9-12-2018

Are You a Poser? Pilates: Full Body Experience

Andrews University

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NEW YEAR, NEW PRESIDENT

“My hope as president is that students will be able to make lasting memories at the events AUSA has planned this year.”

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PHOTO BY AUTUMN MEIS

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“They live happily ever after. Until they don’t.”
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DAN JACKSON CALLS US TO BE “WORLD ChangERS”

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NEW YEAR, NEW PRESIDENT

“My hope as president is that students will be able to make lasting memories at the events AUSA has planned this year.”
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#METOO

“Forgetfulness is not something women owe their abusers.”
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PHOTO BY AUTUMN MEIS
The New ’22

Alicia Dent | With each new year, comes new direction, new experiences and new energy. This year has proven to be no different. As many of us know, college is the opportunity for a fresh start, an opportunity to reinvent, to explore and to grow. As usual, the influx of students this year has made its mark on the campus, though the nature of that mark remains yet to be seen. As it is nothing new under the sun, the incoming class has lived up to the quintessential “college freshman” role.

Victoria Carmona (junior, social work) has had an opportunity to get to know some of the new women of Lamson Hall through her role as a resident assistant. She stated that the new students are “all very studious and excited about the college experience. I am excited to see what they do moving forward because they are all so ambitious… if they want something, they’re going to go for it!”

Already, the class of 2022 has made an impression. As for the gentlemen, they are also making their mark on the Andrews University campus. According to Matthew Agard, head resident assistant at Meier Hall (senior, computer science), the residence hall staff seeks to “create a culture of inclusivity and belonging” and the gentlemen in the freshmen class have exhibited a desire to be a part of this culture.

Agard states that “they have quickly formed friend groups, attended co-curricular programs, created numerous study groups and shared meals in the café together in a way that allows them to share their life experiences with one another.”

It seems as though the returning students at Andrews University have a good feeling about the class of 2022, but how does the class feel about Andrews?

Davia Spence (freshman, biology), expressed that she feels the people at Andrews are great and that she has most enjoyed “the diversity at Andrews University and the opportunity to meet people from different cultures, specifically other countries.”

To Davia, it seems like Andrews University has already made a positive mark on the university campus and hopefully, Andrews University can do the same to them. This is just the beginning. Only time will tell if the new class of 2022 will take anything away from Andrews University once they leave. Our hope is that this new freshman clan will leave here having learned to seek knowledge, affirm faith and change the world.

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Road to a Million

Gabrielle Johnson | On Wednesday, August 29, 2018, Andrews University reached another historic milestone. The University celebrated the download of its one millionth document from the Digital Commons (DC). Digital Commons (DC) is unique to Andrews University. It is an institutional database funded by the James White Library. The DC was first launched on June 1, 2015 and ever since then, it has taken off. The numbers are quite astonishing - more than 12,260 documents have been downloaded and archived from the database; More than 50 percent of the downloads came from students; 35 percent of the downloads were from the journals available via DC.

“For the number of documents in the repository, and the size of our university, achieving this milestone in just over three years is remarkable. It says something wonderful about our students and our faculty and the relevance of our scholarly work in the global marketplace,” says Terry Robertson, associate dean of libraries and repository librarian at the James White Library. The main goal of the Digital Commons is to provide the students and faculty with an outlet to global conversations utilizing their research and creativity. Furthermore, the database allows for individuals to express their own unique Andrews story. DC digitally archives any publications, documents or images. Also, the DC contains a lot of teaching resources that are unique to Andrews University.

“We worked a lot through the provost’s office, key faculty members and Dean’s Council. From there it expanded until most faculty have gotten excited about this,” says Larry Onsager, Dean of Libraries.

In addition, the Digital Commons provides information about faculty scholarship. Each faculty member can showcase their personal selected works and see locations in which their research has been downloaded or accessed.

The future plans to archive images. In the past, images have not been saved on the site, so are unable to be accessed. This future goal will allow students to access archived images, such as one of the trees in the University’s arboretum.
Dan Jackson Speaks to Young People

Richla Sabuin | We had our first University Chapel last Thursday, September 6, 2018. The praise team on stage led the congregation to sing harmoniously as the piano, cello, French horn and piano accompanied them. Afterwards, we had the opening prayer followed by Dr. Andrew Luxton, the university president, giving words of condolences as the university grieves for the loss of former student Bradley (Yu Tong) Liu. Then she introduced the speaker for the chapel, Dan Jackson. Dan Jackson is currently the acting president of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists and is adept at speaking to young people.

After opening his sermon with a prayer, Elder Dan Jackson asked a question and promised that whoever correctly answered it first would receive 20 dollars. He asked what the following individuals have in common, while showing a slide portraying various famous people. Many students rushed to come to the front but only one got the right answer, that right answer being, “They are world changers.”

He then proceeded to talk about how God calls us to be his witnesses and his world changers no matter how we feel. Elder Jackson also said, “As we link arms with His mighty arms, we can make a difference. God wants to use you and me no matter where we are, no matter how we feel, no matter what we’ve done, God is interested in us.”

He used the story in the Bible about Deborah being Israel’s judge, found in chapters four and five of Judges. Deborah noticed that the situations in Israel were ones that can’t be handled by human ability alone. She took in the oppression of the people and brought it to God through prayer, according to Elder Jackson.

Speaking further about the importance of prayer, Elder Jackson added that the life of humans without prayer is like playing baseball without gloves, football without a helmet and hockey without a stick. He then gave the most convincing example for why we should pray: the example of Jesus himself, who prayed for hours.

