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## The Student Movement Volume 108 Issue 5: From Pumpkin Spice to Sinigang: Falling Into Filipino Heritage Month

Lauren Kim

Grace No

Reagan McCain

Amelia Stefanescu

Lexie Dunham

*See next page for additional authors*

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**Authors**

Lauren Kim, Grace No, Reagan McCain, Amelia Stefanescu, Lexie Dunham, Daena Holbrook, Gio Lee, Andrew Francis, Nathaniel Miller, Bella Hamann, Erin Beers, Corinna Bevier, Brooklyn Anderson, Caitlin Adap, Anna Rybachek, and Abby Shim

## From Pumpkin Spice to Sinigang: FALLING INTO FILIPINO HERITAGE MONTH



Photo by Dawson Par

# Humans

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HUMANS

## AU SILA: Meet Darius Bridges

Lauren Kim 10.20.23



Photo by Darius Bridges

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*This week, I spoke with Darius Bridges, the new AUSA sponsor and assistant dean, about Andrew's Office of Student Involvement, Leadership & Activities (SILA). He discussed SILA's main vision, up-and-coming events, and his past and present connection to Andrews University.*

**Last year, AUSA was leading and guiding the other clubs and organizations. What was the vision behind adding SILA this year and what is your main goal?** So technically the group that is in charge of the clubs and organizations is student involvement, leadership, and activities (SILA), while the department used to be

called Student Activities. The department's name now covers both leadership and involvement. This year the SILA department would like to continue to create spaces for the students to feel appreciated.

**As an alumnus of Andrews, what made you want to continue your connection to Andrews University?**

In 2021, I graduated with my Marketing degree from Andrews University. Originally, I was planning on heading back to the DMV (DC, Maryland, & Virginia) to work and to live but...God. While I have enjoyed my time at Andrews University, my passion for the school and the students may have been what kept me but it isn't what brought me. Only two months after I left God called me back to the school to work and now it's my third year here as a staff member.

**How is it different working for Andrews as a dean versus attending as a student? What are some pros and cons of both?**

It's definitely an interesting experience seeing behind the veil within the administration. As a student there were a lot of unanswered questions I had that have now been answered being on the other side of it all. I can only speak on my experience as a student and my main cons at the time was wanting to do more to make people feel represented and appreciated and only having so much ability to achieve said things. On the bright side, you have fewer responsibilities as students so there are positives and negatives.

Being the new Dean of SILA has had so many pros, such as being able to be the change that I wanted to see. I've really enjoyed attempting to connect and serve students. I wish I had more time to do more but with the multiple different layers of my position, the work can grow from a little to a lot quickly and sporadically.

**SILA has already hosted a roller coaster outing and other events for AU students. What other plans do you have for the rest of the year?**

We have hosted a Cedar Point trip, Spirit Week, Almost Anything Goes, and a bunch more. I've always been a person who likes the element of surprise so I won't say too much but our plan this year is to do a lot more events that appeal to students who wouldn't usually come to events while still upholding and elevating AU traditions.

**Is there a specific event coming up that you are excited about this year? Why this event?**

One event that I'm always excited about is AUnited Weekend. I'm very big on diversity and learning about different cultures so it is definitely something I am

passionate about and excited about. Look out for AUnited weekend March 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.

**What advice would you give to those wanting to pursue a leadership role similar to yours?**

I have seen a lot of people who like to get into leadership, whether it be on campus or in the world, for the perks, resume, or notoriety. Doing leadership roles and positions have the possibility to be so much more than that. Honestly, leadership can be hard and it can be a lot of work. As someone who has had multiple leadership roles on and off campus and now has the word leadership within my job title I would say to pursue leadership roles and positions that mean something to you. When you put your purpose into practice you will also be successful.

## HUMANS

# Dawson Par: AUA FIA President, Chef, and Techie

Grace No [10.20.23](#)



Photo by Dawson Par

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**Could you introduce yourself to us and give us a fun fact about yourself?**

I'm Dawson Par, I am a computer science major and the president of the Andrews Filipino International Association. I'm a third year in college and an interesting fact about me would be that for the first time this year, I was able to join an online conference that features Filipino American History Month. It was done by Tik Tok actually, and it was very interesting to learn how Filipinos fit into the tech industry. That's something relevant to me and I found that interesting.

**What made you want to be president and what are some of your plans for the club this year?**

So when I initially came to Andrews, I was introduced to AUAFIA because they said hey, you shoot videos, you should become a videographer for us. And I said sure. From there, I really learned from the president at the time, Justin Flores. Ever since then, I've been really passionate about engaging with the Filipino community here at Andrews and that's what led to me becoming president-elect then and now president. For Filipino American History month, we just had our AUAFIA Sabbath which was in partnership with the lamp church, and we're also having a potluck that incorporates the community's entrees, and everyone's invited. And then there's things like kinetic worship, and for the first time we will be holding a pickleball tournament at the end of this month.

**What is your favorite thing about Filipino culture?**

It's very warm and welcoming. Those are the two words that have the most significance to Filipino culture for me because of my experiences with my family and churches. I always have a sense of community.

**Do you feel that sense of community here on campus as well?**

Yes, I do, but you kind of have to break into it. It was a little bit of a struggle for me personally when I entered Andrews as a freshman because I really had to find where the group was and where my culture was. I will admit that the Filipino community tends to hang out within itself. So although we do welcome anyone and everyone in, sometimes you actively have to go search for the community and it's not automatically like 'Oh, hey, come join us.' Once you approach them it's fine, but it's hard to approach the members at times.

**Earlier, you talked about Filipinos in the tech industry, and you're also a computer science major. Can you tell us more about that?**

It's interesting because although we aren't the most underrepresented group, we

are still a minority in the tech industry. And companies such as TikTok or Amazon have made it a point to have culture families and groups within the company to really incorporate community, so people in the same culture can hang out or just have a sense of 'hey, there's other people like me here.' And for me, it was really interesting that larger scale companies would care about something like that. It's cool that they've begun incorporating this into their work culture.

**Have you faced any difficulties being a member of an underrepresented group in your major?**

I personally don't think about it that often because in my field as a computer science major, a lot of the return is the amount of effort you put in. If you don't do projects or do your homework and just practice coding it's not really fruitful, but I don't think my minority status plays a large role in that.

**What is your favorite Filipino food?**

I went to the Philippines this summer actually, and oh my goodness, I still think about this food: chicken inasal. The way they fry it, the seasoning, it's so good. I think about the chicken and I immediately want to go back because I want to eat it again so badly. So definitely chicken inasal is one of my favorite dishes.

**Do you have any Filipino role models that you look up to? Any celebrities?**

So from a smaller perspective, I really look up to my parents and what they're able to do as immigrants and how much work that they put in by moving from the Philippines to America. They've really helped their family back home and also developed one here in the States. They are probably my biggest role models. Outside of that, when it comes to celebrities, there's so many to pick from but I can't really relate to them. So I'd say more or less my parents are my celebrities.

**Since your parents are immigrants and you grew up here in the states, how do you connect with your Filipino culture?**

Okay, funny that you mentioned that, because in my household, my parents speak to me in their native languages (Ilocano and Tagalog) and I can fully understand it. But I don't speak it fluently. And if an auntie or uncle were to speak to me, I can understand what they're saying and communicate back to them. I think language plays a very vital role in my culture, and there's many dialects in certain groups in Filipino culture. For example, my dad speaks Ilocano and my mom speaks Tagalog. Whenever I go to church, my aunties and uncles are like, oh, do you understand that? And I say yes, I do, but I can't speak it back to them. That is the struggle that I've had. But other than that, I'm trying to learn my mom's and dad's



specialty dishes because I feel like they have a lot of pride in their Filipino dishes. And I'd like to carry that on and possibly pass it on to future generations.

**What foods do you know how to make?**

I do know how to make pancit, that's from my mom's side. I want to name something impressive, but Filipino dishes are usually very simple, except whenever you cook a Filipino dish and want to know the measurements of the ingredients and everyone will say to just eyeball it, and obviously everyone is different. And sometimes one family will use a particular ingredient in a dish but another household doesn't. So anything could be simple, but also complicated. I know how to make a lot of simple dishes, though.

**For anyone who is interested in joining AUAFIA, what would you say?**

I think one of the most unique highlights of AUAFIA is that we really try to make it a point to welcome everyone, whether you're undergraduate, graduate, Filipino, or non-Filipino. You're all welcome to all of our events, and a lot of our events are food centric. So if you're looking for food other than what the Cafe has to offer on a Saturday, just come to our kinetic worship and we'll be happy to serve you and make you feel welcome in our community.

