of things to be excited and proud about as a British citizen. The United Kingdom is the only superpower that still has a monarchy, and while the crown has not retained the same amount of power it previously had, it is still one of the few sovereign countries that preserves its rich history in terms of continuing to have a monarchy. The sovereign stands as a human representative of national unity and pride. Specifically for Queen Elizabeth II, her reign gave her citizens a sense of stability, security, and continuity. That being said, not everyone feels overwhelming happiness about the upcoming coronation of King Charles III. Why is that?

The coronation of King Charles III is just another reminder to many people, such as [Stan Grant](#), an aboriginal Wiradjuri man, of their rights continuously being trampled on. He says:

Wars were fought in this land now called Australia where Aboriginal people were massacred. Martial law was declared on my people, the Wiradjuri nation, during the 1820's in what was referred to as an '[exterminating war](#).' The survivors were locked away on segregated missions and reserves. Every movement was monitored, curfews imposed, civil liberties denied. Our languages were silenced, my father saw his grandfather jailed for speaking our language to him in the main street of our hometown. Our culture was smashed, children were forcibly removed from families in what has become known as the '[stolen generations](#).' Aboriginal people were commonly excluded from public places – hotels, swimming pools, cinemas. My people faced being erased from the earth. Indeed the common phrase during colonial Australia was to '[smooth the dying pillow](#)' for a race of people on the brink of extinction. When I was born in 1963, I – like all First Nations people – was not counted in the census. We were not included among other Australians. That would not change until [1967](#).

Amidst the cost-of-living crisis in the U.K., many Britons don't believe the coronation should be funded by the government. The coronation is expected to cost several millions of dollars, but the budget has not been revealed to the public. [Sky News](#) reports, "The late Elizabeth II's coronation cost £912,000 in 1953 - £20.5m in today's money - while the King's grandfather George VI was crowned at a cost of £454,000 in 1937 - worth £24.8m in 2023 and the most expensive

coronation of the last 300 years.” On top of this, King Charles III’s approval ratings are not high. [Global News](#) reports, “More than half of those polled, 60% oppose Charles as King and all that entails, including singing ‘God Save the King’ at official ceremonies and putting his face on the currency.”

Something that catches the eye and weighs heavily both literally and figuratively are the jewels that are a part of the coronation. All the jewels that King Charles III is scheduled to wear or hold start with the Cullinan I diamond that weighs 530.2 carats. It is the world’s largest cut white diamond and symbolizes the monarch’s power and responsibilities. When St. Edward’s Crown is placed on King Charles III’s head, he will physically be able to feel his responsibilities, as the crown is made with solid gold and adorned with [444 gemstones](#), including garnets, rubies, sapphires, and tourmalines. If you thought that was enough, the Queen Consort, Camilla, will most likely be wearing a ring that has several diamonds and a pinkish-red ruby. The King will wear “the wedding ring of England” that symbolizes his commitment to the Church of England. It is a sapphire ring which represents the Scottish flag, with baguette cut rubies that represent St. George (for England). He will also wear his signet ring, which dates back 175 years. Where do these jewels come from?

Although different British media would like to paint the picture that these jewels were simply “[acquired](#),” they don’t tell the actual story as to how the royals truly gained possession. One [story](#) tells that the 170-carat Black Prince Ruby was taken by Peter of Castile after he stabbed the ruler of Grenada as he was surrendering, thus giving the ruby the name “Black Prince.” [Historic Royal Palaces](#), a website that tells the history and stories of different Crown jewels says about the infamous Kohinoor, “The Koh-i-Nûr diamond is one of the most famous diamonds in the world. Originating from the Golconda mines in central southern India, the diamond has had a turbulent history. A symbol of conquest, the Koh-i-Nûr has had many previous owners including Mughal Emperors, Shahs of Iran, Emirs of Afghanistan, and Sikh Maharajas. The East India Company took the jewel from a deposed ten-year-old [Maharaja Duleep Singh](#) in 1849, as a condition of the Treaty of Lahore. This marked the end of the Anglo-Sikh Wars in the Punjab, in present day northern India and eastern Pakistan. The Treaty specified that the jewel be surrendered to Queen Victoria.” To the British royals, these jewels represent the wealth and power that is spread across many nations. However, for the nations from which these many jewels were stolen, they are being stripped of their ancient history and origins. As you can see, The Kohinoor diamond holds a significant

meaning in the Mughal Emperors, Shahs of Iran, Emirs of Afghanistan, and Sikh Maharajas, depicting its importance and symbolism throughout powerful kingdoms and ancient times.