Nearing the end of his talk, Elder Jackson said, “Young people, don’t lose the fervor, the intensity that you have in terms of your connection with God… There are no human solutions to the problems in the church or in the community around us. There are no human solutions. We must have God to guide us.”

In conclusion, he said, “May God bless you students, as you become world changers.”

“By taking practical steps towards this end, we realize that changing the world is not as illusory a task as it seems, especially by yourself.”

Urban Mission and Ministry Congress Comes to AU

Jessina Marenga | Visitors with prominent lanyards crisscrossed the Andrews Campus from Sept. 4 to Sept. 6 for the Urban Mission and Ministry Congress. For those who wish to do something for your community, particularly for communities in urban areas, attending the meetings during the Urban Mission and Ministry Congress (UMMC) was a next step towards making a difference in ministry. Our basic duty to care for one another and this involves a host of different strategies. UMMC is one such association dedicated to expanding evangelism in urban areas.

The men and women of UMMC know what it means to care deeply about urban communities. Students were able to listen in as speakers from a wide range of professions discussed relevant issues pertaining to ministry in urban areas. Students also felt free to attend the workshops to familiarize themselves with the mission and the language used. Prompted by the university’s edit of the classic motto, “change the world” to “world changers made here”, the attendees understood that this calls for a shift in perspective towards being a world changer. UMMC provides easy access to the toolset needed to reach urban areas.

Young people often feel they lack the skill set to properly reach their community, yet here is a local resource that can be tapped to build up that skill set. Being proactive about gaining new skills also requires us to reflect upon the nature of service and to take ownership of the duty we have to live as Christ did. By taking practical steps towards this end, we realize that changing the world is not as illusory a task as it seems, especially by yourself.

It is rather a task that is made easier by leaning on others with the same focus to encourage and continue the mission. With Change Day fast approaching, we are reminded of the role we have to play in changing the community we live in. To live up to the call of being a World Changer, we have to expand our ministry to ever-growing areas like large towns and cities. When UMMC returns to Andrews University, hopefully more students will decide to attend and help improve their ability to reach those in urban communities.
A Perfect Judgement Call

Kelli Miller

On an early September morning in a happy little Maryland home, I crept down the stairs to the basement apartment with my brother to find Grandma. She was always happy to see us in the morning and today would be no different. We snuggled up next to her on the couch safe and sound covered by blankets and delighted by story books. Soon, the paper turned on the news, and the warmth and safety she felt surrounded her by her two young grandchildren was shattered by the shock of the atrocity of the Twin Towers' destruction.

Another day, another case to be settled in the bustling city of New York. My dad, Nick Miller, left his cozy Maryland home to commute to his law firm’s offices in the city. Dad phoned the arbitrator of the case he was working on to ensure that they would be meeting in the lawyer’s offices in the World Trade Center. Instead, the arbitrator insisted on a midtown location. This was somewhat unusual and irritating, since generally the arbitrator would do what he could to accommodate the preferred location of the lawyers. After pushback and location discovery, and discovering that the arbitrator would not budge from his decision, Dad booked a hotel in midtown for the night of September 10th. On the morning of September 11th he watched the news in awe as the World Trade Center fell. It appeared that the arbitrator’s judgment call had been perfect. The case was postponed, and Dad found himself walking the streets of New York City amongst many others. To wait out the attacks, he eventually boarded a New Jersey bound ferry. Before being allowed off the port into New Jersey, the passengers were given trash bags for their laptops and briefcases and then men in hazmat suits sprayed them down with fire hoses. The safety they had so carefully taken for granted now appeared to have been an illusion all along. It was an unsettling thing to realize. The only thing that saved my dad from almost certain death was the whim of a stubborn arbitrator.

As a two-year-old wrapped serenely in a blanket at my grandmother’s side I did not realize the gravity of what was happening on the television. I did not understand the extreme relief in my mother’s voice when she finally got a hold of my dad on the phone. Death and danger were just abstract concepts to me. Now, I look back on the past, I realize with what slim luck my dad made it safely out of the city. Today, I am curious to know what was going through the head of that stubborn New York arbitrator. What was it that caused him to be so persistent about the location of the conference? Perhaps it was a personal reason such as family, or friends being close by; maybe it was something small such as the proximity of a restaurant that he liked. I wonder whether he was religious, whether he spent time praying for wisdom, or whether his decision that day was sheer happenstance and, like his profession, arbitrary. If God did have a hand in it, why save my dad and let so many others die? The unsettling implications of this question cause me to prefer to believe that it was simply chance that brought my dad out alive. The idea that an all powerful deity would show intentional mercy to one individual while allowing thousands of others to experience such great suffering and loss is unfair. Blessing or luck, I just know that today, I am thankful that my dad was not more convincing, that his persuasion fell short that day. This is something two-year old me may not have been able to grasp, but it is not always golden to get your way.

Passion vs. Practicality: A Reflection After Taking My MCAT

Teddy Kim

This summer, I took my Medical College Admissions Test in Manhattan, aka the MCAT. Even as I sat in the testing center waiting for the registration process, I was unreasonably calm. The reason why was no secret. For months prior, I was shut in my local library nine hours a day, six days a week. Every aspect of my life, from what I did right before bed to when I went to the bathroom, was controlled in the most precise manner in preparation for the smoothest test day experience possible. For someone who is unsure of perfectionism, you can get, I hated it. I had studied for so long and thought at each level of repetition that I cared little whether or not the test went well, I had become addicted to the whole process and uninterested in my score.

