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Earth Changers Made Here

Andrews University

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Earth Changers Made Here
President and Provost Face Off With Skid Steers
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DR. JOHN HOWARD PASSES AWAY
"It’s amazing how passionate he was about music and music education, and how he made sure what he had all went back to that.”
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FROM PARADISE TO HELL
“My school, my church, my library, my house, the places I went to get coffee in high school with my friends, the places that would jog my memory are gone, gone up in smoke.”
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BUDGETING CHRISTMAS
“Before I knew what kind of gifts I could make or buy for incredibly cheap, I felt terrible every holiday that passed where I was the only one not handing out gifts.”
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MEET CHRIS WHITTAKER
“The video was offensive, hurtful, cult-like, and seemed like propaganda.”
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“Even if it isn’t stated outright, it’s implied: if you spend time on something, you’d better make sure it’s something useful.”
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The President Vs. the Provost

Moriah McDonald
On Tuesday, Nov. 20, from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m., about 75 people came out to the Andrews University farm to sip hot chocolate, enjoy a bonfire, and watch the President and the Provost compete against each other in three different events for the prize of a rodeo belt buckle. These three events consisted of a barrel race, an obstacle race and the “PHD” (piled higher and deeper). The “PHD” was a timed four-minute race in which the President and Provost competed to determine who could move the most manure from one big pile into their own pile.

The event was held to inspire Andrews University employees to contribute to the United Way Campaign, which has raised over $22,000. Dalry Payne was inspired by a brief instance in which she observed Dr. Luxton at the Wellness center groundbreaking last spring and her light-hearted comment that they wouldn’t give her the keys. I started thinking about what heavy equipment was available (i.e. the skid steers), and what she could do in it. I come from a logging and rodeo town in western Canada so my mind combined the two!

Dalry Payne
Office of the President:
Executive Assistant Graduate

What inspired this event?
I was looking for something unusual and out of character for the president to do that would capture the interest of employees and inspire them to contribute to the campaign. I recalled Dr. Luxton sitting in the huge backhoe at the wellness center groundbreaking last spring and her light-hearted comment that they wouldn’t give her the keys. I started thinking about what heavy equipment was available (i.e. the skid steers), and what she could do in it. I come from a logging and rodeo town in western Canada so my mind combined the two!

What did you do to prepare for this event?
There were several people involved, but most of the planning took place via email (as I don’t have a lot of spare time to go door to door). Before even announcing the event, I contacted the Farm manager to see if the machines could be used for a rodeo and if there was a location. They were on board and also agreed to come up with two more events for the equipment, so the campaign took place. When we reached the fundraising goal, I then contacted a number of individuals to cover areas such as photography, advertising, P.A. music to play during the events and an M.C. I also developed a run sheet so everyone knew who was doing what and when.

Can you describe the competition between the President and the Provost? Who won?
The first two events were really funny as both the president and provost had better maneuvering skills than we all thought they would. And you could tell Dr. Luxton really wanted to win! They were a bit clumsy circling around the pylons but I think still did remarkably well given that they’d only had an hour each in the equipment the day before. The PHD event was really funny though. Dr. Arthur did very well at picking up the poo and moving it but Dr. Luxton was having quite a bit of trouble getting the bucket where she wanted it. When she finally got some in, slowly drove to her smaller pile (which was less than half the size of Dr. Arthur’s), lifted the bucket as high as it would go, then slowly tipped it, the entire crowd cheered wildly. Dr. Arthur was the winner as Dr. Luxton missed a pylon in the second event, and of course did not move enough poo in the final event.

Despite the cold weather, a good amount of people showed up that day to witness the competition. They excitedly crowded near the barrier to get a better view of the battles. Many enjoyed hot chocolate and marshmallows served from a dining services truck. Dr. Luxton and Dr. Arthur’s battle sparked a wonderful ambiance of excitement and humor for all who attended.

Don’t know your finals schedule? Scan this QR Code!
Passing the Torch: The Legacy of Dr. John Howard

Kara Herrera

On Friday Nov. 16, Dr. John Howard passed away at the age of 99. Having lived for so long, Dr. Howard has left a lasting impact on the school through his various gifts, money, passion and teachings.

I spoke with Byron Graves, the Wind Symphony Director on campus. Graves says that he first met Dr. Howard sometime between his high school career in the wind symphony and his time as an undergraduate at Andrews University.

Graves said, “To thank Dr. Howard for all he had done for the university, the music department would head over every year to Holland where they retired and perform a recital for them and their friends and community. A lot of the music students would go up there for the music recital. The Howards would stay after everyone else had left to talk with the students, which was great.”

For students in the music department, Dr. Howard’s name is well-known. For all the other members of the student body, his name is best recognized from the large building near the entrance of the school, the Howard Performing Arts Center (HPAC).

Graves himself was a student here at AU during the time the HPAC was built. The HPAC was one of many buildings that the Howards funded and sponsored. In Graves’ words, “the Howards donated to lots of different buildings; the music hall in Hillsdale College and Hope College, amongst others.”

Here, at Andrews University, the HPAC stands out as one of the most noticeable physical legacies left behind by Dr. Howard. The HPAC has impacted the community greatly. Before, secular concerts were held in the Johnson Gym. After the HPAC was built, it has really allowed us to perform and give a full music experience and education to our students. What’s amazing is that, as band directors, we’re not exactly super high-paid individuals. It’s amazing how passionate he was about music and music education, and how he made sure what he had all went back to music education. He also didn’t give it to places with a lot of money, like Harvard. Rather, he gave it to places not with huge endowments, so it really made an impact.”