## HUMANS

# Meet the Majors! Majors that Make Up Andrews University

Reagan McCain 10.20.23

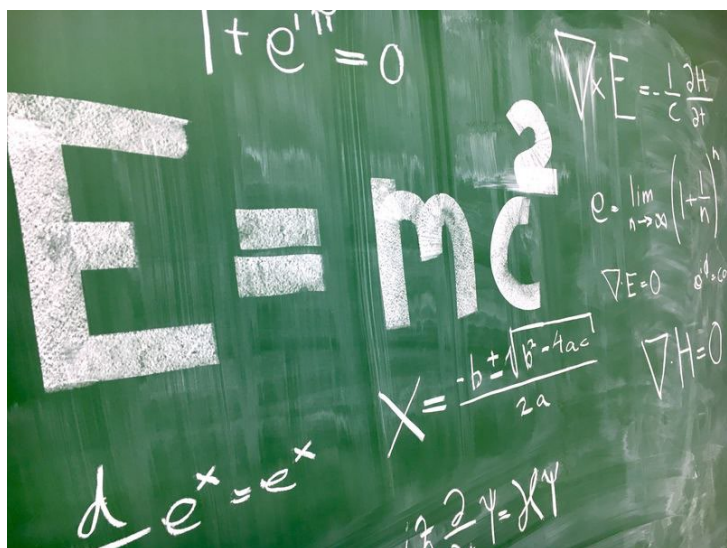


Photo by Artturi Jalli

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*Andrews University offers a large variety of majors on campus, and if you've been curious about what it's like to study a field different from your own, this is the article for you. I asked some students about their majors and what exactly that entails to give us a look into all of the interesting disciplines that exist here at Andrews.*

### **What is your major?**

Zachariah Dulcich: architecture (junior)

Anastasia Psechnik: computer science (senior)

Michelle Rivera: political science (junior)

Kirsten Wilkens: business management (sophomore)

### **Why did you choose your major?**

Zachariah: I like being creative and I like being able to physically see my work have

an impact on the world. I can't stand to work and never see the fruits of my labor with my own eyes.

Anastasia: Computer science challenges me to think outside the box every day, helps my mental focus and pushes me to be more efficient in the way I think. It's not an easy major! I'm sure not everyone in CS struggles the same, but I know that I, for one, am more right-brained than left-brained, and some math and programming concepts take time to settle into my brain. But despite that fact, I enjoy taking the challenge of thinking critically and using problem-solving to create solutions that make everyday life run more smoothly!

Michelle: I chose my major because of its broadness and duality of both humanistic perspectives/scientific skills. I love learning about politics/history in America and other countries.

Kirsten: Business is very versatile and I know a lot of people go into it not really knowing what they want to be, but it is something that you can explore.

### **What do you foresee doing with your major after you graduate?**

Zachariah: Work for a firm doing high budget custom residential housing, and possibly opening my own firm doing that one day.

Anastasia: Since I enjoy the artistic side of things, I have been more drawn to the fields dealing with UX/UI design, research, web development and maybe even digital marketing/analysis. I'm very interested in seeing the direct result of my solutions on users and their digital experience.

Michelle: I either want to go to law school or pursue my master's degree in international development.

Kirsten: With my degree I would like to go into healthcare administration and possibly work in a hospital or a nursing home.

### **How have you enjoyed your classes and department so far?**

Zachariah: The classes are very challenging, but overall I enjoy my major and the classes it comes with.

Anastasia: The CS department is supportive, but you do have to speak out if you are struggling to understand or need additional help. The professors are always willing to explain concepts and have a chat with you! I have been enjoying most of my classes, although it takes the right mindset to listen and try to understand every

concept being presented. It definitely helps to have an interest in the topic and to know that what you're learning will be useful to you!

Michelle: My classes have been engaging and thought provoking, offering a fulfilling learning experience. I love how close knit my department is.

Kirsten: I have definitely enjoyed my department and classes. I think that some classes are hard but you meet a lot of people and everyone is willing to help. And they always have events going on.

**What advice would you give to any new students in your major?**

Zachariah: Time management is your best friend. You will feel like giving up, don't. Sleep when you can, because it is a precious gift in this major.

Anastasia: Network and collaborate. Networking is really important in the tech industry. It not only allows you to learn new things from people with varying skill sets, but can also help you find internships and jobs. Collaborating with others also exposes you to ideas you could have never thought of yourself! Also, don't forget to enjoy programming outside of classes! It helped me a lot when I sat down on my own and began working on independent projects. Not only does it give you the confidence in your own skills, but also teaches you perseverance, creativity and critical thinking that you can't always get from classes alone. Classes teach you theory, but only you can put it all in practice!

Michelle: Advice I would give to a new political science student is to discover your own journey in this major. Explore career opportunities and find what suits you most. Also, make sure to READ all the material that is given to you.

Kirsten: I would say to meet new people in your classes, that way if you are struggling and can't always ask the teacher, you can ask your friends.

# Arts & Entertainment

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## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Art Through Language: An Introduction to Andrews University's Language Program

Amelia Stefanescu [10.20.23](#)



Photo by ILGS

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Andrews University's proudest achievement definitely lies with its diverse population, resulting in a beautiful mixture of language and culture. As part of this diversity, AU also has an extensive International Language Program in majors and minors alike. The courses offered in these programs focus on the language but also the culture, providing students with important tools to navigate culture-specific situations.

Dr. Sonia Badenas, professor of French, describes the program as being separated into two sections: the on-campus classes, which have an emphasis on both language and culture, and the various hands-on opportunities offered through

study tours and Adventist Colleges Abroad (ACA). “They are united, but they can also be seen separately,” she says. Many minors are obtained by students doing a year of ACA abroad, being offered the option of learning Arabic, Italian, German, and Portuguese, besides French and Spanish, which are offered as majors and/or minors at Andrews. Anders Jeronimo (junior, biochemistry and French) was a student at Colognes through ACA from 2021 to 2022 and described his experience as “very formative in terms of language and broadening my cultural horizons.”

There are currently two study tours offered alternatively each year: one in Europe, happening this upcoming summer, comprised of Italy, Greece, and Spain, and one in South America (exact itinerary TBD). Nailea Soto (junior, global studies), who will be on the Europe study tour this coming summer, said, “I’ve heard that you get a very good experience from each place that you visit. You get a good idea of the place and culture because you’re there for a while. I’m looking forward to exploring other cultures regarding food, interactions with others, and just being in a different geographical location.”

When asked about the perks of joining the language program, Dr. Badenas excitedly expressed, “Oh, there are so many!” Besides marketability, she mentioned that “language opens your mind.” She added, “Knowing more than one language decreases chances of egocentrism and supremacy because you understand the struggle of learning multiple languages. When you are learning a language, you are also learning a culture, so it’s always eye-opening to think about things in a different way.” She also discussed with me how she saw language fitting within artistic expression, describing how important art is to a specific linguistic culture through literature, painting, architecture, etc. “It is an art of putting words together. It is a way of expression but in a different language with different words and meanings and vocabulary.”

A few students expressed their admiration for the language program, notably the interesting classes, the traveling opportunities, and the professors. Anders referenced the professors’ hard work in creating a healthy and educational environment for students, saying, “Professor Badenas is great– she’s Badenas. Even before Andrews, I heard from other people about her. She obviously works well with those who are in the program.” Nailea similarly expressed her positive experiences with the professors, saying, “I like how hands-on it is. It is very involved, you’re constantly practicing and using it, and the professors will talk in that language with you, so you constantly learn. It’s not just teaching; they are very much involved and want you to learn actively.”

One of the most popular language program classes this semester has been Language and Culture (ENGL 440), which is being taken by both interviewed students. “In class, we talk about linguistics, we talk about the effects of language on culture. The structure is lecture-based but is open to discussion and class interaction,” says Anders. Nailea adds, “I think it's a great opportunity for people to be able to get different experiences or at least learn about them when it comes to language because it is a very diverse topic. So being able to get a lot of different perspectives on language is very interesting.” “We approach the class with, ‘Wow, what can I learn from this language? This culture?’” says Dr. Badenas, taking on an approach focused on seeking answers and what we can learn from other cultures.

Andrews definitely has a very interesting and well-admired language program. As we have seen, it offers many opportunities, from studying abroad in far-away countries to blossoming one’s mind through learning new languages and cultures and expanding our worldview.

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# “Ever After”: The Best Fairytale Adaptation

Lexie Dunham 10.20.23



Photo by IMDb

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Let's talk about one of the most underrated movies in cinema history: "Ever After: A Cinderella Story" (1998). People don't talk about this masterpiece as much as they should! This is one of my favorite movies of all time and, in my opinion, the best adaptation of any fairytale. This fact is confirmed when I confess that I have seen this movie over forty times in my short life of only twenty years. On the outside, "Ever After" looks like a plain adaptation of the original "Cinderella" fairytale, but this movie creates so much more than that. While omitting the magical aspects of the original, "Ever After" delves into what it was like living in 16th-century France.

This movie transcends period romance films. With Drew Barrymore playing Danielle (the stand-in for the Cinderella character), a spirited, well-spoken young woman, this masterpiece perfectly portrays life as a "commoner" falling in love with a prince. As the original fairytale goes, Cinderella is forced to live a life of servitude by her wicked stepmother. In this adaptation, Danielle is still subject to servitude. However, the stepmother (played marvelously by Angelica Huston) has punished Danielle out of pure jealousy that Danielle's father loved Danielle more than his new wife. There are still two step-sisters: Marguerite (played by Megan Dodds) and Jacqueline (Melanie Lynskey). However, they are by no means ugly. Marguerite tries to win over the prince's affection. At the same time, Jacqueline, with a kind heart hidden behind the meanness of her mother and sister, is soft-spoken but ultimately uses her voice to help Danielle in many ways. After a hilarious run-in at the apple orchard, Danielle comes face to face with the prince, Prince Henry (Dougray Scott). Henry is enamored with her style of speaking and ideas about everyday life. Mistaking her for a courtier, Henry tries to find any opportunity to see her. As the movie continues, Danielle speaks with such eloquence that I deem this movie as having my favorite script. The Disney adaptation of "Cinderella" stripped Cinderella of any real goal or ideals. Danielle, on the other hand, spits off fantastic line after fantastic line, playfully arguing with Henry on politics that he should be concerned about if he is supposed to be king one day, such as education, poverty, and art. One of my favorite lines that shows Danielle's passion for "simple" things is when Henry and Danielle are looking at books, and he asks her to pick her favorite one. She replies, "I could no sooner choose a favorite star in the heavens." Henry and Danielle, as they fall in love, show



each other little parts of the world around them. Danielle gets a glimpse of royalty while Henry gains a sense of reality. Henry remarks that although he has had tutors all of his life, Danielle has shown him more knowledge in just a few days than he has learned throughout his lifetime. He gains a newfound respect for peasants and serfs, even with Danielle concealing that she is, in fact, a servant.