Looking back, it only makes sense that while locking myself in the library, keeping myself off social media for two months straight and sticking to a rigorous daily schedule focused on studying, eating and then more studying, I began to earnestly question my current life choices. Why was I spending this much time in preparation for a field I was unsure I wanted to be in? Such a question could not have had more inappropriate timing. And yet, it was a necessary wakeup call. I had picked medicine very early on in my life and left little room for reconsideration. But when studying for the MCAT, I began to understand what it really means to dedicate yourself to a field and invest time in investing in a career. My schedule consisted of waking up at 5:30, studying at eight and continuing until around six. After a short break for dinner, I studied more until bedtime. Suddenly I saw it: this was what my future held for me. If I were to become a physician, I would have to similarly dedicate nearly all waking hours to my job. And if I wanted to become a good physician, I would have to invest even more time on a daily and yearly basis. After witnessing time slip through my fingers each day, after seeing how much of the rest of my life I was missing out on, I was simply unsure that I could face such a reality. It’s not that I was afraid of the work; it was that I was just beginning to see the value of time in life, the value of spending and allocating time in doing what you want to do and not just for a career that you think will be beneficial in the way of the trope of the 9-5 office worker who will never be promoted, I realized that I could not continue to invest all of my waking hours to my career. And if I wanted to be happy, I would have to simulate myself to be happy for the work needed to become a doctor, and maybe even my passion. Indeed, instead of those 20+ years of studying for something he did not want to become, he could have been practicing just as happily. What had I been doing for the past 20 years of my life? Why haven’t I found something else that I can enjoy putting in work for hours unnumbered if the entire day goes by in the process? If I had just made a gut decision and trusted my passion, I could have been much better at my passion, and not be stuck in this stodgy career. I am thankful and say I am thankful and say I am thankful and say I am thankful and say I am thankful that I made the decision that day was held against my voice when she finally got a hold of my dad on the phone. Death and danger were just abstract concepts to me. Now, I look back on the past, I realize with what slim luck my dad made it safely out of the city. Today, I am curious to know what was going through the head of that stubborn New York arbitrator. What was it that caused him to be so persistent about the location of the conference? Perhaps it was a personal reason such as family, or friends being close by; maybe it was something small such as the proximity of a restaurant that he liked. I wonder whether he was religious, whether he spent time praying for wisdom, or whether his decision that day was sheer happenstance and, like his profession, arbitrary. If God did have a hand in it, why save my dad and let so many others die? The unsettling implications of this question cause me to prefer to believe that it was simply chance that brought my dad out alive. The idea that an all powerful deity would show intentional mercy to one individual while allowing thousands of others to experience such great suffering and loss is unfair. Blessing or luck, I just know that today, I am thankful that my dad was not more convincing, that his persuasion fell short that day. This is something two-year old me may not have been able to grasp, but it is not always golden to get your way.
Ideas

Understanding the Aftershocks: 9/11’s Impact on Policing

Daniel Self
Following the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, legislative changes to civic security circulated the globe before the dust even settled. New York City, center of the attack, responded with extremely strong efforts to increase surveillance. After 9/11, the city enacted the Lower Manhattan Security Initiative, a movement to proactively protect its citizens with the installation of over three thousand security cameras and over one hundred license plate scanners. To many, these installations served a valuable purpose in deterring and recording the potential crimes to come. However, this seemingly normal system became more nefarious when multiple confirmed reports arose discussing the program’s more specific purpose to identify and catalogue people of program alone certain harms personal security, fail to be charged immediately, I disagree with increasing law enforcement power and purview. This citizen, Jean Botham, died in his own home after an off-duty officer thought that Botham was in her apartment. However, the apartment was his and she was not even on the right floor. Botham was fatally shot and Officer Guyger’s manslaughter case has been placed on hold because it is “very unique” (unique as in we will allow for the press coverage and grief to die down before levying a lesser penalty as occurred with the Baton Rouge officers who shot Alton Sterling, unique). Clearly, a binary lies between how police officers and civilians experience the extent of the law. Furthermore, this gap widens exponentially when it is a black civilian and a white police officer. The story of the late Botham Jean clearly illustrates this disconnect between the rule of law and members of law enforcement. Within this climate, I am skeptical that the NYPD and its choice to use racially classifying technology indicates paramount concern for everyone’s safety and not just that of a few.

Sadly, Americans have witnessed this law enforcement masquerade before. Following the outrage from seemingly continuous incidents of officer brutality, police departments national wide started having their officers wear body cameras with the intent to make them responsible for their actions. However, a George Mason University study showed that 92% of body camera footage was used against the defendant, with only 8% actually being used to keep police officers in check (Merola, L.M., Lum, C., Koper, C.S., and Scherer, A. (2016). Body Worn Cameras and the Courts: A National Survey of State Prosecutors). Thus, law enforcement’s rhetoric often promises restraint and the intent of citizen safety, while asking citizens to maintain trust in its judgement and reasoning. However, after decades of actively choosing to target people of color, we have clear right to be critical of both their changing legislation and infrastructure.

While the Lower Manhattan Security Initiative may truly alleviate crime for the New York City area, history suggests that the measures being instated may ultimately be used to harm its citizens. While ideological differences often separate people who cite the infallibility of the Constitution and those who advocate for social justice, this particular case provides a layer of overlap. While not always mutually exclusive views, they tend to approach issues differently. In this way, a constitutionalist approach to this subject might hinge on the Supreme Court’s interpreted right to privacy in the First, Fourth and Fifth Amendments. Simply put, these articles articulate an individual’s right to a degree of privacy in regards to his or her speech, person, and property and protection from unlawful search and seizure, which they would argue is violated by this intruding surveillance on innocent citizens.