When asked about the legacy he believes Dr. Howard left behind, Graves recalls that the Wind Symphony performed the day after Dr. Howard passed away. When the announcement was made during the concert, many people in the audience were impacted by the news, especially because many of the audience members were older and had had face-to-face interactions with Dr. Howard.

“Personally,” Mr. Graves says, “I’m very grateful for what he did for Andrews. I gave my first recital in the HPAC as an undergraduate and it was amazing to be on campus when the building was first built. Now, I get to use it with bands starting from the elementary level all through the graduate level.”

Upcoming Events

December 1
- ASIS Sabbath, 11:30 a.m., University Towers Chapel
- Junior-Senior Class Roller Skating, 6:30 p.m., Lakeshore Roller World
- BSCF Soul Lounge, 7-9 p.m., Honors Forsyth House
- AUSA Christmas Party, 9:00 p.m., Rec Center
- Andrews Symphony Orchestra Christmas Concert, 8-9 p.m., HPAC

December 7
- Andrews Singers Christmas Vespers, 7-9:30 p.m., HPAC

December 8
- Adelante Christmas Party, 7-9 p.m., Rec Center
- AFIA Christmas Party, 7-9 p.m., University Towers Basement
- Cardinals Basketball Game, 9:00 p.m., Johnson Gym

December 13
- Cardinals Basketball Game, 6-7:30 p.m., Johnson Gym
Paradise Lost

Rebecca Keller

The popular idiom “go up in smoke” describes how quickly one’s plans or possessions can vanish. Like a gray ash leaf falling on your hand, melting to nothingness when you try to brush it away, so do your plans, your possessions, the place you grew up. The memories surging on your hand, melting, gone, gone up in smoke.

Places I went to get coffee, my school, my church, my friends, the places I went to get coffee, my plan... the town doesn’t. The memories surging on your hand, melting, gone, gone up. The memories surging on your hand, melting, gone up in smoke. The memories surging on your hand, melting, gone, gone up in smoke; the memories surging on your hand, melting, gone up in smoke.

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“Eh”-Okay: Examining the Canadian Healthcare System

Daniel Self

Healthcare, a fundamental service for a nation’s citizens, remains a point of major contention in the United States. Particularly, the idea of subsidizing healthcare receives immense pushback from certain segments of the American population because of the required increase in taxes. However, advocates of single-payer healthcare cite nations such as our neighbors to the north, Canada, as a prime example of a system that functions quite well. And indeed, from the perspective of someone with years of experience in both countries, the merits of single payer healthcare outweigh its downsides. However, one must consider the single payer healthcare system holistically before advocating for it too strongly.

Particularly, one contrasting feature of the two healthcare systems lies in their prioritization of emergency patients. In Canada, rarely do people facing critical medical emergencies not receive immediate treatment, which serves as one of the strongest points of single payer healthcare. This completely reduces the fear of an individual being turned away from healthcare because of financial means. Comparatively, the American system’s reliance on insurance—and the inevitable problems that entail when people cannot afford it—allows for the death of citizens from completely curable means. An oft-cited 2009 study by the American Journal of Public Health found that nearly 45,000 Canadians die per year as a direct result of not having healthcare insurance.1 Critically, these preventable deaths do not occur in single payer healthcare systems.

However, Canadians have their own separate set of gripes with their public healthcare system. Contrasting the immediate treatment for emergency cases, non-life threatening incidents often lose their priority and may sit on hold for a number of months. The Fraser Institute, a Canadian public policy think tank, found in 2013 that patients waited an average of 18.2 weeks before receiving treatment. However, this only occurs because of an immense lack of family and rural doctors and other health professionals who specialize in less pressing complications and smaller populations. Likewise, the cases that should not become serious medical issues ultimately do since delaying the treatment causes the severity of the medical problem to increase. This floods the emergency rooms and creates a cycle with the fundamental problem being a lack of medical professionals and operating room space. In the process, people suffer with long term pain and mental stress waiting for their non-critical procedure. However, this demonstrates a flaw largely in the lack of public funding for healthcare, rather in the system itself.

Indeed, both systems display major flaws and yet I consider public payer healthcare to better address the clear issues of unequal treatment. Particularly, the classist nature inherent in privatizing healthcare. While all Canadians experience this longer for their non-life threatening health issues, one will never be turned away because they cannot afford it. Contrasting this, American citizens within the lowest economic classes who cannot afford healthcare remain at risk of being refused treatment. For Americans, becoming ill or injured seems like a massive worry because of the high financial stakes, whereas the Canadian single payer healthcare system alleviates the pressure of crippling medical bills. While the legislative reform required to implement single-payer healthcare in the United States remains immense, the growing class divide makes this a critical issue going forward.


“While all Canadians often wait longer for their non-life threatening health issues, one will never be turned away because they cannot afford it.”
On “Unity #GCAC18”

Frenzen Pakpahan

Tuesday, Nov. 20, Adventist News Network released a video on Youtube entitled “Unity #GCAC18.” Before we get to the description, “This video was created by lay members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and was produced in partnership with the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.” As part of the growing controversy currently engulfing the church, a video is one of the first responses from the camp of those in favor of the recent compliance document approved at the Annual Council.