Danielle is a character that even Drew Barrymore herself said she wants to be. Instead of having the prince save her in dangerous moments, Danielle does it all on her own. Her quick wit and beyond-her-years way of speaking mesmerize anyone who comes within her vicinity and saves her countless times. Although Danielle is forced into servitude, she never thinks of leaving that life. Sure, she would rather not work for her stepmother and step-sisters, but even through all that, she is constantly thinking of others. From rescuing her family friend from prison to helping the prince, she is kind, genuine, and compassionate to everyone she encounters. Even when you think she might take revenge on her step-mother, she does something surprising with grace and elegance.

I'm not trying to spoil too much for you, as this movie is one you just have to watch to find out how fantastic this is. The costumes are everything I want in a period romance film and more! Danielle's outfits, in particular, are a work of pure genius. This movie has a 91% on Rotten Tomatoes, garnering high praise from critics and high esteem from my friends and family. It is a movie that makes you laugh, cry, think, and dream to have the determination that Danielle has. "Ever After" offers the audience to believe in empathy, kindness, love, and most importantly, a happily ever after!

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Harana: The Filipino Serenade

Daena Holbrook 10.20.23



Photo by Max Adlao

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As you may know, singing is a huge part of Filipino culture. You may have heard the stereotype that every Filipino can sing well: this is probably where it comes from. Singing is pretty much built into every type of social gathering. Karaoke is the main source of Filipino entertainment, everyone is expected to sing in church for special music, and we take caroling at Christmas very seriously. Not only that, but gas station attendants will sometimes sing to you for fun while pumping your gas, live singing is not uncommon in a Filipino airport, and there's karaoke in about every grocery store. It's completely natural that singing would become standard in Filipino courting!

Harana, the Filipino serenade, is a dating tradition practiced in Filipino culture (originally influenced by the Spanish). In this tradition, a man will get a group of his friends together to go to the window of the woman he admires. His musician

friends accompany him as he sings to the woman. In this special moment, the girl listens and watches as the boy earnestly sings a sweet love song to her. The boy is being very vulnerable in this situation; he is singing for the girl he has a crush on! This typically makes the girl feel very special, maybe even fall in love!

Harana is a very social-oriented event. It takes place when it is dark outside to avoid the heat during the day, and this makes it easier for people to socialize. Not only does the man bring his friends with him, but everyone in the house can hear him, too! A Filipino house is never empty. In the Philippines, extended family will often live under one roof: grandparents, aunts, uncles, family friends (considered family also), cousins, etc. Harana is not some secret song a man sings for a woman. He is announcing his admiration to her whole family and all the neighbors! Harana brings excitement and a romantic air to the community as older couples reminisce about falling in love in their younger days, and cousins and siblings watch and prepare to tease the potential couple.

Though this tradition is old and not as standard as it was in the past, people still practice harana today. Filipinos are romantic people, and this tradition reflects that. Recently, I saw an [Instagram reel](#) user @aiko.griffin posted, showing her experience with Harana. She watched from her window as he sang: he and his friend sounded so good! In her video, she expressed that she felt very special because of this romantic act.

A current Andrews student, Blaise Datoy (sophomore, exercise science), participated in Harana himself! He explained to me how he helped his friend plan and execute it. Blaise helped hold a poster while his friend sang to the girl he admired. Everything went well, and the girl loved it! I asked Blaise what he thought that this practice said about Filipino culture, and he said, “Filipinos are really passionate. If they really want to acquire something or be something, they will give their all for it to happen.”

I also asked my mom if she experienced Harana and she told me all about her experience when she was in university. She explained how early in the morning before the sun rose, the girls in the dorm would hear: “This song is dedicated to room 104, resident Joy Cruz!” A group of boys from their college arrived to do Harana for the girls! All of the girls would get excited when the boys did Harana. After one of them announced who their ‘special mention’ was, they started singing sweetly to them. She mentioned that they were very good singers and they played the guitar very well. You don’t know who is singing because it’s so dark outside;

you just enjoy the song someone is singing just for you. However, after the day starts, everyone starts talking to each other. That's when you find out who sang to you that morning. It sounds like it was a lot of fun. She said that she still remembers the name of the song that someone sang to her when she was in college: "You're My Everything." by Martin Nievera.

My mom told me that she wishes that I would experience Harana because it's really nice to wake up to an admirer singing a sweet song to you outside your window. Maybe I will one day (probably not), but for now, my response to her is the expression "sana ol," which literally translates to "I wish everyone had that," but is more sarcastic, so the meaning is closer to "that's not fair."

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# "Poetry and Incarnation": A Study of Poetry by Craig van Rooyen

Amelia Stefanescu 10.20.23



Photo by Lilia Moncrieff

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*Photo: Craig van Rooyen (center back) with students and faculty.*

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*“A good poem tries to turn words into flesh to make a connection with another person in another body.”*

~ *Craig van Rooyen*

A momma pig, a sow, is on her side, one leg lifted, a pile of piglets huddled around her, trying to drink her milk. “There is something embarrassing about the picture,” Craig van Rooyen says while looking towards the audience, amusement dancing on his features. This image, taken from Galway Kinnell’s “[Saint Francis and the Sow](#),” starts off Andrews’ annual Waller lecture, this year hosting Craig van Rooyen, poet and judge, as he tries to get to the essence of poetry itself in his lecture “Poetry and Incarnation.”

Starting with the image of the exposed sow, Van Rooyen uses Kinnell’s poem to emphasize how poetry seeks “to reteach a thing its loveliness” and “and retell it in words and in touch/it is lovely/until it flowers again from within, of self-blessing.” “It seems so strange to focus on poetry when so much else is happening,” he says, referencing dishes awaiting washing, children needing help with homework, and the world burning right outside our doors. “Poets,” he informed us, “write in an industry that is so insular that the outside world doesn’t care.” Besides the mounds of problems we already face, poets encounter yet another one: AI. In a world of AI, writers need to ask themselves what they bring. “They bring touch,” Van Rooyen says slowly, emphasizing each word, “they bring back loveliness.”

But how exactly does poetry do that?

Turning to a different poem, “[homage to my hips](#)” by Lucille Clifton, Van Rooyen reads the poem to us, these oh-so feminine words spoken by a man, but so humane nonetheless, seeming almost natural to him. “There is a deep humanity under poetry that flowers from within,” he says. Under all those layers of fiction, all those layers of emotion, and all those layers of experience, we inevitably come down to the human experience. Describing this, Van Rooyen informs us how “it happens within us in this room as it happens with a poem on a page.” The incarnation of those hips on a page bestows the blessing of sharing human experience on everyone who makes contact with it. “She’s transcending those differences between us and reaching us concerning our own bodies and our broken hearts,” Van Rooyen emphasizes.

“A good poem tries to turn words into flesh to make a connection with another person in another body,” Van Rooyen says as he turns the page, diving into how the Bible itself stresses the same point. After the original sin, the first two humans become painfully aware of their own nakedness, the first example of body shame. This nakedness, or rather, awareness of nakedness, created a separation between humanity and the divine. Thousands of years later, in the New Testament, Jesus bridged that gap by taking form in a body to heal the world. Interestingly enough, Jesus was using touch to heal, placing His hands on the sick. “God incarnate, the Word become flesh, was using His body to touch the bodies of those who had become ashamed of their bodies,” Van Rooyen so poetically phrased, “[reminding] them of their loveliness.”

“There is a song inside the soul, the body’s bright wailing,” Van Rooyen says. “We cannot escape our skin, and we cannot escape time. The body’s spatial limits render me essentially alone,” he painfully but wonderfully expresses. In “[Song of Myself](#),” Walt Whitman tries to defy those limits, trying so hard to leave pieces of himself in the poem to meet the reader so many years after he is gone. “He goes for broke trying to bridge that gap and bare himself,” Van Rooyen remarks, “but yet he fails.” In a grave voice, he looks at his audience and drops a painful truth, “Maybe in the end, poetry is really the opposite of incarnation.”

Is all poetry then a failure of the very thing it sets out to do?

In a way, just as we human beings are so flawed, so is what we generate. “Poetry is an ordinary process of flesh trying to escape itself by becoming words, and failing. Maybe it’s a poem’s failure itself that is so moving.” In the end, we are flesh and will remain so as long as we are on this earth. But this flawed existence and the flawed beauty we create still so beautifully conveys so much of who we are. So yes, poetry does fail, but it does so wonderfully. Returning to our sow, we now understand that “she has flowered from within because a hand was laid on her creased forehead and because a poet told her, and us, ‘blessings of earth on you.’”