The [sovereign](#), in representing his or her country, is supposed to hold politicians and democratic politics alike to a higher moral standard. He or she is supposed to, “save us from extremism and the righteous fundamentalism of those who believe only in their beliefs.” The divine right of kings says the monarch is subject to no earthly authority, deriving their right to rule directly from God. In this convoluted mixture of bridging extremism by right of God, monarch after monarch in British history, whether by their own hand or by their own permissiveness, nearly without exception, have taken the free choice bestowed by God upon all humans for the sole purpose of expanding and retaining their power. Not only does the coronation and King Charles III himself remind people of priceless jewels that reveal the richness hidden within their raped lands; it also reminds them of the uniqueness, brilliance, and independence of their stories and cultures that continue to be ripped off the back of a lorry, or stolen, with each new royal taking their place in history.

Pulse

PULSE

Goodbye and Welcome: Letters to the Incoming and Outgoing Presidents

The Andrews University Student Association Senate [04.27.23](#)



Photo by public domain

The Andrews University Student Association Senate has written two letters: One to Dr. Luxton, the outgoing president, and one to Dr. Taylor, the incoming president. These letters contain heartfelt messages to both presidents- significant and meaningful figures to the Andrews University community.

Goodbye:

Dear Dr. Luxton,

On behalf of the Andrews University Student Association Senate (AUSA Senate), we would like to express our deepest gratitude for your remarkable leadership during your tenure as the first female President of Andrews University.

Your unwavering commitment to inclusivity has been a tremendous source of inspiration for the student body. We appreciate how you made it a priority to engage with students from diverse backgrounds, creating a welcoming and supportive community for all.

In particular, we would like to thank you for your exceptional leadership during the global pandemic. Your decisive actions and clear communication helped the Andrews community navigate a challenging time with confidence and resilience.

We are also grateful for your responsiveness to the needs of students. Your willingness to listen to our concerns and work with us closely has been an invaluable asset to the Andrews community. You have consistently demonstrated a level of professionalism and dedication that has earned the respect and admiration of students, staff, and faculty alike.

Finally, we want to express our gratitude for being a great role model for future female leaders in Adventism. Your leadership and accomplishments as the first female President of Andrews University have broken barriers and inspired a generation of young women to pursue leadership roles in their communities.

Dr. Luxton, your impact on Andrews University and the broader community will be felt for many years to come. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors, and we thank you for your outstanding leadership.

Sincerely,

The Andrews University Student Association Senate (AUSA Senate)

Welcome:

Dear Dr. Taylor,

As the Andrews University Student Association Senate (AUSA Senate), we would like to welcome you to Andrews University and express our enthusiasm for the opportunity to work with you as our new President.

We are excited to see your commitment to having open conversations with the student body and ensuring that all people on campus are heard. This will create a more inclusive and collaborative community, and we appreciate your willingness to engage with the student body in this way.

One of the pressing issues that we would like to bring to your attention is the urgent need for major improvements in housing. Many students are currently experiencing substandard living conditions, and we believe that you have the power to make a positive impact in this area.

We also hope that you will continue to respect and promote the diversity that Andrews University is known for. As a diverse student body, we value the representation and celebration of different cultures and identities on campus.

Furthermore, we are excited to build a positive relationship between the President and the student body. We believe that this can be achieved by fostering open communication and mutual respect.

Lastly, we hope that you will work towards building a strong relationship between the Administration and AUSA. We believe that by working together, we can create a more student-centered and inclusive campus community.

Thank you for your commitment to Andrews University, and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

The Andrews University Student Association Senate (AUSA Senate)

Honduras Mission

Interviewed By: Abraham Bravo 04.27.23



Photo by Nick Bishop

A couple of weeks ago, I had the opportunity to interview Andrews University's Nick Bishop (junior, psychology) about a mission project he has been promoting and working on. During spring break, he and a couple of his colleagues set out to achieve the goals he had previously established. Hoping for an update on the work that has been done, what is currently being done, and future plans, I sat down with him to discuss the recent mission project.

Welcome back, Nick. Tell me, how was Honduras? Who did you bring with you to the mission?