As a Seventh-day Adventist, I love my church—or at least, I am trying to. In the video, a chorus of, presumably, lay members speak, and advance a running line condemning those who would seek to disrupt the unity of the Adventist Church. In the interest of keeping the “family together” and preventing “congregationalism,” the video is an emotionally contrived attempt to woo (or perhaps guilt-trip) the noncompliant back into the fold. Ignoring the fact that the video poorly directed and choppy, one of my first issues with the use of children. It’s not as simple as asking the parents for permission, especially with an issue as sensitive and grave as women’s ordination, church discipline and the future of the Adventist church. You cannot use children to espouse your position. Furthermore, asking a medical worker to throw on her doctor’s coat or his scrubs does not increase their credibility. Frankly, it is a contrived attempt to woo a sort of intellectual (rather than moral or biblical) heart.

But let’s ignore all of that. Let’s forget how it is said and focus on what is said. The video then calls the church to be “United in our action and mission, in our final proclamation of the Three Angels’ messages.” But how can the church stand together against the rising tide of evil when it diminishes the value and status of its own members and leaders? We cannot conceivably appeal to the world the image of God when we ourselves mark it in our treatment of women. The merits of women’s ordination is not in the purview of this article, but I do encourage you to analyze the three alternate positions set forth by the General Conference of Ordination Study Committee (TOSC) Report, published in June 2018. Monks decided for scholars did not come to a consensus regarding women’s ordination, opting on a working definition of ordination. These three positions are as follows:

1) “Ordination is a setting apart of men to a specified office of leadership in the church” [italics added] (TOSC 52)

2) “even though there seems to be a biblical pattern of male leadership among God’s people, God was always willing to point to a better way—a way that would not exclude women from such important positions based on their gender” (TOSC 93)

3) “propose that the world Church acknowledge the general ideal of male leadership in the office of ordained minister, but that it also allow for women to be ordained, where local circumstances may make that ideal difficult or impractical to implement” (TOSC 115).

I am concerned that the General Conference is continuing to pursue a path of entrenchment. Consider this statement: “our global family decided to not allow individual divisions to decide for themselves.” This is in regards to a non-salvific issue. It would be silly simple to assume a tit-for-tat equality, but I could not see this being salvific on issues like vegetarianism or music. There are some issues that permit or require adherence or adaptation. Though I do not deny that there are many places in the world where a man might be identified as regional leadership (places where a prominent woman may be physically targeted and those who remove her or become ineffective for breaking cultural norms), there are also places where this is no longer an issue.

Yes, there are large swaths of the world church that would not approve of women’s ordination. Scripture in fact says that in matters where an individual’s faith is at stake, we mustn’t lord over them our own “spiritual superiority.” To call a woman’s ordination functionally impossible is itself impermissible (see Romans 14). It does not show who is right. In the same way, those of us who support women’s ordination are the members of the church. However, I do not believe the world church should impose it on us either. There needs to be understanding on both sides. Unity in Christ requires openness—though not gullible—eyes and ears. Patience must be given for those who genuinely follow the light of Scripture but do not yet understand. But we must seriously consider what it means when an individual is recalcitrant against the light of Scripture and example of love.

To some, the recent actions of the North American Division might exhibit that very recalcitrance. But we must not follow “the highest level we have,” if that level does not abide by God and Scripture (“Unity #GCAC18”). Yet, neither do I want us as a church to split “apart into congregationalism.” Rather, I believe the best course we have is to turn back and undo the heavy-handed use of authority on disputed or recent Annual Council. According to Position #2 of the TOSC, “members of the world church decided to not, to not allow individual divisions to decide for themselves.” It’s about conscience. It’s about collective decision. It’s not about power, pride. In the same way, those of us who support women’s ordination are the members of the church. However, I do not believe the world church should impose it on us either. There needs to be understanding on both sides. Unity in Christ requires openness—though not gullible—eyes and ears. Patience must be given for those who genuinely follow the light of Scripture but do not yet understand. But we must seriously consider what it means when an individual is recalcitrant against the light of Scripture and example of love.

We are at an important point in our church history. Important. We want to be united, united, united in our action and mission, in our final proclamation of the three angels’ messages. Jesus is coming soon. And we need you... you...you to listen to this important message, vital message. We are a family. A big family. A world-wide family, we span 213 countries, 13 divisions,über ein tausend sprachen (over one thousand languages) and countless cultures and colors. But one thing that doesn’t change, doesn’t change, doesn’t change, is brotherly love. Pray, pray, pray for our leaders, and be informed, be informed about the document approved at annual council, and share, share, share this message. Let’s support, support, support our, our, our, our church. Won’t you?
Andrews Does the Thanksgiving Day Run

Scott Moncrieff | While many residents and regulars of the Andrews campus went away over Thanksgiving break, there were a goodly number, estimated at 30-40 (including alumni), participating in the 2018 Thanksgiving Day Run, sponsored by the Niles-Buchanan YMCA. According to the run website, the run has been conducted for 37 years, and features a 10K race, a 5K race, plus a one mile fun run. For the last several years, the races have been run consecutively rather than concurrently, so hardy runners can choose to do “the double.” A few racers have even won the double, finishing first in both the 10K and 5K events.