Van Rooyen finished his lecture with a reading of his own wonderful poems, which so rawly capture the human experience through touch and connection, namely, “[Costco Ode](#),” “[Take the Neck Step Against Aging](#),” and “[Meeting the Buddha](#).”



# News

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## NEWS

# KASA Kicks Off with Korean School

Gio Lee 10.20.23



Photo by Aileen Ahn

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Blackpink, BTS, Parasite, Squid Game, and Dalgona Coffee. Do you recall any of these words?

Over the past few years, South Korea's culture has been widely known to the public. According to [Air University's article](#), BTS was the most streamed group on Spotify in 2021, and Squid Game was ranked number one on Netflix in 90 countries at its release.

There has been global success with K-pop, Korean dramas, movies, fashion, skincare, and beauty. Even Korean words are becoming more familiar, such as Mukbang (translated to 'eating broadcast' in English). KASA (Korean-American

Student Association) is hosting a 'Korean School' Co-Curricular activity this year. The Korean School will teach students about South Korea's culture, such as the language, writing, music, history, food, and games.

The president of KASA, Rock Choi (junior, exercise science), had first brought up the idea for Korean School to his officers. "I wanted to bring a deeper understanding to parts of the Korean culture that are less widely explored. Through different hands-on activities and crafts, Korean School will give students a broader understanding and a better appreciation of our rich and unique culture."

After talking with the president, I spoke with the cultural vice president, Leah Kim (senior, medical laboratory science), who oversees the activities for the Korean School. She shared how she was worried that only a few people would come as this was KASA's first time doing this. To her surprise, however, over 35 students had arrived at the Korean School. Leah Kim explains what she wants people to learn through this Co-Curricular Activity. "I want to introduce students on campus to not only widely known aspects of Korean culture, such as K-pop or K-drama, but also the more ordinary and less conspicuous aspects of Korea, like history, traditional stuff, and food.

After much preparation, the first session of Korean School started on October 2. The activity was in the Leadership Lab in the Campus Center at 11:30 a.m. For the first half of the session, KASA's cultural team taught students to read and write in Korean. In the second half of the session, KASA officers handed out bookmarks so students could practice writing their names in Korean. On October 17, KASA taught the history of the Korean language, Hangul, and the story behind its creation by King Sejong (ruler of Korea from 1419 to 1450). This happened in the lobby of the Center for Faith Engagement office (CFE office).

After significant success of their previous sessions, KASA is even more excited that many people are interested in learning about Korea. The following events for Korean School will be every other Tuesday in October at 11:30. This means the Co-Curricular activity will happen in October on the 3rd, 17th, and 31st. This is to celebrate and recognize two Korean National Holidays in October: National Foundation Day (Gaecheonjeol) and Hangul Day. Afterward, Korean School will happen once a month. Updates on the location and activities of the Korean School: the officers recommend checking KASA's Instagram page ([@aukasaclub](#)) for more information. More activities for KASA coming up are Sadie's and Pepero Day later in the next month.



NEWS

# Philosophy Professor Gives Lecture on the History of Creationism

Andrew Francis [10.20.23](#)



Photo by NASA

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Dr. Jeffrey Koperski of Saginaw Valley State University in northeastern Michigan [visited](#) Andrews' Haughey Hall in the Science Complex on Friday, October 6. Invited by the Department of Physics, Dr. Koperski spoke to a filled-up Thompson Amphitheater in the early afternoon to speak on the topic of "The Story Behind the Separation of Religion and Science: How the Laws of Nature Were Naturalized." Physics students and guests from other departments were greeted with homemade soup, beverages, and bread as announcements about future events, class information, and an offering of co-curricular credit were made. After

the proper introductions were made by the event's host, Andrews physics professor Dr. Gary Burdick, Koperski began his lecture, accompanied by slides.

As not only a professor of philosophy but also an active practitioner, Koperski began his talk by stating how, throughout his career, he has always been interested in the concept of law. This includes the history of legal, philosophical, and spiritual law. He went on to state that many of the biggest questions in philosophy regarding the natural world involve distinguishing the strict formulas of laws and who or what the lawgiver is. Throughout the course of history, the laws of nature have often been used to contradict religion and the supposed lawgiver that theism promotes.

From these lines of thought have come the theories and scientific philosophies of naturalism, which, per Koperski's definition, is "the belief that only natural things exist." A prominent example of the leaders who led a philosophical and scientific shift in thought from believing dominantly in creationism and theism to naturalism, was a group of British thinkers known as the "[X Club](#)". Out of a group of nine individuals, Koperski mainly focused on the efforts of three, including Thomas Henry Huxley (the initiator of the club), Herbert Spencer, and John Tyndall. These men rebelled against the doctrine of creationism to popularize theories that the world and the rest of the universe were created without divine help and were instead products of natural randomness.

An interesting point that Koperski brought up was how many of the men, through their studies and theory-constructing, often twisted the words of revered scientists and philosophers, like Sir Isaac Newton, to fit their own agendas. After jokingly claiming Newton as a part of his field as a natural philosopher, since the term "scientist" was not created until later in history, Koperski pointed out Newton's religious background and practices that he applied to his works. Contrary to the points that those of the X Club and others made, Newton subscribed to the belief that God did not need essences to govern the universe, and he just physically did everything himself. Without God, there would be no laws of nature, according to what early philosophers and scientists asserted regarding creation, which again contradicted the early opponents of creationism.

Other theories of naturalism and other philosophies ran rampant throughout the Western world from the 18th century to the early 20th century. French mathematician Pierre Simon Marquis de Laplace claimed that in his model of the solar system, there was no need for God, although his methods of making this

discovery involved him using a model of the universe that was made through intentional design. Others claimed that maybe God created science but did not provide any further intentional care. Unfortunately, many researchers and theorists concluded that there were no set laws of nature and no God creating such laws, which Koperski, in his speech, expressed his disappointment in.

In the modern world of science and philosophy, a debate between “progressive” thought versus old traditional constructs of faith and religion has broken these fields into two large pieces, each continuing to splinter into hundreds of smaller pieces of theory and belief. In concluding his monologue, Koperski asserted that the laws of nature came from “theistic theory and not naturalism,” contrary to what many modern philosophers in history had proclaimed. It is very hard to work within physics or many other fields without the laws of nature, leading Koperski to believe that creationism ought to be accepted and integrated with naturalism and other philosophic beliefs instead of the continual pulling apart of the two that have been occurring for centuries.

## NEWS

# The AU Career Fair

Nathaniel Miller [10.20.23](#)



Photo by Darren Heslop

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On Tuesday, October 3, students and their potential future employers swarmed onto the Andreasen Center's basketball courts for four hours of networking fun. Students who wanted to impress dressed up for the occasion, which was an exciting start to the on-campus business couture season. Students brought their resumes, companies handed out business cards, and there were enough tri-fold brochures present to create a to-scale paper mache blue whale. And everything had the lovely backdrop of corporate gray carpet, corporate fluorescent lights, and corporate thin tablecloths.

The first things one noticed upon walking into the gym that Tuesday were, of course, the stars of the show: the booths. Rehab booths; medical booths; a paint booth; booths for both natural and unnatural foods; more rehab and medical booths (and more, and more...). Yes. There were booths from lots of Southwest Michigan/Indiana businesses at the fair, offering a broad range of work environments, visions, and potential job opportunities. But a variety of other companies also set up shop in the gym, many of which were niche enough that students might not have heard about them any other way. [Eagle Village](#) is a rehab center and summer camp for kids that have gone through trauma, and it has an incredible indoor ropes course. [EnFocus](#) is a non-profit with a service that connects students with 30-plus internships in the area and also has various internships of its own. And [CHT](#) (Chemische Fabrik Tübingen) produces silicon for massive companies, and is expanding their chemical manufacturing business.

Students from all walks of life across the university appreciated the opportunity that the career fair brought to flesh out their prospective careers. Enzo Bacchiocchi (freshman, finance), said that he was "very interested in learning more about finance, specifically in the medical field, specifically at AdventHealth." His favorite booth was AdventHealth's because they told him "two different sides" of what he "could be doing," and gave him a "day-to-day aspect of it." Moraya Truman (sophomore, digital communication), said she enjoyed the Sherwin Williams booth because "they were up front about what all happened there, and about their benefits, which included dental and therapy."

Even if students were uninterested in anything the companies at the career fair had to offer, it was a unique and interesting opportunity to get to know some of the local businesses here in the Michiana area, and some of the people who run those businesses. And for the students who were interested in what the fair had to offer,

summer internships or even post-graduation jobs may lie in store. As the now-iconic title of Porter Gale's books says, "[Your Network Is Your Net Worth](#)" If the title, which has become a popular saying, is true, Andrews students had a great chance to boost their net worth last week. Because of its catering to students interested and uninterested in securing future jobs and internships, the Andrews University Career Fair offered something for everyone, and was, therefore, a smashing success.

## Ideas

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### IDEAS

# AU Gathering in Dissent: the Polarization of Thursday Assemblies

Bella Hamann [10.20.23](#)



Photo by Andrews University

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Does Chapel even exist anymore?