Honduras was a fantastic time—the trip was a wonderful opportunity for my friends and me to have fun by helping the local village there. I brought seven guys with me, Jordan Magakat (sophomore, biology), Daniel Nguyen (junior, pre-physical therapy), Kris Archbold (junior, engineering), Andre Canubus (junior, medical laboratory sciences), Nathan Fernandez (junior, computer science),

Gabriel Garcia (freshman, pre- physical therapy), and David Kolle (sophomore, English).

What has been accomplished?

The projects were completed, and we ended up finishing the kitchen, house, a roof for a home, implementing a water system, and installing a floor for a local shop. Other than that, perhaps the most fulfilling part for many of us was forming friendships with the children in the village and the Children's Home (Hogar de Niños).

What are the conditions of living in Honduras?

Although Honduras is a beautiful country, it is very poor. Around 50% of Hondurans live below the national poverty line, so imagine a country where half the population is fighting every day to find food and shelter. Amongst the extreme living conditions, the people there are some of the kindest and most loving people you will ever encounter. I consider my best friends and family to be there.

How has your project affected the surrounding community?

Our project's aim is to decrease the amount of poverty, starting with a couple of houses at a time. So, what our projects did was to lift up the living conditions of a couple of families in the community, especially to make them safe from hurricanes and a more comfortable place to live. Our projects also allowed the guys and I to spend our spring break helping and showing love to this community. The community recognized that, and in return, they gave us so much love.

Future projects?

I would love to continue the efforts to fight poverty in the country of Honduras, continuing as of now by building homes and helping get access to water. I would also like to increase access to education in the country as well. I am trying to figure out how to use my opportunities and connections here as a student at Andrews University to help serve and aid Honduras.

What are some of the ways the students reading this can get involved and help with your mission project?

Students can check out my Instagram, which has a ton of documentation, or check out and donate to the GoFundMe: [link](#) to help support the current project to build another home. Instagram: [@nickdabish](#)

I also had the opportunity to sit down with one of the volunteers who went on the trip: Andre Canubas (junior, medical laboratory science).

What made you want to volunteer on a mission trip?

In the last few years, I have become more and more interested in serving somewhere and becoming a student missionary, and the idea of going to Honduras and serving was brought up to me by my friend, Nick Bishop. At first, I told him I was for sure down to come on the trip, but I just didn't think I would actually end up going. I'd run into Nick a few times in the passing weeks, and when he'd ask me again about the trip, I would say that I was excited about the trip. Don't get me wrong, I was, but wasn't too sure about it. Then one night, I was blessed to hear the testimonies of several past student missionaries, Jordan Magakat, Daniel Nguyen, Gabriel Orellana Campana (junior, biology) and Ryano Masengi (junior, medical laboratory sciences), and right then, it changed. At first, I was inspired by their experiences in the beautiful natural environment, eating the freshest and most delicious foods, and connecting with the people whom they served, becoming like family. However, their experiences of being able to make an impact on people's lives were what really moved me. I, too, wanted to make a difference.

What do you believe was the impact you made on the community?

In the neighborhood nearby, we assisted in several construction projects, including mixing and laying concrete, moving and laying bricks, cutting down trees, installing the barbed fence, and more. The local men that were facilitating the projects had to be certified professionals. It was insane how fast they worked; they had seemingly infinite stamina. They would be working early morning way before we arrived to work and would continue to work late into the afternoon when we would leave.

What was really meaningful to me, however, was our connections with the people at both the Hogar De Niños and the neighborhood. One of the other guys who went on the trip, Nathan Fernandez, was telling the rest of us guys that, after talking to some of the kids at the Hogar De Niños, he learned that a lot of them did not feel like they were of value and thought they just didn't matter. He also told us that they were saying how the group of us guys who came made them feel like they were worth something in this cruel world. I believe many of us have been given the privilege of having decent upbringings and, all the while, experienced real family love, and kids like this deserve to feel loved in the same way.

I've heard a lot about how you guys have become like family with the community. Could you explain a bit further?

Well, in just a week, it felt like I was already becoming family at both locations (Hogar De Niños and the neighborhood). Everyone welcomed us with open arms. The kids quickly warmed up to us and insisted on playing tag or little clapping games with them for hours at a time. The adults fed us more food than we could imagine: ranging from crispy tostadas with an assortment of toppings to warm and melt-in-your-mouth baleadas. I am sure that I ate approximately 100 corn tortillas in just that week. We even got the chance to roast coffee beans and taste the finished product soon after. Hands down the best coffee I have ever had. Some of the more grown kids enjoyed having genuine conversations with us, learning about our culture and what lies beyond the borders of Honduras. It not only gave me an opportunity to teach them about our culture here in the States but allowed me a glimpse into their culture and how they live on a daily basis.