Whereas, the social advocate’s concern might lie less with constitutional violation, and more with injustice done to different demographics, especially the minority. Moreover, because of continual mistreatment by the political process, they would be more suspicious of solutions from the “Man.” Their activism often manifests itself outside of the government via media or marches. These forms of activism allow for connection between people facing the same sorts of political challenges. Interestingly, though different in their approach, a congruent disgruntlement arises. This overlap would most noticeably coincide with attacking the injustices created by a growing police state. Critically, something must be done to make law enforcement accountable for their actions, as it seems in recent months that those who are meant to protect citizens, have actually been causing the most harm.

“While this type of program alone certainly harms personal security, the program’s more specific purpose to identify and catalogue people based on race, gender and age brings an even more heightened level of concern.”
Navigating the Financial Gauntlet

Raina Price | One of the most important aspects of becoming an Andrews University student includes establishing a Financial Plan. With the help of financial advisors, students can take out loans and do other complicated financial-related things that may be initially confusing. Ms. Shelley Bolin, the newest financial advisor here at Andrews University, gave us some information on understanding your financial situation.

As a financial advisor, Ms. Bolin works hard to help each of her advisees reach financial clearance. Through providing loan counseling, answering questions from both students and parents and maintaining student accounts, she upholds a line of communication with students that helps them through the financial process. The Financial Aid Office, located within the Administration Building here on campus, contains several computers where students have the opportunity to receive assistance with FAFSA, Loan Counseling, completing their Master Promissory Note (MPN) or making payments through the TouchNet Program.

Preparing financially for the next school year can often be stressful. But through the emails, reminders and postcards sent by the office of student financial services throughout the semester, students can keep track of the tasks that they need to complete. Registration Central, located under the “Current Students” tab on the Andrews University website, has several boxes that have to be checked off before reaching financial clearance. Paying a 50% down payment before the semester (with an option of paying the remainder off within the three months of the semester through a TouchNet payment plan) is also a step towards financial clearance.

What advice would Ms. Bolin give to students about staying on top of their financial clearance plan? Completing FAFSA as soon as it opens (Oct. 1, 2018 for the next school year) is crucial. You can verify the form (if needed) and use the help of financial advisors, as well as the Andrews University counseling and testing center.

Prevention Resources for Your Emotional Health

Counseling and Testing Center | Dealing with Grief/Loss

Losing a loved one, such as the recent passing of former student Bradley (Yu Tong) Liu, is one of life’s most challenging experiences. We may never stop missing a loved one who has passed; however, grief can become less intrusive and less intense over time. Here are some strategies that can help you deal with grief/loss:

1. Know that grieving takes time.
2. Accept your feelings. It’s OK to be sad. It’s OK to cry.
3. Identify trusted individuals who will allow you to talk (in detail) your story surrounding the loss that triggers your grief responses. On campus there are chaplains, residence halls deans, faculty, staff and confidential counselors at the Counseling and Testing center in Bell Hall suite 123 who are ready to support you.
4. Verbalize the feelings associated with the loss, e.g. I’m feeling really angry/confused/sad today. Talking about your feelings can help you feel better and relieve the oppressive feeling of grief.
5. Keep a journal of your thoughts and feelings. This can help you track changes in your emotions and experiences over time.
6. Write a letter to the deceased loved one expressing your thoughts and feelings. In the letter, include ways that you intend to be well even as you grieve.
7. Identify positive characteristics of the deceased loved one, positive aspects of the relationship, and ways you can continue to cherish those positive and fond memories.
8. Try to engage in time-limited mourning. Allot specific time(s) of day/duration of time that you dedicate to mourning or focusing on the impact of the loss. This allows you to successfully carry out your daily routine while also allowing you time to completely tune in to your grief responses. Be aware that this does not mean that you should expect the thoughts and feelings associated with your grief to completely disappear, but it can help you maintain a normal life.
9. Seek out support groups. Support groups remind us that we are not alone.
10. Use your own spirituality/faith walk as a source of comfort and hope. Prayer, meditation, worship, fellowship and focusing on God's promises can be great sources of support during times of grief.
11. Be intentional about other self-care habits. Exercise, maintain a healthy diet (or make an effort have healthy snacks even if you do not have an appetite for much food), stay hydrated and get plenty of rest.
12. Remember that dealing with grief/loss is a very personal journey. Everyone grieves differently. Some may need to take time away from a daily routine; others may need to maintain their regular pace. Be patient with yourself and with others as you navigate the grieving process toward successful mourning and effective emotion regulation.

If you feel like you are unable to function or perform basic activities of daily living, please get professional help. The Counseling & Testing Center in Bell Hall #123 or a local counselor may be a good place to start. If you have specific questions or concerns pertaining to any mental/emotional health issue that you would like for us to address in this section of the Student Movement, please email your questions or concerns to: ccenter@andrews.edu with the subject: Prevention Resources Question/Concern.

Broken Crayons Still Color

Dani Maletin | Ever feel beaten down, as if there’s nothing left to keep you motivated? Welcome to college. As morbid as that sounds, this is the place that makes or breaks the majority of us. Some people are paralyzed by the stress of homework, others work incredibly hard to pay tuition and some can barely get out of bed each day due to depression and anxiety. The key to remember is, just as a crayon can still color after it’s been broken, tased around and neglected, we too can still function and have a purpose. We belong to someone, and are important to them. In this day and age, with death and destruction surrounding us on all sides, we must remember that we matter and to tell those in our lives that we love them–because we never know when or if we will have that chance again.