As a senior at Andrews University, I found myself asking this on the first Thursday of the semester. When I attended that morning's co-curricular, I discovered the schoolwide Chapel program had been rebranded, and was now called "AU Gather." This intrigued me, because last year, I had written an opinion [piece](#) in the Student Movement about fines regarding Thursday co-curriculars under the guise of it being a religious program. However, if it is no longer considered a chapel, this opens up the floor to many questions; one such question is if there was even a point to rebranding the program at all.

The short answer is yes; the long answer is more complex than that. What must be acknowledged first is that student input contributed significantly to the process. Jose Bourget, the AU Chaplain, says that his team "did engage with other student feedback last year from AUSA senate, surveys, and focus groups that communicated a range of views and expectations from students about 'chapel.'" Hence, chapel denotes a traditional worship service, but the name 'AU Gather' denotes more of a community aspect to an assembly. However, this being the case, another question arises about the online categorization of AU Gather.

Simply because the name has changed does not mean the program itself has; it is still considered '[chapels and forums](#)' online along with the 12 credit requirement attached to it. Admittedly, AU Gather is a genuine rebrand attempt. However, unlike the former, the word 'chapel' is a category title, so referring to the Thursday assemblies as chapels is what many students will tend to resort to by default. And, because this is a default title, it gives the impression that the program is a worship service, despite attempts (such as the renaming) that suggest otherwise.

It is also worth mentioning that the Thursday assemblies have much in common with what is expected at a vespers program, such as a song service and a type of spoken message as the bulk of the meeting. This similarity has been taken into account by people who believe that these programs are, in fact, worships.

According to student T Bruggeman (senior, computer science and math studies), who attended a panel last school year regarding the program itself, they observed that "when challenged by students who said that Chapel is undoubtedly a worship service due to it having the same structure as a worship service, the panelists said that they had tried removing songs from Chapel in years past, but students didn't like that, so they brought it back." So regardless of the positive purpose of the rebranding, it may give the impression —not the actual intent— to the general

student body that it's a copout to a fine to a religious program, with some students genuinely believing that it is and should still be a worship service.

So, is it a religious program? Of course, there is an unspoken expectation that it should be so. However, according to the Adventist Accreditation Association, although there are mentions, there are [zero](#) explicit requirements for an SDA university to have a chapel-like program. That being said, it is very likely that more religious content will be shown at programs like these, as the new AU President, John Wesley Taylor V, was part of a committee that revised the second edition of a guide entitled "Faith by Design."

"Faith by Design" was created to be a spiritual master plan for SDA colleges. Its purpose is to guide Adventist tertiary institutions into incorporating certain practices that create an ideal spiritual [program](#). Point five in particular says that the university president acts as the spiritual leader of the institution, and that the role can be split with — but not delegated to — anyone else, including the chaplain. Additionally, point six addresses that the individuals who oversee spiritual programs on campus must report directly to the president. It has been observed that Dr. Taylor takes this role with the utmost seriousness; therefore, it would not be far-fetched to assume that AU Gather will be more religion-focused in the future.

Regardless of opinion, the Thursday program at AU is not the same thing as a weekend worship service. Andrews is a school, not a church. A church has members; a school has students. AU has every right to create a chapel program, but when the school currently does gather on Thursdays, it is not under the guise of a worship service or as a body of believers, it is under the guise of a heterogeneous group of enrolled students who have agreed to come to the same location as per the university requirement. So, technically, no: AU Gather is not a religious program.

This does not mean that AU is not an SDA school with zero worships, but the student body is there on Thursdays for a slightly different purpose. Because of this, it would not be in good faith to call the required quota of 12 assemblies a true worship service; rather, it should be considered a gathering that happens to incorporate faith-based content. Much like the opinion reflected by Dr. Anthony Bosman, who is a part of the AU Faculty Senate, Andrews "should thoughtfully reflect on how we can remain true to our distinctive faith-based mission while being inclusive of a religiously diverse student body." This may mean to classify



AU Gather as a religious program, or it may be the opposite. That is ultimately an administrative call.

However, perhaps the most concerning factor regarding this topic is the polarizing opinions surrounding it. On one hand, there are individuals who hold the [opinion](#) that spiritual revival is crucial in any aspect of what the campus does, even going as far as to say that “bad choice(s) will enlarge the nest of this woke invasive species at Andrews.” On the other hand, there are others who will find any chance they can to discredit individuals in spiritual leadership positions who may be of a more conservative mindset, writing [articles](#) that are obviously biased towards a more liberal point of view and ultimately compromising current administrative leaders.

There may be some who say that by choosing to even come to an SDA university, it makes no sense to deliver any sort of complaint because school attendance was voluntary. This is easily refutable, because it is quite similar to confronting a resident of the United States and telling them that they have no right to bring up domestic issues since there are other countries with bigger problems. That doesn't follow. In order to bring about change, issues must be addressed.

The bottom line is that AU needs to be clearer on the purpose of Thursdays. There may be circulating arguments that Thursday assemblies need to be more religious; there may be arguments on the other side that say they shouldn't be. Whatever the stances are, if there exists an obvious polarization on an issue that has faith-based content involved, then an event of this nature needs prompt clarification.

Speculating on the purpose of what Thursday assemblies are poses a further dive into why the question itself even exists. There will always be different stances on the intent of AU Gather; that much is true. But when those stances become toxic and accusatory, then it becomes an ironic banter between separate groups that pulls people apart rather than bringing them together. The core of what AU Gather is trying to accomplish —coming together as a diverse student body— will no longer matter.

Perhaps it would be better for neither side of this argument to exist.



## IDEAS

# Is Economic Disaster an American Norm?

Nate Miller 10.20.23



Photo by Chris Li on Unsplash

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Every now and then, the United States is given an exciting opportunity to shut down the government or default on our debt. All Congress has to do is raise the debt ceiling (in effect, agreeing to spend money to pay debts they've already agreed to—it sounds unnecessary because it is) or enact an appropriation bill (which, basically, authorizes the government to spend money to keep running) to save our country from literal economic demise, but as we've seen over this last year, that often comes frighteningly close to not happening.

In the [late spring](#) of this year, we came very close to a debt default that would have been catastrophic, unprecedented, horrific. At the last second, Kevin McCarthy, the Speaker of the House at the time, cut a deal with Democrats to raise the debt ceiling for two years, saving the reputation of the nation's treasury and making Republicans livid. And just recently, the government was on the brink of [shutting down](#) if an appropriations bill wasn't passed, which didn't look like it was

going to happen. (For context: the government has shut down ten times in its history, each time costing the government significant amounts of money; this time, political analysts deemed it [unlikely](#) that a shutdown would initiate an immediate recession—but unlikely and impossible are two very different words, and even the possibility of a recession *should* stir Congress to immediate action).

But then Kevin McCarthy did something unexpected: he put his political aspirations aside—a difficult feat for today’s power-obsessed politicians—and created a budget resolution that could attract both reasonably-moderate Democrats and Republicans. This angered the far-far-far-right members of the House Freedom Caucus, who couldn’t believe that he had negotiated with Democrats and felt that they couldn’t trust him. They introduced a resolution to remove him from the position of Speaker of the House: a vote was held, and he was promptly removed—despite having a 9-seat majority in Congress. The third-highest-ranking democratically-elected official in the United States was removed from his job because of his commitment to keep the country from a possible recession.

You could say our country’s in good hands.

To be clear, I’ve never been a fan of Kevin McCarthy. But while I may not like or agree with him, their stripping him of his seat in Congress because he had enough backbone to put millions of peoples’ interests above his own makes me really mad. It’s also a good picture of just how great the extremely far right’s chokehold on the House of Representatives is. The fact that it was even an option for us to default on our debt back in June, or to let the government shut down, shows how dysfunctional our government has become and how polarized both parties are.

[Research](#) has shown that party polarization in the United States is higher than it has been at any point in US history since the end of the Civil War. This is a scary fact in and of itself, but when we add that our governmental systems assume the cooperation of both parties, and without that cooperation (unless a party has a supermajority in both chambers of Congress), our government could send massive economic shockwaves around the entire world, it becomes terrifying.

In my mind, we have three ways out of this political catastrophe: we can change the laws that mandate that the debt ceiling be raised (in this same vein, if a situation gets especially dire, a president could argue that the Fourteenth Amendment—which [requires](#) that “all the government's financial obligations be met”—makes the debt ceiling void), we can somehow de-polarize our political parties (which, given the amount that social media has fed the fires of polarization,

doesn't seem likely or even possible), or we can default on our debt/ shut the government down.

Economic disaster isn't an American norm (yet). But I'm scared that our country won't put enough effort into averting the crisis we've found ourselves in, and that those in power placidly accept the United States'—and the world's—economic demise.

## IDEAS

# Jack O'Paganism?

Erin Beers [10.20.23](#)



Photo by Bee Felten-Leidel on Unsplash

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There is much debate about whether or not trick or treating on Halloween is demonic or innocent. The average Christian has almost certainly heard that Halloween is of the devil and therefore should not be celebrated. No matter if the kids decide to dress as Princess Peach or a Transformer truck, both are said to be rooted in this demonic practice. I would like to propose that Halloween itself is not the problem; it is the associations with it that matter to us. After all, we have

holidays like Christmas and Easter that have no root in Scripture or Christianity, yet we celebrate those with great fervor in our church services every year. So, what makes Halloween so different?