This year’s race featured a mid-20’s (fahrenheit) morning with calm conditions, no rain, ice or snow, giving runners something to be grateful for even before the race began. The race course winds through Niles and Buchanan, crossing the St. Joseph River a couple of times, with the finish featuring a last quarter mile running up a gradual incline from downtown Niles to the finish, adjacent to the Y. About 2,000 runners participated in the 10K, the 5K, or the one mile fun run.

Ryan Clough (Accountant, Financial Records), ran the 5K with his son Ben, a fifth-grader at Village Adventist Elementary School. Said Clough, “It was a nice opportunity before the race to spend time with my son, and the potatoes were peeled by the time we got home!”

Jeff Harper (MDiv student) ran the 10K, as did his wife Nickele, who pushed a double stroller with the Harpers’ two sons around the course in a very speedy time. “We love being active,” said Harper, “and it’s fun to get some fresh air with lots of other people. We enjoyed the race thoroughly.”

Janine Lim (Associate Dean, Online Higher Education), said this was her second year doing the Niles Thanksgiving Day Race. She remarked that this year her sister-in-law joined her, and that “it’s fun to get outside in the crisp weather before hanging out with family,” and to top it off Lim beat her personal record.

Ben Regoso (ITS-Client Services) ran the 10K with his wife Aimee (University Registrar). They said “We like participating in the Niles Turkey Trot because it is a fun opportunity to keep ourselves healthy as well as build relationships with family and friends in our church and community.”

Fresh air, exercise, time with family, setting personal records, building community. Every runner has their reasons, and there were enough reasons to get 2,000 runners out this past Thanksgiving Day in Niles.

De-Stress and Be Blessed

Raina Price | As finals week approaches, most students here at Andrews University find themselves gearing up to face the storm. Whether it encompasses last-minute quizzes, exams, projects or assignments, becoming stressed and feeling uneasy is very common amongst students. How can we de-stress during times when we need the most motivation? Take a deep breath and find some time to take a break. One way to de-stress includes listening to music. Jamming to your favorite playlist almost always puts you in the right mood. Searching for playlists on Spotify, such as Chill Vibes or Deep Focus, can also help you relax while keeping you in the mindset to get work done.

Getting enough sleep and exercise are also ways to wave off stress. Doing both, especially right before finals week, will give you the energy to ace your exams. Finding time to turn off your cell phone—or switching on a study app such as Flora—can help in focusing both on yourself and your schoolwork. Receiving and seeing many notifications from various apps can often be overwhelming and add to your stress. But putting aside time to hang out with friends or unwinding with something on Netflix—without your phone—could help you relax and clear your head.

Before the dreaded week of finals rolls by, many students find themselves bombarded with a stack of assignments. This often causes stress and doesn’t really allow students any time to relax. Nicholas Navarro, (junior, engineering) shares how he manages his work when all of his assignments seem to be due at once. He says, “Take one at a time. Focus on the one that is more pressing or requires more work, and then just keep on going from one assignment to the next until they get finished.” Sometimes, stressing out gets personal. Caron Cheung (sophomore, international business) explains how she handles her stress in the season of finals. Says Cheung, “I list out all the things I have to do and see which one is the most urgent and important. Then I finish them step by step so that I won’t be too confused about what I need to do. But when I find myself stressing out, I take a break, do a work-out or take a nap.”

As university students, we constantly find ourselves on the go. It can be difficult to set aside time to take a breather, especially when we find ourselves stressed. However, taking time to go on a walk, drink some tea or do some yoga can really help us relax and become more motivated to push through tough times. Take some time to play in the snow and de-stress as we prepare to finish the semester.
Gifts on a Budget

Dani Maletin | Ever been stumped by what to get your friends and family for Christmas? Ever become distraught because you are flat out broke and have no idea what to do? I’m sure that has happened to the majority of us; the struggling college student life is no joke. Before I knew what kind of gifts I could make or buy for incredibly cheap, I felt terrible about not handing out gifts. But where I was the only one no more! There are tons of options for things to create or buy for those who are low on a budget, so here are a few possibilities.

Items to make:
Knit someone a winter scarf. Yes, this might seem lame or like hard work, but not only are you keeping an individual warm in this endless winter, but you’re also giving a gift that was made with your own hands and holds so much more meaning.

Mason jar with noses. Giving someone a mason jar filled with all of the reasons that you care about them seems too simple; however, it is one of the most tried and true thoughtful gifts that is bound to mean a lot to either a friend or significant other!

Baking. Hopefully most of this campus has some form of baking skills; if not, simply buying cookie dough or brownie mix from Harding’s or Apple Valley can turn into a fantastic gift! Bake dozens of cookies, put them in small bags and distribute them to all your friends. It won’t cost much, and everyone will appreciate the sweet treat!

Items to buy:
Candy. Depending on how well you know the individual, this is a fantastic gift, because you can personalize the candy to their favorite kinds and supply them with a stash to destress whenever they have a craving.

Gift card. Give one of your friends a gift card to somewhere in the local area so they can enjoy a meal on you while also allowing you both time to hang out; it’ll seem incredibly simple but it’s also a great gesture.

Movies or books. Give your friends the option to get away from the stress of college by delving into a new story or life for a short while. If you know their taste in movies or favorite novels, this gift could be especially meaningful.

Regardless of the gifts you end up giving this holiday season, it truly is the thought that counts.