I truly believe that God has placed us all here on the campus of Andrews University for a purpose, whether it be to get a great education, to challenge our perceptions of diversity, or to meet unique people. We never know the impact of our day-to-day interactions, and what they might mean to someone. So, no matter how broken or down-trodden you feel right now, remember that you are important and needed. Find ways and people that make you feel energized, ready to take on the day and hold them close.

Sometimes the people we surround ourselves with are the reason for our success and happiness. Next time you walk past someone on the sidewalk while rushing to class, smile, because maybe your one act of kindness will make them feel like they can color again. Who knows, maybe one day Andrews won’t only be known as the most diverse campus in the US, but maybe also the most colorful.
Have You Planned It Out?

Vanessa Angel

Imagine this: It is the end of the day. You set out your outfit for tomorrow so that you are well-prepared. You did all the homework that you can remember from the day before. You go to sleep at a reasonable hour, and you wake up at a good enough time to grab a breakfast burrito from the Gazebo. You think you have your day all planned out, but then first period comes with a quiz your teacher told you the day before, except... you didn’t remember because you didn’t write it down. And it only gets worse from there. You miss a meeting with your advisor, you have to skip lunch because you haven’t done a reflection for your religion class, and you feel anxious for the rest of the day. Sound familiar?

A great way to avoid this crazy scenario is to use a planner throughout the year. Below are tips and ideas of how to effectively use a planner.

Fresh pages: Write everything down! By now, the school year has started, but it is still a good enough time to prioritize for the semester. Start with a clean desk. Then, take out all your syllabi from all your classes and place them neatly on your desk with a planner on the side. Write down, class by class, all your major exams, assignments, projects and papers in big letters on the day they are due. You can even be creative and have different color highlighters for each area! Second, once you are done writing all your major assignments, plan out your week with your daily homework in every class. This way, you will have a glimpse of how your week will go and you can even knock out assignments for the next day, week or month.

Reward yourself: After you are done with a major exam, project, or even paper, reward yourself. A reward for having a major task can be any of the following: watching a movie, hanging out with your friends, even buying yourself a treat from the Gazebo. Encouraging yourself with a reward after a major assignment will not only motivate you to do the work, but it will help in the future knowing that you are looking forward to something in the end! This will not only help you in the classroom, but will help your mental health as well.

Planning out your schedule is a great way for you to know exactly what is going on and prevents any confusion or forgotten quizzes. When you get your syllabi from your professors, you know not only the homework that is due, but also what you will be doing for every day of the week. Once you have completed a major assignment, you can reward yourself so you can be willing to plan again and repeat this cycle. Practicing using a planner and making a schedule in college is a tool not everyone uses, but is highly beneficial in the end. After some time practicing this skill, your brain will grow accustomed to doing it and it will be just another normal thing to do while in college.
Humans

Freshman Highlight

Interviewed by Maya Nelson | Ciera Phillpotts
Freshman Marketing Major

Where are you from, and what made you decide to come to Andrews University?

My parents went to Andrews, and I really always liked the environment here, so I decided to come here.

How did you decide on a marketing major?

I originally planned on doing nursing, until I realized it wasn’t for me. I like that marketing has a rigid structure but also has a creative subject.

What do you plan on doing once you graduate?

I want to do nursing, until I realize it wasn’t for me. I want to be a nurse and help others.

How have the first couple of weeks been going so far?

It’s been interesting adjusting to living in a dorm and a college schedule, but I’ve met a lot of cool people here already and I like my classes.

How are you managing your classes? Do you create a routine that you follow?

I have a flexible schedule, but I manage my classes by doing my assignments right after I get them. It just makes life easier.

What are some things you want to do while at Andrews?

I’m going to join BSCF and I plan on joining another club as well but I’m not sure which one yet. I also want to become involved with the Integrity Team at New Life.

What is something that surprised you about college?

Nothing about college so far has surprised me, just a lot of the different personalities types that I’ve met since being here.
Meet the President

How can students keep up with AUSA on social media?
We are on Facebook, SnapChat, Instagram and Twitter, so just search @weareausa to stay informed on everything we are doing this year. Also follow AUSA Senate (@ausasenate on FB & IG) and University Sabbath School (University Sabbath School on FB & @ausabbathschool on IG) to keep up with what they are doing.

What do you hope to accomplish as President of AUSA this year?
My hope as president is that students will be able to make lasting memories at the events AUSA has planned this year. Another hope I have that has already come to fruition is more interaction with other organizations, the Graduate Student Association. We worked alongside with them for the Welcome Back Block Party that happened the Sunday before classes started and I am excited to continue to work with them throughout the year.

Do you think there will continue to be a positive shift toward more interactions between undergraduate and graduate students?
Yes, I definitely believe the bridge between the undergraduate and graduate populations will continue to be strengthened this year and in the years to come. AUSA and GSA are just two of the organizations that are helping to facilitate those interactions. I have seen other organizations and clubs on campus help create opportunities for those interactions in my time here as well. I think the positive benefits of more undergraduate/graduate interaction is that undergraduate students can gain insight and advice about life after college and learn what graduate school is like. At the same time, graduate students can also gain some wisdom and make friends with undergraduate students.