The concept of a holiday in December stems from the Roman gods, Scandinavian celebrations of the end of the long winter months, and the lighting of bonfires to keep the cold away. Christmas trees and garlands were incorporated into common house decorations because people wanted to celebrate the soon-coming of spring. Santa Claus is based on the Catholic bishop, St. Nicholas, who gave riches to the poor. Even more details into the history of the holiday can be found in [this article](#) by Mindy Haas. Needless to say, the purpose of this holiday was not to celebrate Jesus' birth; it was a celebration of the coming of spring and giving to the poor. This does not mean that Christians were wrong to adopt this holiday and attribute it to Jesus being born; it just means that they adapted it to fit their needs. Today's presentation of Christmas is all about giving gifts, fellowshiping with family, and celebrating the life of Jesus, which, once again, is a meaningful part of many peoples lives.

Christianity views Easter as the celebration of Jesus dying and rising again. Adventists in particular look at this as a model for the second coming of Christ, who overcame death and will soon come back for those who believe in Him. What might come as more of a surprise for people is that Easter was not made specifically to celebrate Christ's resurrection. It was actually adapted to align with Passover.. As was commanded by God, there was no need for the sacrifice of a lamb once He rose from the grave because He had taken its place. Nowhere in the Bible is the name Easter present –only the term Passover. The article [The True Origins of Easter](#) by David Pack outlines how Christianity has morphed this holiday to be something we celebrate and accept. We, as Christians, have adapted a once-pagan festival to celebrate the resurrection of Christ, which is a great thing! Now, instead of celebrating goddess Ishtar or god Tammuz who has awoken for the springtime, we can celebrate Jesus' sacrifice to save us.

The question then remains: why do we hold the origins of Christmas and Easter to a different standard than Halloween? All are rooted in pagan practices, yet we accept only two out of the three. As shown above, Christianity adopted these pagan holidays and made them into something we now deem as acceptable. Who is to say that people are not doing the same with trick-or-treating and dressing up? Though the SDA church has not made an official stance on Halloween, there are plenty within the church who do not condone celebrating the holiday. Gerhard Pfandl,

who works for the General Conference Research Institute, [commented on the holiday](#) and children dressing up saying, “To teach them that there is no harm in imitating evil spirits is contrary to God’s will.” This is a bold statement, especially considering Christmas lights were originally lit to keep dark spirits at bay.

All of this is to say that many holidays originate from pagan practices in some way or another, but only some holidays have been adapted by the church and are now considered admissible. The decision on their “rightness” seems to come from what people think the holidays represent, not what they actually meant to people hundreds of years ago. I am not here to provide an answer as to whether Halloween is good or bad, nor do I think stating my opinion one way or another would actually solve the debate. After all, everyone has a different opinion on the issue. What is important is acknowledging that though some Christians celebrate Halloween, that does not mean they are worshiping the devil. Their intentions and interpretations of the holiday are not meant to serve dark purposes or to lead people away from God. After all, Christmas and Easter are both rooted in pagan practices but are meant to point towards God and we have fully accepted them as good. So go out, celebrate God, refrain from jumping to conclusions and maybe, just maybe, carve yourself a pumpkin.

IDEAS

# Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce: Why Are Celebrity Relationships So Interesting?

Corinna Bevier 10.20.23

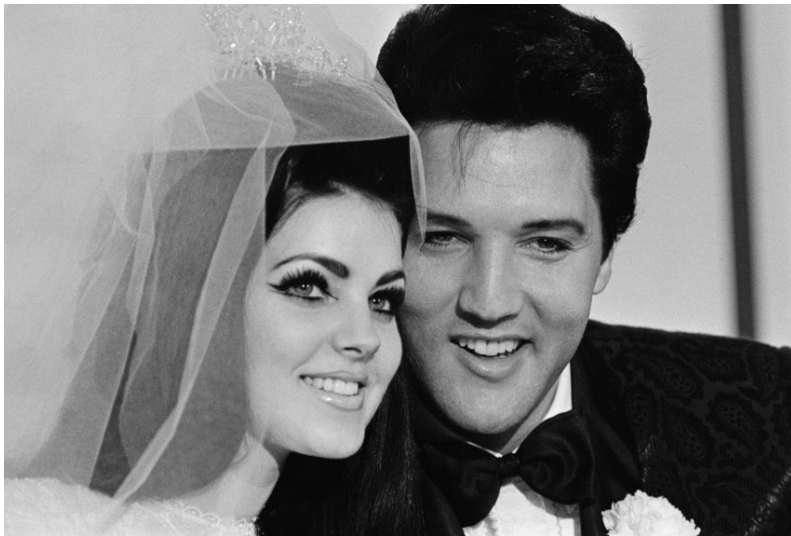


Photo by Tullio Saba (public domain)

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Last month, the media was excited by the prospect of a new and unexpected celebrity couple. If you've been watching the news, reading through X, or scrolling through TikTok, you have no doubt seen the footage of Kansas City Chiefs player Travis Kelce [gazing upwards in adoration](#) at the Arrowhead stadium VIP box while Grammy award winning singer and American sweetheart Taylor Swift smiles proudly back at him. The news of Travis Kelce and Taylor Swift's potential relationship has been circulating for some time, but the rumors intensified on September 23, when Taylor Swift was seen sitting next to Travis Kelce's mother



during the recent Chiefs game, and was photographed leaving Arrowhead with him afterwards. The internet was immediately surging with feelings of elation and anger, with some expressing their support for their new favorite football player and some expressing their distaste for the pairing. This situation has not only raised support and opposition for the couple but has also raised an interesting question: why are people so invested in celebrity relationships, and is that a good thing?

It seems that we have always been interested in the romantic lives of celebrities – from Priscilla and Elvis to Sonny and Cher and Brad and Angelina, people can't seem to get enough of them. Most people enjoy gossip, and for some this enjoyment has spread, causing them to fixate on celebrities. Because we are exposed to a lot of information about celebrities, we begin to feel as if we know them personally, and this can lead to a deep interest in their personal life. James Houran, a clinical psychologist, [stated](#), “In essence, people seem to confuse having a lot of information about a celebrity with genuine intimacy.” Although there is nothing wrong with knowing information about one's favorite celebrity, there comes a point when one's interest can become unhealthy.

Having an unhealthy investment in a celebrity's personal life is a negative example of a parasocial relationship, which [is defined as](#) “a relationship that a person imagines having with another person whom they do not actually know, such as a celebrity or a fictional character.” For as long as the concept of a celebrity has existed, there have been people with unhealthy attachments to them. However, it is now easier for one to develop a parasocial relationship due to the rise of social media. We have extensive access to celebrities' personal lives, through celebrities' personal social media accounts, and through fans and paparazzi sharing photos and videos online. Because of this, people can become far too invested in the romantic relationships of celebrities and falsely believe that they are entitled to information about them. For example, it was recently revealed that singer Joe Jonas had filed for divorce against his wife, actress Sophie Turner. Immediately, fans of both demanded more information and were unsatisfied with not knowing every detail. Because people have known of Sophie Turner and Joe Jonas since they were just starting out in their industries as teenagers, people believe that they are entitled to personal information about a very personal matter. But, regardless of how many Jonas Brothers concerts you have been to, or how many times you have binge-watched Game of Thrones, Sophie Turner and Joe Jonas' relationship

is private and no one is entitled to any information that they are not comfortable sharing.

Some people don't just want information about a celebrity's relationship but think they deserve the power to make decisions about said relationship. After Taylor Swift and her longtime boyfriend, actor Joe Alwyn, broke up, there were rumors that she and controversial The 1975 frontman Matty Healy were dating, prompting a group of her fans to write an [open letter](#) asking her to break up with him. A situation similar to this occurred in March of this year when the paparazzi captured photos of singer Phoebe Bridgers in the airport with comedian Bo Burnham. Despite the photos containing nothing to confirm a romantic relationship, some fans of Phoebe Bridgers were outraged at her assumed choice of a partner and took it so far as to demand that she break up with him or they would not support her any longer. Sadly, this occurred only days after Phoebe Bridgers revealed that her father had passed away and eventually it was revealed that she had been on the way to her father's funeral when the pictures were taken. [In an interview with Them Magazine](#), Bridgers expressed anger towards the fans who had harassed her after the pictures surfaced online. She said, "People with my picture as their Twitter picture, who claim to like my music, bullied me at the airport on the way to my father's funeral this year...I hate you, and I hope you grow ... up." Clearly, this kind of behavior is not only unhealthy for the people who are intruding on the relationships but is also damaging for the celebrities who have to endure the invasion of privacy and abusive behavior of their "fans."

As consumers of media, it is important to be responsible in how we react to information that we receive, especially when it comes to relationships between celebrities. Although there is nothing wrong with being interested in celebrities, we should remember that they are constantly subject to scrutiny and invasions of privacy, and we should endeavor to maintain a respectful and non-intrusive distance from their personal lives. With all that said, this author wishes Travis and Taylor the best in their relationship and hopes they will have a wonderful "Love Story."