Take A Stand

Cristen Williams | “Sitting is the new smoking!” declared Lyndsey Saint-Jean (freshman, biology pre-med). When asked why she stands in class, Saint-Jean admitted, “When I sit too long, I get lazy. You aren’t doing anything. You are not being productive.” Saint-Jean went on to explain the negative effects sitting for extensive periods of time can have on the body: “It slows down blood circulation. Blood is rushing to your legs and bottom, instead of your head.”

Students need to have a substantial amount of blood and oxygen transported to their brains in order for them to function and think clearly. Ironically, students are the ones who sit the most in school. It is essential for students to be at their best when learning and understanding new information.

Teachers stand for hour-long lectures and some faculty have invested in standing desks. It is now the students’ turn to take a stand. We sit through class, chapel, lunch breaks and study sessions; the five minute walks to class are not enough.

“It is now the students’ turn to take a stand. We sit through class, chapels, lunch breaks and study sessions; the five minute walks to class are not enough.”
Meet Your AFIA President

Joshua Knowlton
Junior
Business administration/pre-dentistry
Interviewed by Darius Bridges

How has your time been at AU?
My time at Andrews has been very fruitful in that I know I have made friends for life here already. Being able to grow in this atmosphere has had a great impact on my spiritual outlook and my personal relationships.

I heard you were a student missionary before; tell us about that experience.
Being a student missionary in the Philippines was one of the best decisions I have made in my life. Not only was I able to take a break from the hectic schedule of an on-campus student but I was able to travel the world and experience a culture and a lifestyle that I have fallen in love with. Being able to help in the dental clinic and work alongside the pastor was a opportunity that I will never forget.

What leadership roles do you have here?
This year I am currently an Ambassador for Andrews University and the President for the Andrews Filipino International Association also known as AFIA.

How is being the president of AFIA?
Being the President of AFIA has been a great experience so far. Of course the role is filled with lots of pressure and stress but I know that the work my officers and I are doing is helping Andrews become a more welcoming environment.

How has your experience being Filipino affected you, and how has your culture contributed to your outlook on life?
If I’m being honest, I didn’t fully appreciate being Filipino until I lived in the Philippines for a year. There I was able to really connect with my roots and experience first hand how wonderful the Filipino culture truly is. This really prompted me to jump on the opportunity to become president of AFIA and take part in the Filipino culture here on campus. I am more appreciative of my Filipino heritage now than I have ever been and I am still learning so much about it. One way that I still learn about my culture is by being present and taking part in the events that AFIA hosts.

What are your future plans after Andrews?
After college I plan on attending graduate school for dental school. Optimally I would love to attend Loma Linda since that is my hometown too. I hope to run my own dental practice one day.

How have you grown since being in college?
Being in college has definitely made me prioritize what/who is in my life and how it/they affect(s) me. When I was a student missionary I wrote in a journal to keep track of my time there. After my year was over, I was able to read my entries starting from day one. I was absolutely disappointed in who I was in the beginning of my time there but fortunately the man that I read about towards the end of my journey there was the man I was striving to be, someone who is filled with Christ and his love. I continue to journal and keep track of my time here at Andrews to never let me forget that God is still not done transforming me.

Any future plans you have in mind for the club?
The theme for AFIA this year is Bayanihan, which means a community coming together for a common goal. When planning for events this year, we as officers try to make sure that every event is somehow tied into the theme. Whether that be encouraging our members to work together to learn more about the Filipino culture or even collaborating with other clubs on campus to provide a sense of unity and community. There are many events to look forward to in the near future, so make sure you keep an eye out for any of our posters around campus or social media posts!

Humans Editor
Adriana Santana
Humans Editor

Humans

“If I’m being honest, I didn’t fully appreciate being Filipino until I lived in the Philippines for a year.”
The Man Behind the Pulpit

Chris Whittaker
Associate Pastor of New Life
2nd Year Master of Divinity
Interviewed by Rachel Arner

Where are you from?

Whenever I am asked this question, my response is that I am from Riverside, California. However, while Riverside is where I was born and spent most of my childhood years, I have lived in many places. As a child, I lived in Houston, Texas and Chicago, Illinois. As an adult and pastor, I have lived in Charlotte, North Carolina and Atlanta, Georgia. If we are counting collegiate years, then I have also lived in Huntsville, Alabama and Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Tell us a little bit about your ministry, i.e., being a pastor at New Life, a chaplain for Campus Ministries, etc.

New Life has four teams which follow the acronym of L.I.F.E.: Love team, Integrity team, Faith team, and Experience team. I am the pastor over the Integrity team which seeks to enhance and extend the New Life experience through media and technology. In addition to media and technology, my responsibilities also encompass preaching and involvement in planning and administrative decisions. As a student chaplain, I seek to be a catalyst for spiritual growth for the entire campus—not just New Life Fellowship. In that role, I am specifically spearheading campus-wide events geared toward evangelism of students.

What brought you into pastoral ministry?

Hands down God is the only reason why I entered pastoral ministry. I know it is a pretty common story, but I definitely did not want to be a pastor. For a long time, I felt like I did not possess the skills and qualities essential to pastoral ministry. I was not the son of a pastor and did not have any pastors in my family. For a long time, I doubted my ability to be hired as a pastor. Even my first couple of years of pastoring proliferated with questions of doubt and uncertainty. However, God has since then confirmed my calling through the opening of doors and the supplementation of those skills, qualities and gifts.