Final words?

All in all, this experience was genuinely life-changing. I honestly think that they gave me more than anything I could have possibly given to them. Not literally, but in a sense of purpose.

It's wild how such a short experience skewed many of my views and values, but I think this

mission trip to Honduras awakened something in me, a yearning to go out and help. I feel as

though I have been given too much in my years on this earth. I believe it is only right that I

put myself out there and do what I can to try and make a positive impact in the lives of others. If

you are thinking about doing student missions or just making a positive difference in any

community, just do it! Throw yourself out there, apply yourself, and God will use you in ways you couldn't imagine.

If you would like to contact Nick Bishop and hear more about his future plans, please contact him at: nicklaus@andrews.edu

Last Words for the School Year

Elizabeth Dovich 04.27.23



Photo by public domain

As the last few days of the semester come to an end, students prepare for finals, finalize summer plans, and begin to leave campus. Some students will be graduating and leaving Andrews in a few short days. Meanwhile, other students are trying to find a place to store their belongings until they return for the fall semester. Either way, the school year is almost over, and it is time to take a break. (My condolences to those who will be taking summer classes. You've got this). Whether the students of Andrews University are planning to go home and relax, travel, continue classes, or work, they are ready for a break. Just like the end of last semester, I interviewed several students at Andrews University and asked them if they had any last words to summarize or describe the year. These were their responses:

“It was a good year. I had a good job and good classes, but I am excited to go home and take a break.”

Bianca Loss (sophomore, elementary education)

“Usually, I’m more sad about the end of a school year because I’m not going to see my friends for a while, but this semester was academically challenging, so I’m actually excited for a break.”

Melissa Moore (junior, nutrition science)

“It sure was a year.”

Nora Martin (junior, English and psychology)

“It went by faster than previous years have.”

T Bruggemann (senior, physics and computer science)

“As Douglas Adams wrote in ‘The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy,’ ‘So long and thanks for all the fish.’”

Abigail Cancel (junior, graphic design)

“I’m excited for summer. I’m grateful for all the people I met this year, and I’m looking forward to the next semester and all the opportunities.”

Jinu Kim (sophomore, English)

“It’s the end of an era, but at the same time, I couldn’t be happier.”

Siobhan Conyne (junior, speech pathology and audiology)

“It is what it is.”

Alex Cancel (freshman, mechanical engineering)

“I absolutely despise the heat, but thank God for summer vacation.”

Beatriz Martins (junior, medical laboratory sciences)

“A lot of the semester was negative, but I have enjoyed the people I met this year.”

Danel Farrell (senior, architecture)

“I may not be the smartest bean in the bunch, but I am still a bean in the bunch.”

Erin Beers (junior, psychology)

“It was a year that made five hours feel like five months, and five months feel like five hours.”

Yoel Kim (junior, physics)

“I cannot wait for the semester to be done. I’m looking forward to going on a study tour and being in Turkey instead of Berrien ‘depressing’ Springs.”

Arleny Aquino (junior, global studies and spanish)

Completing a year or even a semester of college is an impressive accomplishment. Whether you are graduating in May, or you have just completed your first year, you should be proud of yourself and this accomplishment. However your school year went and no matter how you are planning to spend the summer, I wish you a productive and stress-free finals week. Here's to the end of the school year and the start of summer!

PULSE

In Summer: Professor Olaf Presents You the Ultimate Way to Spend Summer

Gloria Oh [04.27.23](#)

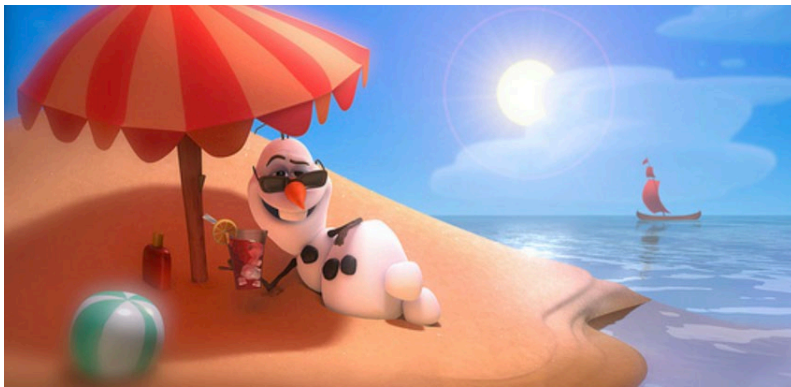


Photo by public domain

"Sometimes, I like to close my eyes, and imagine what it'd be like when summer does come."