# Pulse

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PULSE

## Bachelor In Andrews

Brooklyn Anderson 10.20.23

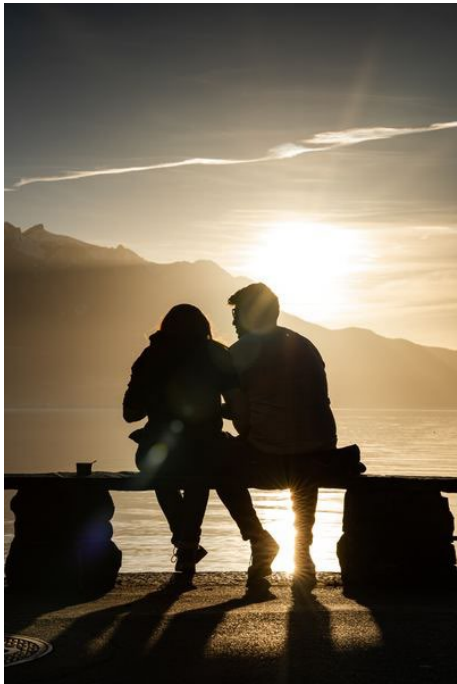


Photo by Evan Tang on Unsplash

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Bachelor in Paradise? You'll have to wait a little longer because this is Bachelor at Andrews. In this article, I will be addressing the dating scene at Andrews University. Many students want to find love, a shoulder to cry on, or maybe even a spouse. I've interviewed some people and have discovered some interesting perspectives on the dating scene at Andrews.

Couples at Andrews range from being high school sweethearts to meeting in the same class or even meeting the week of freshman orientation. There are also a lot of people that can meet by participating in athletic teams or various clubs on

campus. It's similar to being able to meet people in all sorts of functions and organizations in the rest of the world. However, being on this small Adventist campus in Berrien Springs, Michigan can complicate things. Because we are in a tight-knit community, there's more potential for assumptions, rumors, and drama to grow. This might lead to some fear among students to pursue relationships. Our student population is great because we know everyone, but that also has its drawbacks. Sometimes it can feel like everyone has an opinion on your relationship. Whether you are just starting or just getting out of one, everyone is bound to know sooner or later—which can be intrusive and uncomfortable. In other words, dating in the Andrews bubble can be challenging as people explore new friendships and relationships. Because the bubble is so small it can feel like Bachelor Nation, a reality dating TV show; watchers just can't wait to tune in on ABC @ 8 pm ET every Thursday to watch you.

Speaking of Bachelor Nation, there are a lot of expectations with girls and guys that aren't met on either side. In some interviews I've had with the student body, I've realized that this topic tends to be a gray area. Some guys would prefer to ask the girls out, and some would prefer to be asked. It's almost the same from the women's perspective: some feel more comfortable being asked, and others have no problem taking control and asking. The group of girls who are okay with doing the approaching expressed that they want effort back in return. They quoted Elastagirl from the first Incredibles movie, "Girls, come on. Leave the saving of the world to the men? I don't think so! I don't think so." They related to this because they believe that we shouldn't just leave it up to all the guys to make a move. Much like everything else it should be even. On the other hand, through some of the male's perspectives, "It would be weird if a girl asked me out." I'm sure everyone would like to be pursued in some way. Whether it's returning the interest or getting the interest first.

I think it all comes down to confidence and preference. If you have confidence in yourself then you should shoot your shot. Everyone has different preferences, and the world beyond Andrews is so much bigger. You're bound to find someone who shares your same preferences, similarities, and values. You can always come back and try again. In the words of Jesse Palmer and Chis Harrison, hosts from The Bachelor, "If you didn't receive a rose, please say your goodbyes." But I would like to add: Say your goodbyes, work on yourself and try again.

PULSE

# Filipino Food Favorites

Caitlin Adap 10.20.23



Photo by Airam Dato on Unsplash

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Food is quite a substantial part of Filipino culture. One of our main greetings is, “Kumain ka na?” which translates to, “Have you eaten?” Potlucks are one of our favorite ways to foster community. This week, I asked six Filipino students about their favorite cultural foods and the significance these dishes hold to them.

## **What is your favorite Filipino dish?**

“I don’t really have one; I love all my meat dishes!” Sean Bernardo (freshman, computer science)

“Sinigang” Blaise Datoy (sophomore, exercise science)

“Beef Caldereta” Byron Victoriano (sophomore, biology)

“Daing na bangus with toyo, rice, vinegar, and a “salsa” that has onions, mango, tomatoes, and kalamansi” Mahal Tio (junior, graphic design)

“SPICY LOMI” Rhymiel Prudente (senior, MLS)

“Beef Caldereta” Ashley Yabut (graduate, physical therapy)

### **How would you describe that dish?**

Blaise: “A sour Filipino soup that's made with various ingredients like meat, vegetables, and tamarind to give it a tangy flavor”

Byron: “Beef Kaldereta is a flavorful and hearty Filipino dish that is known for its rich and savory taste. It’s a type of stew that combines tender beef chunks with a tomato-based sauce, a blend of aromatic spices, and a variety of vegetables.”

Rhymiel: “Thick egg noodles with a thickened broth that can have vegetables, like sitaw (green long beans) or carrots. It can have eggs, chicken, or tofu! I have also had this dish when it was spicy, and it was AMAZING, but usually it's compared to chicken noodle soup.”

Ashley: “Beef Caldereta is a rich tomato-based stew with meat and vegetables. It is savory with a slight tang and sweetness.”

### **What is your earliest memory of eating that dish?**

Blaise: “Probably when I was 5 years old.”

Byron: “I was around six to seven years old. I remember it was during the winter, so it was obviously pretty cold outside, and we just got back from being outside for a couple of hours playing with my friends. When I entered the house I could smell the aroma of the kaldereta, and nothing beats it. I remember taking off my jacket and going straight to the dinner table, getting my bowl of rice, and putting the beef kaldereta all over it. That taste of the tomato sauce with the beef chunks is unbeatable, especially if it has potatoes in it.”

Mahal: “My earliest memory of eating this dish is when my family had something to celebrate! We made it a priority in our trip to go to the only Asian supermarket next to us, and we bought all the ingredients. It was our celebratory meal.”

Rhymiel: “The earliest memory of me eating this dish was when I went back to the Philippines and was exploring the island with my cousins at night. We stopped at one of the street vendors and got spicy lomi. That dish had the right amount of spice and flavor. It was literally perfect.”

Ashley: “My Tatay would always make it for me on my birthday or whenever I would come home from high school (I lived away from my family) and college. Now that he’s passed away, my mom still carries on his love for me and continues to cook it for me whenever I come home.”

### **Who makes it, or where do you usually get it?**

Sean: “I [have them] whenever I go out to Filipino parties. The last time I had Filipino dishes was last year during the summer. I did have a tiny bit of adobo though through a friend's mom who was kind [enough] to give me some food to eat here at Andrews.”

Blaise: “Either my mom or my dad.”

Byron: “The [person] that usually makes it in my family would be my dad, but if he doesn't make it, we usually buy it at a Filipino store called Island Pacific Seafood Market out in Fresno, California.”

Mahal: “My parents usually make it, or my second mom, Tita Nics, will make it just because they know it's my favorite! I also always order it at Chow King hehe.”

Rhymiel: “Most of the time I have the dish when my family goes to another Filipino family's house for a gathering and they have food. It can also be sold by street vendors in the Philippines.”

### **Why is this dish important to you and your Filipino roots?**

Sean: “All these dishes are important to me because it reminds me of home most of all, and it tastes sooo good! It makes me feel connected with all of my Filipino family!!!”

Blaise: “It reminds me how my parents love me so much.”

Byron: “I have grown up going to a lot of Filipino parties and having a lot of big family gatherings throughout the years. [Every] time we go, I look for this one dish, and not once have I failed to find it. I also know that in the Philippines, throughout the different regions, they have their own variations of this dish. It is a pretty popular dish for celebrations or family gatherings. [The] Spanish term for “kaldereta” refers to a type of stew, and so the dish would be a fusion of Spanish and Filipino culinary traditions. The dish also incorporates locally sourced ingredients, which could reinforce a connection between the meal and the Filipino landscape. Overall, it is important to Filipino roots because it encapsulates a mix of historical, cultural, and culinary influences that are important to the Filipino identity. It is a dish that brings people together, is able to showcase the culinary diversity of the Philippines, and serves as a source of comfort and nostalgia for a lot of Filipinos.”

Mahal: “This dish is important to me because it tastes so good, and it has a lot of sentimental value. When I think of my home and my family, I can envision us at the dinner table all eating our bangus. It's a childhood scent that makes me feel happy and safe! It's important to my Filipino roots because it is the dish that taught

me to eat with my hands and is a dish that brought me and my family closer.”  
Rhymiel: “This dish is important to me for two things: it helps me remember the times when I traveled back to the Philippines to visit my extended family and learn more about my culture, [and] it reminds me of home and the hospitality that is in the Filipino culture (one of the best aspects of our culture in my opinion).”  
Ashley: “This dish is important to me because, not only does all Filipino food play a crucial role in shaping the collective identity of a nation or region, but it represents an undying love that lives on.”