What are your plans for this school year?
Right now my plans are to start working as a middle school teacher by this time next year, but we all know that plans can change. I’m open to working at a private or public school, so I will see what job opportunities are available and will have a conversation with God, myself, my family and my friends to see where I would fit best.

What words of advice do you have for the students here at AU?
Take a leap of faith and step out of your comfort zone at least once this semester or school year. Whether it’s your first year at Andrews or not, try something new on campus that you’ve never done before or have the courage to do something you’ve always wanted to do but have been debating for a while. I can say that getting involved in student government on our campus and praise teams was initially something that was scary to me, but now I thoroughly enjoy both.

How can students become involved in praise teams on campus and why might you suggest they do that?
I would say the easiest way to get involved is to talk to anyone who is currently participating on a praise team that you see during chapel, church or any vespers that you attend. Taking that step to put yourself out there might be nerve-wracking, but it is worth it. I suggest trying to get involved in praise and worship because it is a great opportunity to build relationships with people, to have fun during practice and to experience God’s presence in a unique way while you sing or play an instrument.

You mentioned students should step out of their comfort zones and become more involved. What other suggestions do you have for those who might enjoy smaller groups or events?
Pay attention to any volunteer opportunities, Bible study groups or club events that are happening each week and weekend on campus. Take a little bit of time to check out bulletin boards and make sure to check your email as often as possible to find out what is going on. You can also start your own small group or create a club if there is something that you are passionate about that you think Andrews is lacking. And if all else fails, don’t hesitate to ask other people you meet on campus, your friends or others, about what small group activities they are engaged in and check them out to see if they are for you.

Where are you from?
I was born in Paterson, NJ, but I’ve lived for most of my life in Fairfield, OH, a suburb of Cincinnati. Both of my parents are from Jamaica, so I’m also proud to say that I am a Jamaican-American.

What is your major?
Elementary education, social studies major.

Why did you decide to run for AUSA President?
Because I believed that I could lead the AUSA officer team effectively to make the lives of our fellow undergraduate students more enjoyable this year in anyway possible. I also ran for office because I believe that my prior years of experience in AUSA and other clubs on campus made me a highly qualified candidate and a good fit for the role of president.

What are your plans for this school year with AUSA?
Some events that we have planned that I am personally excited about are our annual Fall Festival next month, AU’s Got Talent in November and our banquet next February. We are also continuing University Sabbath School every Sabbath morning in the Rec Center, and I encourage students to come out for a physical and spiritual breakfast. I think the greatest things that we have planned though are the spontaneous pop up events when we have AUSA merch giveaways, free food or just general advertising for events.

What do you hope to accomplish as President of AUSA this year?
My hope as president is that students will be able to make lasting memories at the events AUSA has planned this year. Another hope I have that has already come to fruition is more interaction with other organizations, the Graduate Student Association. We worked alongside with them for the Welcome Back Block Party that happened the Sunday before classes started and I am excited to continue to work with them throughout the year.

Do you think there will continue to be a positive shift toward more interactions between undergraduate and graduate students?
Yes, I definitely believe the bridge between the undergraduate and graduate populations will continue to be strengthened this year and in the years to come. AUSA and GSA are just two of the organizations that are helping to facilitate those interactions. I have seen other organizations and clubs on campus help create opportunities for those interactions in my time here as well. I think the positive benefits of more undergraduate/graduate interaction is that undergraduate students can gain insight and advice about life after college and learn what graduate school is like. At the same time, graduate students can also gain some wisdom and make friends with undergraduate students.

What are your plans for this school year?
Right now my plans are to start working as a middle school teacher by this time next year, but we all know that plans can change. I’m open to working at a private or public school, so I will see what job opportunities are available and will have a conversation with God, myself, my family and my friends to see where I would fit best.

That is so awesome you want to be a middle school teacher! When did you know you wanted to be a teacher?
I actually did not figure that out until I came to Andrews. Becoming a teacher or an educator in general was a thought in the back of my mind when I graduated from high school, but I initially started out as a marketing major my freshman year here. Working at summer camp after high school sparked my interest in education. After prayer and conversation with some of my friends and family, I changed my major in the first semester of my sophomore year.

What words of advice do you have for the students here at AU?
Take a leap of faith and step out of your comfort zone at least once this semester or school year. Whether it’s your first year at Andrews or not, try something new on campus that you’ve never done before or have the courage to do something you’ve always wanted to do but have been debating for a while. I can say that getting involved in student government on our campus and praise teams was initially something that was scary to me, but now I thoroughly enjoy both.

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Aretha Franklin: The Queen of Soul

At Aretha Franklin’s funeral, there were musical tributes by artists ranging from classic Motown favorite Smokey Robinson, to pop artists like Stevie Wonder and Ariana Grande, as well as gospel icons Yolanda Adams and Faith Hill. Notable politicians and activists such as Representative John Lewis, Reverends Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson and President Bill Clinton gave speeches for the Queen of Soul, and President Barack Obama sent a letter of condolence to be read aloud. At the time of her funeral, I didn’t understand why. I knew only her biggest hit, “Respect,” and that she sang at President Obama’s inauguration in 2008. But what connected this 1960s single to such acclaim in the 21st century, over fifty years since she was a rising star? As it turns out, she had worked closely with Martin Luther King Jr. as her career as a singer began when she was a teenager. She toured with him, performed concerts and raised funds at a time when public support for civil rights was considered controversial at best. At Dr. King’s funeral in 1968, the year he had an over 70% disapproval rating, Aretha Franklin sang “Take My Hand, Precious Lord.” She didn’t stop there, either. When Angela Davis, a more radical civil rights figure and noted Communist, was arrested in 1971, Aretha Franklin offered to pay her bail. Questioned for this brazen move, Aretha Franklin did not care to see her free if there is any justice in our courts, not because I believe in the idea that she’s a Black woman and she wants freedom for Black people, I have the money; I got it from Black people…and I want to use it in ways that will help our people.”