I doubt Olaf was the only one closing his eyes and imagining the sun's warmth in winter; we all have been there whenever the brutal wind slaps our faces on our way to classes. But the sun has been kind to us the past two weeks, making it feel like summer is really just around the corner (although we have to face finals first)!

So now what? What should, or must, we do in summer?

Well, before your anxiety hits the roof, go take a look at our cute Olaf, turn on the song "In Summer," come back, and let us pay attention to what Olaf has to say! Although Olaf sang "In Summer" ten years ago, you will find the song lyrics quite relevant. As we skim through the words, let's think about how to make the most of the summer. It might look slightly different from what your self-help books say, but who cares? Holler back to your younger self who enjoyed "Frozen," and let's think of some ways to fully enjoy summer! (with Olaf's serious voice during the last few seconds of the song).

Bees'll buzz, kids'll blow dandelion fuzz.

Have you noticed the grass sprouting and flowers blooming, altogether lighting up the campus with different colors? Take a walk around the campus, or check out what flowers bloomed in your neighborhood when you return home for the summer! I promise it will feel really good to immerse yourself in the peaceful nature around you after all the hours of nonstop digital life that you had to live because of all the assignments and tests.

And I'll be doing whatever (insert your name) does in the summer / A drink in my hand, my snow up against the burning sand/ Probably getting gorgeously tanned in summer.

What activities filled up the bucket list you diligently wrote at the corner of your notebook or iPad when you were getting stressed? Don't just leave them on the list, but make them come into a reality this summer. Did you want to travel to a different state? Maybe lie down on the sand by the beach? Whatever they are, plan when and how you want to make them happen this summer.

I'll finally see a summer breeze blow away a winter storm / Winter's a good time to stay in and cuddle / But put me in summer and I'll be a happy snowman!

Winter things are winter things; summer things are summer things. Leave all your worries and regrets from this semester for this semester, and get ready to fully embrace summer when it is here. That means you should work hard for the next week of school to make your transition to summer smooth! Make a list of what must be done by this spring, and what responsibilities or activities await you in summer. Writing out a to-do list will help you stay organized and ready for the new season.

And find out what happens to solid water when it gets warm...

Were there things you wanted to do, but felt reluctant, maybe due to the lack of

time and space to make that happen? It could be learning an instrument that you thought was cool while watching the orchestra perform, or reading books about a field you are interested in. Devote a certain amount of time in summer to start the momentum in cultivating a good habit or skill that you want in your life. You could also try cooking, writing journals, exercising, and volunteering. Summer is an excellent time to find out what happens to you when you give yourself enough time and resources to do what you want!

And I can't wait to see what my buddies all think of me / Just imagine how much cooler I'll be in summer!

Last Christmas, I finally met up with my high school best friend/roommate after three years of not seeing her in person. Are there some people back home or friends you made before college that you have not seen for a long time? You can use this summer to catch up with them and share what was going on in each other's lives. You will find yourself relaxed around people you love, apart from academics, and by looking back with them on the good memories you made together in the past.

The hot and the cold are both so intense / Put 'em together, it just makes sense... When life gets rough, I like to hold on to my dream / of relaxing in the summer sun, just lettin' off steam.

Summer is not always fun and joyful. We are all in different life circumstances, and a break from school might mean problems for some of you. In those challenging moments, remind yourself of your dream! Keep thinking of things you like and love. I once heard someone say that thinking tragic or hard moments are not agonizing is not a display of positivity but rather a form of toxic optimism. He continued to say that positivity is to continue concentrating, doing, and thinking of things you love, even during those hard moments. And I think this is a cool way to think about positivity, and it made me think again about what I like to do. What about you? What do you like? Drawing, volunteering, knitting, singing, you know what you love. I like cherry tomatoes, so I'm going to make a salad bowl with a bunch of tomatoes in there to destress myself. Yum!

But you might say, "I don't know what I like/love!"