*Filipino American History Month is anticipated by Filipinos all throughout America. Join the celebration and taste these food favorites while celebrating and learning about Filipino culture! Follow the AFIA club's Instagram page (@auafia) for more information on this month's upcoming events.*

## PULSE

# Relaxing, Educating, And Dull?

Anna Rybachek 10.20.23

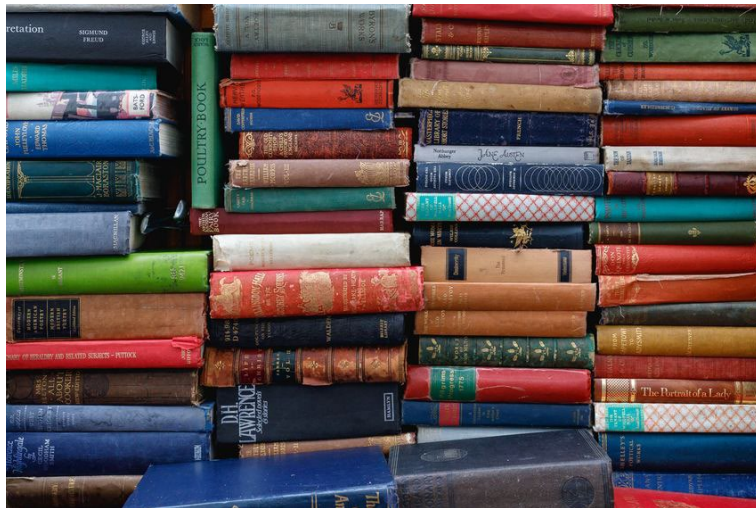


Photo by Ed Robertson on Unsplash

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Reading has entertained, educated, empowered, and enhanced human life since reed met papyrus. Yet, somewhere along our educational journey, reading has become a chore and a bore. Between the hundreds of pages of U.S. History and Physics textbooks, the joy of reading seems to vanish. The statistics reflect this, as [23%](#) of adult Americans report that they have not read another book in the past year. This disinterest in reading could have something to do with what people believe about reading. When we think of reading, we tend to think of school-related study or leisure reading. But the reading can have so many other purposes.

While there are many [different](#) motives for reading, I will mainly address pleasure (escapism and entertainment), knowledge, self-improvement, cultural enrichment, and education. While there may be some overlap, these categories provide one with an understanding of some types of reading.

The majority of fiction readers fall into the category of pleasure readers. These are people who read not just for fun but also for the sake of reading. They would stick to books that are enjoyable to them and often find either a specific author or book genre that they enjoy. They may be grouped as science fiction lovers, historical fiction admirers, and romance-book eaters. I am a big fan of historical and biblical fiction. ("*The Bronze Bow*" is a classic!) If you are not sure where to start, I recommend thinking about what interests you and pick up a book about it! Enjoy traveling? Pick up a travel memoir. Interested in the history of Medieval Spain? Pick up historical fiction based in that era. Eventually, going through your lists of interest will help you find what you enjoy. Recommendations from friends, websites, and lists of books on a topic can also aid you in your quest.

Then comes knowledge. This type of reading is typically done at school as you are reading to gain information and knowledge about a specific topic. The topic could be anything from how to build a house to understanding why the Crusades occurred. People tend to zone in on a topic they are interested in and read as much as possible about that interest. As a passionate history nerd, I read many history-related books, such as "*Operation Mincemeat*" or "*A Time Traveler's Guide to Medieval England*" If you enjoy sciences or other such topics, scientific journals and books such as "*Darwin's Black Box*" might interest you.

Similar to knowledge are the categories of cultural enrichment and education. These are different from just knowledge because the motives are different. Knowledge, as I am using it, is mainly about your passion or interest, whereas educational reading is more about exploring unfamiliar areas to become a better-

rounded person. This might include reading the latest fiction works to familiarize yourself with modern writing, or it might mean digging into the Spanish influenza epidemic—something you may know nothing about. Cultural enrichment focuses on reading that helps you understand a culture, people, or period. For instance, you might read "*No-No Boy*" to gain a better understanding of the struggles faced by Asian Americans during WW2. Or you may read "*The Color of Water*", a memoir of an African American man describing the life of his white mother paralleled with his own, to provide a glimpse of the struggles of biracial people.

Self-improvement reading is mainly composed of books that, you guessed it, help improve your life. It might include reading a how-to manual for car repairs or "*The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*".

There are still many other reading subcategories that exist, but I hope this showed you where to start falling in love with books again. Reading is a valuable and diverse tool that allows you to expand your horizons and relax, all while sitting on the couch.

## PULSE

# The Flavors of Fall

Lexie Dunham 10.20.23



Photo by Timothy Eberly on Unsplash



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Fall has officially begun. With this change of seasons comes the change of popular flavors. We trade pineapple and watermelon for pumpkin and apple. Fall flavors are my favorite. Tasting my first pumpkin donut of the season is how I mark the start of autumn.

One of my favorite fall memories is when it was my family's first year in Central New York. In case you didn't know, Central New York is nothing like New York City. It is characterized by the name "middle of nowhere." Trees go on for miles and miles with many giant hills and even the Adirondack Mountains. Because of the surplus of trees, fall was gorgeous. Red and orange spread as far as the eye could see. My parents and I wanted to ride our car around to be fully immersed in the fall leaves. About an hour into our leisurely drive, we found a farm stand. Inside were the best apple cider donuts and apple fritters that have ever graced my mouth. They were so warm and delicious. We washed it all down with apple cider that felt like it was made from out-of-this-world delicious apples.

When it comes to Thanksgiving time, pies hold the flavors that I often think about for months after I eat them. I remember one year I teared up when I took a bite of my mom's homemade apple pie. The flaky crust mixed with the notes of cinnamon and nutmeg with the apples is a taste that makes my heart happy.

But what other tasty fall treats and flavors does the student body love? What ones especially scream fall to them? I decided to find others who love fall flavors as much as I do to talk about their favorite fall treats.

Lydia Boateng-Sarpong (senior, speech pathology) says, "I love apple cider anything! It's my fave fave fave hot drink. I love it because I like apple juice, and it's basically that except warm and with cinnamon. I always associated it with a warm, comforting feeling." Apple cider, cold and warm, is one of the best creations that the fall season has given us. The culmination of the delicious sweet apples mixed with it being a convenient drink for any occasion during the fall makes it superior.

Joseph McKinley (junior, finance) said, "I love pumpkin spice. That flavor signals to me that it is time to start fall and bring back the fall energy." Pumpkin spice is a treasured fall flavor. I have seen people cry tears of joy when they find out when Starbucks releases their seasonal pumpkin spice latte. Even if you and caffeine disagree (caffeine and I are mortal enemies), you should try the Pumpkin Spice

Crema Frappuccino from Starbucks. You won't regret that pumpkin spice hitting your taste buds.

Savannah Tyler (junior, speech pathology) said, "My favorite fall treat is my mom's homemade pumpkin bread. It reminds me of the annual fall festivals that I have attended since kindergarten. I remember running around with friends, playing games, eating way too many sweets, and once I got older, helping my class with fundraisers." Certain fall treats bring us back to simpler times. Childhood fall flavors still get me tearing up when I taste them now. For example, when I bite into a caramel apple, I am transported back to when my mom would stuff a large caramel apple into my lunchbox, and I would eat it while having lunch on the playground. Fall flavors will always transcend time and space.

As we go to pumpkin patches and corn mazes, may we always remember that no fall outing is complete without a tasty fall treat. Indulge yourself with pumpkin and apples while they are available to you. Michigan is the perfect place to get homemade pumpkin and apple treats. You better go before the equally delicious peppermint drinks and treats hit the shelves for winter!

# Last Word

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LAST WORD

## The True Meaning of Courage

Abby Shim 10.20.23



Photo by Abby Shim

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Lately, I've been feeling a little behind in life.

A lot of my friends are gone as student missionaries for the year or studying abroad in some picturesque foreign country. As the months have passed, more and more of my feed on social media has become filled with snapshots around the world, featuring pictures of either smiley elementary students or historical

landmarks amidst a serene background. Although I know that I have a lot of priorities here at Andrews and at home, seeing everyone around me embark on such life-altering adventures makes me feel as if I don't have as much courage as them to leave my normal life behind for a while and explore what the world has to offer.

But even more recently! I've realized that courage doesn't always have to manifest in grand gestures or big journeys. Instead, I'm trying to practice courage daily, whether that be trying out something new at Starbucks (okay, fine, that might seem a little lame) or engaging in an activity that I'm not really familiar with. I've come to learn that an *attitude* of courage is more important than a singular act of courage.

Let me put it this way. I could go on a big journey abroad and discover myself in Spain while learning a new language! And while that would be so cool and interesting and fun, if I only take that one big leap then and don't continue to take big leaps afterwards, how will I continue to grow as an individual? Thus, I've learned that putting myself out there for even a few seconds every day is just as enlightening as deciding to go abroad or take a mission year.

Of course, I want to make it clear that going abroad or being a student missionary are both great opportunities that I think everyone could benefit from! And they are most certainly big decisions that require a lot of bravery and consideration. However, I just want to encourage those of you who are feeling like they aren't making such big decisions in their life that staying home is just as meaningful. Anyone can practice courage, no matter where they are or what they're planning on doing with their lives.

It also doesn't matter whether you're an extrovert or an introvert! You might assume that having an attitude of courage is only fitting for someone who isn't afraid of people or always needs to be doing something. That isn't true at all! As someone who likes sticking to a routine, since the beginning of this school year, I've been trying to meet more people through my role as KASA vice president, make new recipes, explore more locally, give that weird dish in the caf a chance, and learn more about niche topics that I find interesting. Furthermore, even though I suck still, I've been learning how to play tennis and the ukulele.

In essence, this is a challenge to each of you reading to try to practice courage more every day. Go up and introduce yourself to someone new, try out that bungee-jumping class in the Wellness Center, or pick up that hobby you've been wanting to dabble in.

And FYI, I am planning on going abroad at some point ;)

Here's to having everyday courage!