Many of her most famous hits such as “Think,” “You Make Me Feel Like A Natural Woman,” and, of course, “Respect,” spoke to a burgeoning feminist movement as well as the civil rights movement, with lyrics explicitly challenging a society that undervalued women and intentionally celebrating womanhood. In her song, “Do Right Woman, Do Right for a遗址,” she sang, “A woman’s only human / She’s not just a playing thing / She’s flesh and blood just like her man…Yeah, yeah, they say that it’s a man’s world / But you can’t prove that by me / And as long as we’re together, baby / Show some respect for me.” Aretha Franklin’s status as a bold icon and a musician cannot be separated, much like other legendary African-American musicians. Black music gives voices to individuals as well as to movements, coming from a place of struggle to touch listeners of all different backgrounds. The messages of Aretha’s music, sung in rich and resonant tones of passion, perfectly embody this tradition of encouragement and liberation through song, combining the problems of a fundamentally human plea for personhood. It is, truly, soul music. And so, at her funeral, it was evident to the entire world that for her lifelong support to women, to the Black community, and to justice, she had in deed earned her R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

“The Dangers of Microwaved Redemption

Natalie Hwang: Opinion | In the era of the #MeToo movement, increasingly common is the exposure of many famous men involved in sexual harassment and assault allegations. As women step forward and speak on their experiences with abuse, especially in professional circles, more and more people bring up the issue of separating the artist from their art. As if talent exists separately from human bodies, as if art is not directly influenced by those who make it and their ideologies, as if our decisions as an audience do not affect the victims of sexual abuse — both those who were abused by our favorites, as well as the survivors among us.

More recently, Aziz Ansari and Louis C.K. both re-entered the world of stand-up comedy to large audiences at their respective shows. Last November, C.K. admitted to forcing and requesting various women to watch him masturbate. Many of these women were his co-workers, and they stated that they felt pressured to do so because he had so much power over them. While the comedian declared that he would “step back and take a long time to listen,” his return to comedy was met with much skepticism. The lining later indicates that nothing has changed. Not only did he perform in New York’s Comedy Center on August 27, 2018, but C.K. has done nothing in his time away from the stage to rectify his mistakes; he simply admitted to gross sexual misconduct. Historically, C.K. has targeted female colleagues and subordinates; because of this, his return to stand-up is a workplace safety issue and should be framed as such.

Another instance of a sexual abuser returning to the workplace is found in Aziz Ansari’s return to stand-up in early May 2018. He failed to address any sexual misconduct allegations then, as well as when the exposing article was first published. Ansari was accused of sexual misconduct during a date, repeatedly forcing a woman to perform sexual favors throughout the evening. After the publication, he released a statement responding that from his point of view, everything that occurred was completely consensual. Compared with the victim’s statement, however, it is hard to believe that his claim was anything more than damage control.

The aftermath of abuse is long-lasting. It is, as Roxane Gay articulates in Not That Bad:Dispatches From Rape Culture, “like carrying something really heavy, forever. You do not get to put it down; you have to carry it, and so you carry it the way you need to, however it best.” It is unfair that abuse victims must carry that weight for the rest of their lives, and simultaneously, that they are also expected to forgive the men who have hurt them.

Though redemption should not be impossible for abusers, harassers or assaulters, they are not entitled to it.”
The Power of Stories

Ingrid Radulescu | This past Wednesday Dr. Jerry Root, professor of evangelism and a noted C. S. Lewis scholar from Wheaton College, spoke in Newbold auditorium to a room brimming with students, faculty and community members. Dr. Root lectured on the power of fantasy stories found in works such as The Chronicles of Narnia by C. S. Lewis, as well as in The Lord of the Rings, by Lewis’s friend and colleague, J.R.R. Tolkien. Dr. Sonia Badeñas, Assistant Professor of French, expounded “I strongly believe in the power of story as a means to captivate your audience, as a means to create narrative spaces and convey truth, so I really liked listening to the speaker.”

Another captivated member of the audience Hannah Gallant (junior, English Literature major) summarized her takeaway on a similar note, “Attending this lecture was a wonderfully enriching experience about not only C.S. Lewis and his writings, but also about how stories are such an integral aspect of faith and what it means to be human.”

Personally, Dr. Root struck an especially strong chord in me when he explained that college does not give you an education but a foundation for a lifetime of learning. This is the reason that the graduation ceremony is termed “commencement”; signifying our time here at Andrews University commences of a lifetime of learning and exploring the world around us. Even further, this epitomizes the AU motto, “Seek Knowledge. Affirm Faith. Change the World.” It is here on this campus that we gain the base to go out and change the world.

To that end, Adoniah Simon (freshman, theology and psychology major), described his thoughts: “I learned that fantasy and wonder have the power to make a believer of anyone. Our own story has that same ability to unite even the most seemingly dissimilar people in the world onto one platform, and create a game that draws in people of all ages and game-playing backgrounds. While it may not be everyone’s favorite game, Fortnite provides the opportunity to excel and strive for greatness, while still allowing a very competitive experience.