Well, what a perfect time to gain more experience and collect some clues to what you like! Get a job or jobs; write a diary (not a chronology) that details what you like and hate; travel and read! Read books about fields you were interested in; if you hate it, record so and why. If you like it, repeat the same process. I don't really

recommend reading self-help books on top of all the books you have already read. You already know what you have to do. And if you can't do what you know you have to do, it's time to ask yourself why (not in a judgmental way, but in a kind way! If you don't have experience talking to yourself kindly, please reach out to a trusted adult or mental health professional in your area who can help you).

Remember, seasons change! Everything hurting your life right now, too, shall pass.

Oh, the sky will be blue, and you guys'll be there too.

In conclusion, make sure to enjoy every day of your summer, the blue sky, and the dear ones/things around you.

When I finally do what (insert your name) do in summer.

Congratulations on all you have accomplished and achieved this school year, no matter how badly you might think you did. It's not only the glorious moments that count. Mistakes, faults, embarrassment, tears, they all count! Like it or not, they are all you, and they are all important. Make more of those moments “you” during the summer while doing what you (not the world) want to do in summer!

Last Word

LAST WORD

"Take it from Me" Part II

The Student Movement Staff [04.27.23](#)

"TAKE IT FROM ME" - PT. 2



Photo by Kayla-Hope Bruno

As the school year comes to a close, the Student Movement staff members share important lessons they've learned this year.

Biggest life lesson: it never hurts to try.

By Gio Lee, Social Media Editor

I've never had to be more independent than this year. Like a typical younger sister, I've depended on my sister a lot when it came to making friends and future advice. She was one of my biggest support systems. It was convenient that we were able to go to the same school together; she would attend school and/or church events with

me due to how shy and uncomfortable I was going alone. Everything went well for my first two years of college. But life gets in the way—not only did my sister graduate and leave Andrews, all of my closest friends transferred to different schools. I realized that I had become so dependent on my friends and sister that I never ventured off to try different things for myself. I never felt confident enough to go to events by myself, or ask people if they wanted to hang out with me. So before the fall semester began this year, I made it my goal to be more confident and not be scared to try new things. I would go to church by myself not knowing who I would sit with, become a small group leader, go on a mission trip, be a club officer, and more. And you know what? I regret nothing. Actually, I've been able to make even more friends than I anticipated and started to enjoy going to events instead of thinking of it as a chore. Who knew life was filled with so much? This brings me to my next point: instead of staying stuck in that fear, face it! Life is filled with even harder challenges, so try starting with the little stuff first. Maybe you'll start to enjoy life a little more :)

Connectors

By Scott Moncrieff, Faculty Advisor

I was monolingual until I turned twenty-one, at which time I found it highly advantageous to study Spanish, in pursuit of a romantic relationship which has led to forty decades of marriage. So believe me when I say I value language study. I also took a reading French intensive course during one summer of my PhD studies, in order to satisfy a requirement for reading proficiency in two foreign languages. For years, I've wanted to dive into another language. Korean? It would be great, but it seems too hard. Portuguese? It would be fun, and I know plenty of friendly Brazilians to practice with—but should I let my weak French die? So, this year I decided (not saying this was smart, but . . .) to study French and Portuguese, which are first cousins of Spanish. What has come to my attention is the importance of all the little connecting words, articles and prepositions. It's fun to learn the content words, like *estudar/étudier, exercitar/s'exercer, tocar piano/jouer de piano* (to study, to exercise, and to play piano, in Portuguese and French). Not so much fun to learn *no, do, os* (Portuguese) or *sur le, de la, les* (French). But you can't put together a sentence without those connectors, so I have to learn to embrace them, *je dois apprendre à les embrasser*. To learn in any field there are the fun big things that make you feel accomplished when you learn them, but there are also all the little

connectors that help us order the “big” things and make sense out of them. *Como amantes do aprendizado, precisamos amar ambos.*

A “Work in Progress”

By Kayla-Hope Bruno, Photography Director

This past school year I learned that it is okay to be a “work in progress.” Life is an imperfect journey and a learning process where you will not have everything figured out. The journey will be filled with peaks, valleys, and gray areas where things do not make any sense. Going through these past semesters, I have experienced extreme highs, extreme lows, and moments where I did not understand what I was feeling. In the high moments, I was excited that I was making progress in deciding my future steps. In the low moments, I was overwhelmed by the negativity in our world and in my own personal life. In the gray areas, I was experiencing constant indecisiveness on life decisions that needed to be made. Honestly, I could experience all these intense moments within a week, which was draining. Even though I know that I will most likely face days, weeks, months, or years where life may be defined by a myriad of emotions, choices, and decisions, I will remember that these moments are all part of the bigger picture, which is my life’s journey. Having a relationship with God and having the support of my family and friends is a constant reminder that this journey as a “work in progress” will always be worth it. As this school year comes to an end, graduation day is fast approaching, and my future is filled with unknowns. I am choosing to accept God’s peace and joy; I am surrounding myself with the love of family and friends and I am also remembering that life is not perfect, and it is okay to be a “work in progress.”