How did you end up here at Andrews?

After I graduated from Oakwood University in 2010, I pastored in Charlotte for five years and subsequently pastored in Atlanta for two years. During those two years in Atlanta, my inner circle became filled with young adult professionals who were pursuing higher education degrees such as the SJDs, Ph.D.s, etc. Their ambition motivated me to come out of my complacency and to pursue higher education. Furthermore, I wanted to interact with and engage with Adventists of other ethnic backgrounds. I believe that such engagement will improve my understanding of Adventism and enhance the reach of my ministry.

What do you plan to do after you graduate from the seminary?

Currently, I am a sponsored employee of South Atlantic Conference which covers the states of North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. My intention has been to return to that conference and to continue pastoring. However, lately I’ve been receiving impressions from God that has built within me a desire to minister in another way. I am not entirely sure what that looks like yet, but I have a strong desire to engage in true discipleship which transcends the limits of institutions and heavy systems and which improves the ability to reach people who are far from God. I am currently on a faith journey and am trying to be bold and courageous enough to follow God’s leading even into territory that is less secure than what my path has been.

What do you think about the recent ACGC decision?

The Bible is replete with texts that reveal that justice and equality is near and dear to the heart of God. Consequently, in passages like Isaiah 58, God commands his children to fight against injustice. So for me and many other Adventists throughout the world, any action or principle which transgresses justice and equality violates my conscience and conviction. For many of us, the 2015 General Conference vote which disallowed divisions to decide whether or not their specific division would ordain women to the gospel ministry along with previous votes on the ordination of women were violations of our conscience and conviction. So to pass a compliance document that further enforces and even weaponizes that violation of conscience and conviction is a further infringement upon our religious liberty—which is atrocious given our church’s love for religious liberty. The decision was very painful for Seventh-day Adventist women in ministry and their advocates like myself who simply desire them to have the full opportunity to tell the world about Jesus.

Where do you think the church should be moving toward in the future?

I would advise them to go for it. The world needs faithful gospel workers now more than ever. Ministry does not have to look like what we have traditionally relegated it to. Ministry is so much more than pastoring within the institution. Some may feel led to make a difference in an institutionally employed level and others may feel led to make a difference simply by having an impact upon individuals that they meet along the way while serving in other occupations. Whatever the capacity, whatever the occupation, and whatever the form of ministry, identify what form works for you and go for it!
The Grinch: The Next Generation

David Dunham | The Grinch is a Christmas classic—most people can recognize the green haired Christmas-hater. So when Illumination Entertainment embarked on recreating the magic of the story, the last of their Seuss movies, it made sense that the movie would fall under large amounts of scrutiny. The original Grinch movie was released in 1966 and was met with praise, and is still widely viewed to this day, while the 2000 live-action remake received mixed criticisms, mainly for its more adult take on a story for kids.

Because of the mixed reviews of its most recent retelling, this year’s The Grinch is entirely aimed at a family experience. Unpacking the movie immediately after viewing, one can appreciate this movie simply for its nostalgic factor. The rhymes, the setting and the characters all feel like they belong in a Seuss universe. The movie appeals to everyone’s love of the original, and then expands on the themes as presented in 1966. The largest divergence from the original is the amount of character development given to the Whos. Rather than just a town that celebrates Christmas, audiences get to experience the culture that exists within their universe, which makes the Grinch’s story even more heartbreaking when all is said and done.

The biggest qualm to be found with this movie was the invalidation of its own style. Throughout a good majority of the film, the stylistic choices represented an homage to Seuss’s style, with the narrator speaking in rhyme, and the music relating directly to Christmas. However, in two very out of place moments, this style was completely abandoned in favor of a different style, which really didn’t work. Had the film committed to be a hip-hop story, the opening and closing credits would have felt fine, however, because of their disassociation with everything else in the film, they served as very strange opening and closing moments to what was, on its own, a very well-done movie. This makes audiences get used to the opening credits, which was particularly apparent in the opening credits, when an updated version of “The Grinch” was played over the credits. It was stylistically such a heavy-handed and out of place song that it left a bad taste in your mouth as you exited the theater.

At its core, The Grinch serves as a significant entry in the journey of Christmas movies, and while it may not be as timeless as its original predecessor, it succeeds in representing modern-day Christmas experiences. With the inclusion of so many current references and technologies, this film provides a window into a world that, while exaggerated, provides an insight into today’s world of Christmas oversaturation. It will satisfy the nostalgia inside of everyone who has seen the original, and will most likely be preferred by future generations simply due to its excellent 3D animation and abundance of cute characters throughout. Any additions to the movie only aim to increase its quality, and it is well worth the viewing this holiday season.