Once in a Fortnite: A Worldwide Phenomenon

David Dunham | Summer is over, which means the days of playing video games are over. For many people around the globe, this means no more Fortnite. In the event that you live under a rock and have never heard of Fortnite, here’s a little background. Fortnite is an online multiplayer video game that pits each player against the next, with a victory secured when you are the last player remaining. Ever since its debut in July 2017 with 1 million players, it has jumped up to over 125 million players as of June 2018. This free-to-play game has brought people in droves, taking over the conversations of both middle school classrooms and college dorms. But what exactly makes this game stand out so much? The biggest attraction to Fortnite is its high skill approach, which makes it difficult to earn even a single victory. One could play countless rounds and never earn a first place, which makes it very easy to get absorbed more closely into earning that sweet victory. And because of this skill level, Fortnite awarded over $100,000,000 in prize money this past summer to a select group of competitors who participated in their “Summer Skirmish.” This event concluded on September 3, and the competition garnered much attention worldwide, drawing in a total viewership of over 30 million. Additionally, the presence of popular streamers (people who broadcast themselves live online, usually playing video games) who play Fortnite has boosted the number of players exponentially. Naturally, when watching a free game for so many hours, many viewers decide to play for themselves, bringing in the opportunity for Fortnite’s creators, Epic Games, to earn money through in-game purchases.

Fortnite is truly an anomaly. In a world where video games have, for a large part of their history, been considered to be only played by nerds, it is interesting to note that many recent games, especially Fortnite, have been endorsed by sports players.

This past April, when Maryland-Baltimore won the NCAA tournament, player Nolan Gerrity was quoted as saying, “It’s like your first Fortnite victory, honestly.” Many MLB teams have had to ban Fortnite because their players are developing carpal tunnel syndrome from it. NBA players such as Andre Drummond and Josh Hart have admitted that they can’t stop playing this game, and that it has even affected their professional lives. Does this mean we have entered a new era of video games? Does Fortnite signal a shift in the video game dynamic that transcends the age-old stereotypes of video games? It seems that it has, due to its
Human Before Woman

When I was a very little girl, I used to beg my mom to tell me stories. She told so many that she started to run out of “child-friendly” ones, so she started modifying famous literature to make it reasonably appropriate for a six-year-old (but not too appropriate; I distinctly remember being horrified when I heard the ending of Romeo and Juliet for the first time). One of the stories she chose was The Odyssey, that super-old Greek poem you may have read in high school. You know—the one with the cyclops and the sirens and the poor guy who just couldn’t seem to get home. But she never told me the story of The Odyssey’s predecessor, The Iliad. Honestly, it’s no wonder: it’s the most famous war story in history, riddled with death and sex and blood and divine intervention and more drama than an entire season of Riverdale.

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The story goes like this: The new queen is the most beautiful woman in the world—practically divine, utterly ravishing. She joins her husband, the king, in ruling a prosperous city. They live happily ever after.

Until they don’t. Until a playboy prince from a city far across the sea seduces her, or steals her, or she seduces or steals him—and he slips away in the middle of the night, filling his hold with countless treasures. He fills his arms with her. And if he rapes the queen or loves her, well, who’s to say? It’s adultery either way.

Her husband, the king, declares war and the war is to reclaim his wife and (or?) his treasures, or simply an excuse to raid a prosperous city, no one knows. He calls all his friends, all his family, all his comrades-in-arms and they launch a thousand ships toward the prince’s shining seaside city. When she sees them land, watching from the city’s high walls, the queen—is she still royal?—or just a fallen woman, now?—cries. In joy or sorrow? Relief or fear? Who’s to say?

Helen of Troy. Give me a list of what you know about her, real quick. Does it include some variation of beautiful, cold, unfaithful, adulterous, passionate, treacherous, where? I would’ve thought the same thing less than a week ago. Everything I’d ever heard pointed to Helen’s culpability. She was the villain of the story, the reason why so many Greeks went to war and died, the reason why Troy itself fell. So I can’t help but wonder if maybe the reason my mom didn’t tell me this story is less because of the inherent wickedness of The Iliad (I mean, Odyssey goes some pretty weird places too) and more because of Helen herself, and her place as unfaithful wife, laughing as men fight wars in her honor.

If you’re thinking about, like, characterization, that’s consistent and makes sense, in the way that Odyssey is always cunning or Hamlet is always indecisive, Helen doesn’t hold up—certainly not in pop culture or modern depictions. Where The Iliad makes her a victim of the gods’ capriciousness, abducts and held captive against her will, most modern iterations present her as cold, callous, watching a thousand ships burn and warming her hands on the fire. But Homer presents Helen as vastly more self-aware: we’re introduced to her bemoaning her fate and missing her homeland and family, and spend the entire next scene telling off Aphrodite, the goddess of love, for being the cause of the war and forcing Helen to go with Paris, the visiting prince. Paris himself says that he “steals her”—which doesn’t sound very consensual. In short, Helen does very little to deserve the reputation she’s been given.

And I can hear you asking, but Alexi, why does it matter? This poem is literally ancient history. And you’re right, of course. It is.

But The Iliad is a baseline text in western literary tradition. It doesn’t get much more foundational than this. And the woman around whom the whole epic spins, the center of the story, so to speak, is consistently misrepresented and misunderstood. Both modern pop culture and hundreds of years of classic scholarship try to reframe the rape of Helen as either a seduction or a love story, and I for one am not buying it. This is the reaction to the central conflict in a story that forms the backbone of western literature. That, despite what the woman says, despite what the gods say, despite what the entire epic says, somehow Troy is Helen’s fault. Somehow, she gets blamed for her own rape. This is rape culture.

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