Soulmates

By Alannah Tjhatra, Editor-in-Chief

I should look for a soulmate. And when I find one, that person should be the most important person in my life, because romantic love is the pinnacle of human existence, and my partner should be my top priority. Everything else, while still important, is secondary. This is the lesson I absorbed from rom-coms, books, social media posts, dating apps, and shared stories in our heteroromantic world. I’ve since learned that it’s wrong.

Lately, I’ve been trying to be more intentional about giving my friends and family the same quality of love that I would give to a romantic partner. I’m not saying that

we should treat our friends and family the exact same way as we would treat a partner; I'm suggesting that we should romanticize our non-romantic relationships more often. Grand gestures should not just be reserved for our romantic partners, they should be given freely and enthusiastically to all of our loved ones. We should take our friends on dates. We should buy flowers for our parents—not just on Mother's or Father's Day—but also on random Tuesday evenings. We should actively show our friends how much we love them—giving them the utmost care, thoughtfulness, and attention—because they are an important part of our lives. I suppose I always knew it, but now, I've started to be more proactive about believing and acting on it: the title of “soulmate” doesn't have to be reserved for a romantic partner. Friends can be soulmates, too.

They Weren't Lying: Sleep is Actually Pretty Important

By Shania Watts, Website Editor

I've always been a night owl. Throughout my time at Andrews, I've always been known as that one student who never slept and was subsequently chronically tired (at my worst, I pulled three all-nighters in a row. By day three, I was literally hallucinating and experiencing tremors in my hands). Yes, I had a ton of things on my plate, but I never felt productive or motivated to apply myself completely. I simply just didn't have the energy. Though this lifestyle of minimal sleep and constant grind worked, I quickly realized that it wasn't sustainable. Over this past winter break, I decided it was time to completely cancel this ridiculous schedule. So I returned to Andrews, committed to going to bed early, and waking up early. Boy, was it an adjustment! However, I truly feel that it was the best adjustment I've ever made. It took me nearly my entire academic career to finally realize that I'm actually more productive in the mornings. Not only could I get all my homework done and still feel refreshed, but I had time for other tasks, such as tackling the 20+ hours weekly practice requirement for music majors! Instead of forcing myself to stay up late and finish assignments poorly, I now decide to go to bed and complete the assignments in the morning. And guess what? They always turn out ten times better. Now, I can't say I've perfectly maintained this new routine. I've definitely had a handful of days where I went to bed way later than I should have. Nonetheless, the overall impact on my life has been amazing since making this change, and I highly recommend it to all the freshmen I've met that aren't getting any sleep. It's okay to prioritize sleep, ya'll!

Self Care: More than Scented Candles

By Lily Burke, Copy Editor

What have I learned? Academically, actually a lot! That's always a good feeling at the end of a semester. But beyond now knowing the intricacies of the Americans with Disabilities Act, being validly freaked out about surveillance capitalism, having gone through the steps of a community development project, appreciating some highlights of 20th century literature, and delving into contemporary perspectives on the role of archaeology, I've learned about life. There's two important tips I want to share. One tip is, "don't put it down, put it away." As someone who is easily sidetracked down rabbit holes and into new projects, leaving the materials I was using to complete the previous thought in my wake, sometimes my spaces get overwhelmingly messy! I've learned that instead of putting down whatever clothing item, piece of technology, animal, vegetable, miracle, whatever I'm holding, I should put it away in its place. This tip has worked miracles to help keep my spaces more clean and my mind less stressed. The second tip I've learned is that it's okay to make things easier for yourself. I tend to hold high and funky standards for my work, though these standards, upon closer inspection, are often arbitrary at best, and damaging at worst. I've learned that it's okay to question my methods and goals, and come up with a way to make things easier. For instance, maybe I don't need to write a life changing, Masters-degree-application-worthy essay for every class assignment. Maybe I can just complete the requirements, get my grade, and be okay.