The Legacy of Stan Lee: The Man Behind the Marvel

Adair Kibble | Stan Martin Lieber was born on Dec. 28, 1922, to a Romanian immigrant family in New York City. Starting out at an entry level position at the precursor to Marvel, Timely Comics, at the age of 19, he eventually became one of the most well-known contributors to and faces of what became one of the two foremost comic publishing companies. Stan Lee and Jack Kirby created some of the most popular superheroes and superhero teams in the early 1960’s, including the Fantastic Four, Hulk, Spider-Man, X-Men and of course, the Avengers. Through his promotional work later, Marvel characters began to appear on television, with an animated Spider-Man series in 1967-1970 and The Incredible Hulk in 1977-1982. And later, he was involved in the development of Marvel Studios, a gamble which proved to produce one of the most widely popular movie franchises in 21st century film. He also remained an important face for the company throughout the of the 20th century through his installments of “Stan’s Soapbox” that appeared in most monthly comic books from 1965 to 2001, usually ending in his exuberant catchphrase “Excelsior!” One of his most famous soapbox installments in 1968 addressed criticism of Marvel comics, which some believed focused too much on social issues when comic books is a genre of fantasy and otherworldliness.

He responded, “It seems to me that a story without a message, however subliminal, is like a man without a soul... None of us lives in a vacuum—none of us is untouched by the everyday events about us.” These words are still relevant, as social issues plague us still, more than fifty years after this paragraph were written. Although Stan Lee’s legacy is questioned in terms of how much credit other collaborators, such as Jack Kirby, were given on writing the actual comics, it is hard to underestimate the importance of Stan Lee’s voice as a representative of the cultural significance of comic books and entertainment with messages and humanity at their center. And because of this, the memory of him in many Marvel fans’ hearts will be more than just a cameo.
“The Most Vocal Activist You’ve Never Heard Of”

Karen Vallado | On Tuesday, Nov. 20, the History and Political Science Department hosted a screening of the 2017 documentary “Dolores.” It tells the story of a woman who, from her teenage years to her late eighties, saw the wrongs being done to Latin Americans and sought to change the society she lived in. Do you remember the Obama campaign slogan, “Yes we can?” Dolores Huerta originally coined the phrase in Spanish, “Si se puede,” igniting passion and rallying unity amongst boycotters. In 2012, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in honor of her many years of service work. But who is this woman? If mentioned at all (which she was not in any of my elementary or high school classes), Dolores Huerta is maybe noted as Cesar Chavez’s assistant or secretary, when in reality, they were partners in forming the United Farm Workers Association.

Huerta was unorthodox; she pushed people to take a step towards a greater good. In 1962, Chavez and Huerta divided the San Joaquin Valley equally and began having house meetings, organizing committees and providing benefits to their over one thousand members. The United Farm Workers grew and spread throughout the country, especially gaining traction among other minority groups. Dolores immersed herself in the community by moving her entire family into the farm workers’ neighborhood. She understood the workers’ plight because she saw the deplorable conditions under which people were living and working. Workers were being paid next to nothing and had no breaks during the long, back-breaking work day. They also were not provided with clean drinking water or restrooms. Their landlord was often their boss, who could raise the rent anytime and get the money they paid right back. Many women were sexually assaulted and their children were constantly being moved around for the harvest and therefore not receiving proper education. These families were afraid to speak up for themselves, knowing that they could easily lose their job to the many other people who would put up with the conditions. The UFW was the platform farm workers needed to advocate for their rights.

In 1968, Huerta led the boycott on grapes across the country in cities like San Francisco, Detroit and New York. The organization began to gain national attention, and politicians from across the country took sides. During his presidential campaign, Robert Kennedy supported the UFW, which brought much hope to the many members of the origination, until his assassination. In denial, California governor Ronald Reagan said “There is no strike in the vineyards. The Chavez group, representing at best a tiny minority are seeking to force by what amounts to blackmail, the growers to recognize their group as the bargaining agent.” President Richard Nixon went as far to purchase the grapes the nation was eating and consume them, thus contributing to the grape boycott. The grapes were on display at the White House and Nixon himself said in a telephone call to Giannini, one of the California growers, “Well you’ve already used this tactic. I want you to go ahead and purchase the grapes the nation is eating. It’s just blackmail and you’ll be able to get what you want out of the growers.” During his presidential career, Nixon’s White House was responsible for the invasion of Cambodia, the persecution of civil rights, and the war in Vietnam. In 1970 the strike led to an agreement between the California grape growing industry and the UFW, negotiated by Huerta.

Huerta’s personal life was often used against her by adversaries. Having been twice divorced, with eleven children, and four of them out of wedlock with a married man, she was often criticized for her family and lifestyle. With their mother working long hours, seven days a week, and often taking trips all across California, when she was home, her children longed for her attention and sought to soak up every drop of love they could. Huerta grew up wanting to fight for working conditions, but in having such a variety of first hand accounts, the film achieved a well rounded examination of Huerta’s life. The film also did an excellent job setting the story in its historical context with beautiful footage spanning decades.

Although the documentary was about Dolores Huerta’s story, it was not told exclusively through her perspective, but rather featured interviews from co-workers, her children and her contemporaries. Telling the story of a woman who is still alive has its challenges, but in having such a variety of first hand accounts, the film achieved a well rounded examination of Huerta’s life. The film also did an excellent job setting the story in its historical context with beautiful footage spanning decades.

Dolores Huerta sacrificed so much, inspired so many, and contributed far more to society than history gives her credit for. Even as she approaches ninety years old, the documentary opens with shots of her everyday life: a small old lady weaving a rug and cooking a meal. In 1968, she brought people together in San Francisco, Detroit and New York to fight for equal rights for farm workers. She knew that her activism came at a high cost. She said that “We’ve all learned that we are not afraid to struggle. We’re not afraid to sacrifice because you can’t make change if you’re not willing to give something up. You’ve got to give up some comfort, you’ve got to give up some time, and then you can see the change come.” Huerta gave up so much for the cause and she asked her family to make sacrifices as well. Many years later, her family said what they gained was purpose and meaning in their lives that brought hope to so many others.

