

1-2018

Andrews University Wins Recognition from Communication Association

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Andrews University

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Recommended Citation

Datus, Felecia, "Andrews University Wins Recognition from Communication Association" (2018). *Lake Union Herald*. 15.
<https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/luh-pubs/15>

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Pieter Damsteeg

▲ Alanna Knapp represented Lake Union Public Campus Ministry students at the North American Division's Year-end Meeting.

Public Campus Ministry rep appointed to NAD Executive Committee

MICHIGAN — Alanna Knapp, teacher at Battle Creek Adventist Academy and M.A. student at Western Michigan University, represented Lake Union public campus students at the NAD Year-end Meetings in Columbia, Md., last October.

Having served in the past as a missionary, student and conference-wide leader, Knapp said she was grateful for the opportunity to represent Public Campus Ministry (PCM) students in the Lake Union and engage with church leaders at various levels. "I was thankful for the listening ears and the interest of the NAD leadership, especially that of Pastor Tracy Wood, the youth and young adult director for the NAD," said Knapp.

PCM has a unique opportunity to reach students in the U.S., and she said she looks forward to advancing that mission. "There are around 1.2 million international students to make their journey to the

public university campuses in the NAD from countries where our Church is not allowed to establish churches."

It was during the 2016 North American Division Year-end Meetings that delegates voted to appoint 10 Public Campus Ministry representatives to its executive committee. This was an unprecedented action that gave a much stronger voice to Adventist students who are studying on secular university campuses. Some General Conference and NAD statistics indicate as many as 70 percent of our Adventist young people attend secular universities.

In recent years, Adventist students on secular campuses from around the NAD have especially emphasized the need to better organize themselves and establish a student network. Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) appointed a student-led administrative body to better support student ministry on secular campuses. Lucien Nana-Yobo, a Ph.D. student in Geology at the University of Texas, Houston, currently serves as president.

Some of the leadership team has roots in the Lake Union. Jonathan Wheeler, former student dean at Andrews University, is now serving as ACF Communications director while completing his graduate studies at Stanford University. Alexander Delaola, from Chicago, oversees the ACF student senate. He's a Center for Adventist Ministry to Public University Students (CAMPUS) scholar, currently studying in Lansing. Roxanne Dobson and Michel Lee previously took a year off to serve as missionaries at Michigan State University and the University of Michigan, respectively. Dobson is completing her undergraduate studies at Stanford and Lee is completing her Ph.D. in History at the University of Texas, Austin. Their leadership has made a strong impact in this underrepresented ministry in North America. ■

Israel Ramos, Lake Union Conference Public Campus Ministry coordinator, with Lake Union Herald staff.

EDUCATION NEWS

Andrews University wins recognition from Communication association

MICHIGAN — Communication professionals and students from around North America gathered in Portland, Ore., from Oct. 19–21 for the 18th Society of Adventist Communicators (SAC) Convention.

The theme, "Building Bridges," helped formulate the various presentations and workshops. Organizers sought to encourage attendees to continually form and maintain strong communication channels with individuals and communities.

The conference climaxed with the awards banquet where students and professionals were awarded for their accomplishments in various categories that include design, writing, video and spoken word.

Andrews University students Nina Vallado, Jace McKinney and Felecia Datus walked away with awards for their work in film and print media.

Vallado's documentary, "Sisterly," which took four years to complete, captivated conference participants and was lauded for its unique perspective on autism. The North Pacific Union Conference intern said that this award was important to her. "I've received recognition from the outside world," she said, "but it's nice to have recognition from my church and from my community."

Jace McKinney's "Acts of the Messiah" also claimed an award in the web video category. The recognition pleasantly surprised the Communication/Divinity dual major graduate student who was happy for the opportunity to attend SAC. "The best thing about [SAC] is to meet like-minded individuals who want to push



▲ Andrews University award winners at the Society of Adventist Communicators Convention. Pictured from left: Patricia Spangler, Integrated Marketing and Communication (IMC) associate creative director and editorial manager; Felecia Datus, web video winner; Jace McKinney, web video honorable mention; Becky St. Clair, former AU IMC media communication manager; Paul Kim, Department of Visual Art, Communication and Design chair; Nina Vallado, short film winner

evangelism forward," he said. "You get to connect and bounce ideas off of them."

Meanwhile, Felecia Datus who won awards for her work with *Envision* magazine as well as for her video "My Faith and Fro," said that the awards are a huge boost. "Receiving an award from SAC for my documentary," she said, "really encourages me to be innovative and think outside of the box."

The Integrated Marketing and Communications team picked up an award for their response to the student-generated video, "It Is Time," which raised concerns about the handling of race issues on campus.

Dan Weber, Communication director for the North American Division (NAD), stressed the advantages of SAC for students and professionals in the communication field. "The most important reason is the networking opportunities it provides for students looking for employment and for organizations that may

have openings, and also the mentoring opportunities that are provided."

Weber, who has been directly involved with SAC since 2012, discussed future plans for the event. "We're going to be working with the Adventist Learning Center to provide SAC-sponsored training for local church communication directors and anyone wanting to brush up on their communication skills."

The next Society of Adventist Communicators conference is slated for October 18–20, 2018, in Columbia, Md. ■

Felecia Datus, special projects manager for Center for Online Evangelism, with Lake Union Herald staff



▲ Chicago's Shiloh Church young adults Nicole Wongk, Sabrina Webb and Gineya Norton were first runner-up winners at the Black Adventists Youth Directors Bible Bowl Championship.

Lake Region young adults study to show themselves approved

LAKE REGION — Young adults from the Chicago Shiloh Church had a strong showing at the Black Adventists Youth Directors Association (BAYDA) Bible Bowl Championship held Oct. 27–28, 2017, in Albany, N.Y.

The team, comprised of Nicole Wongk, Sabrina Webb and Gineya Norton, and coached by Margareth Webb, received the first runner-up placement in the Young Adult Division (ages 23–35). The young women were quizzed from the books of Acts, Deuteronomy, Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians, and went through 16 rounds to make it to the championship level.

"Our young adults were true beacons of light," said Felicia Hunter, Lake Region Conference Bible Bowl coordinator, "witnessing, mentoring and sharing the Word of God."

Norton and Wongk are no strangers to top placement in Bible competitions. Last year they, along with Tia Brooks, received first place at the Bible Bowl All Stars Team Championships held during Youth Congress, and were first runner-up winners at the National Bible Bowl Championship.