You can watch the full documentary for free at: http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/videos/dolores/
Wasting the Time Given to Me

I was reading the 10th century Old English poem The Wanderer for class, and upon running into an unfamiliar word (as one does with Old English), I used context to guess at the meaning and make a marginal note on it. But not context derived from the poem itself, or from a class lecture, or indeed from other, similar 10th century poems. Oh, no. That wouldn’t have been nearly nerdy enough. No, I guessed the meaning accurately because I remembered that the word was the same as the name of a relatively obscure ancestor of a minor character in Tolkien’s The Lord of the Rings.

I can hear you now—but I thought she was a hipster! Her weird dress sense and that record player she has in her room fooled me!

But the truth must come out. I am deeply, intensely interested in marginal notes written by a paperbacks individual. Though you probably know the drill: “But Darahad! Tolkien was a Christian! He helped convince C.S. Lewis to convert!” They were part of the same writing club! If Narnia’s okay, why not Middle Earth?

So I fought, and I made my mom read them (she is truly a saint) and I spent hours going through all the appendices on the making of the movies when I was finally allowed to watch them.

And you know what? I haven’t decided to study Tolkien. I haven’t even decided to study fantasy, or 20th century writers. I haven’t gone into film studies or written any papers on Lord of the Rings. All things considered, my burning passion for all things Tolkien hasn’t translated into anything remotely useful. And honestly, I’m okay with that.

I think we get told a lot in college that we have to develop our future careers, that we can’t spend any time on anything unless it improves our future or builds our resumes or relates directly to our field. Even if it isn’t stated outright, it’s implied: if you spend time on something, you’d better make sure it’s something useful. Your time is too precious otherwise.

Admittedly, The Lord of the Rings is hardly some deep, dark corner of nerd-dom. It’s pretty mainstream at this point. But when I first got my grubby hands on it, it wasn’t—least not in my household. I had to fight for those books tooth and nail. If you’re a pastor’s kid like me, you probably know the drill: “But Darahad! Tolkien was a Christian! He helped convince C.S. Lewis to convert!” They were part of the same writing club! If Narnia’s okay, why not Middle Earth?

And what you know? I haven’t decided to study Tolkien. I haven’t even decided to study fantasy, or 20th century writers. I haven’t gone into film studies or written any papers on Lord of the Rings. All things considered, my burning passion for all things Tolkien hasn’t translated into anything remotely useful. And honestly, I’m okay with that.

I think we get told a lot in college that we have to develop our future careers, that we can’t spend any time on anything unless it improves our future or builds our resumes or relates directly to our field. Even if it isn’t stated outright, it’s implied: if you spend time on something, you’d better make sure it’s something useful. Your time is too precious otherwise.

And to some extent I agree. Your time is precious. You should be spending it on things that will aid your future, but I think you should also spend time on things that give you joy—whether they’re weird and obscure or popular and mainstream.

The issue is that I find myself justifying spending time on things I love, as if I shouldn’t love it if it doesn’t relate to “acceptable” ideas in my major. I watch Doctor Who because it grapples with difficult philosophical questions and is deeply life-affirming; I read Percy Jackson and the Olympians because it presents a fascinating, inclusive modern spin on Greek epic; I listen to Taylor Swift because the way she tells stories and deconstructs her image in song is masterful (and also incredibly nostalgic for a girl who once had every frame of the “Love Story” music video memorized). All of these are good reasons for an English major to watch/read/listen to modern media. But the truth is that I also like Doctor Who for its ridiculous plots and silly dialogue; I like Percy Jackson because the characters are sarcastic and have exciting powers; I like Taylor Swift because her music is obscenely catchy and so extra. And that should be enough. I shouldn’t have to find career-related reasons to like something. I should be able to just like it.

For a while, I made The Lord of the Rings my sick-day viewing. It was great because I could fall asleep whenever, wake up an hour or two later, and they’d still be going. Plus, since I can quote virtually every line, it wasn’t as if I felt like I was missing anything. I’d still laugh at the hobbits and cry at Mount Doom and go all tense when the Ringwraiths hunt down the Fellowship. And it was all immensely enjoyable. After all, when you’re passed out in bed, unable to do anything but cough and sneeze and feel dizzy, there isn’t much that’s more comforting or satisfying than a movie that gives you joy.

But it’s almost as if I had to be sick to give myself permission to watch The Lord of the Rings—as if I couldn’t justify spending 12-ish hours on movies I adore if I could do literally anything else. And that’s completely ridiculous. Liking something is a good enough reason to spend time on it.

In short, it’s okay to take breaks sometimes. It’s even better if you don’t wait until you’re dead sick to do so. It’s okay to occasionally take time for the things you love while you’re in college, even if you’re busy, even if you’re tired and exhausted and should probably be doing other things. Sometimes you just need a break.

So be passionate about things that aren’t in your field or your major or your everyday normal life, and don’t feel like you have to justify it to spend time on it. After all, you never know when all that random, useless knowledge might come in handy. Just ask the marginal notes in my copy of The Wanderer.

“Liking something is a good enough reason to spend time on it.”