Andrews University Wins Recognition from Communication Association

Felecia Datus
Andrews University

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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.

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.

EDUCATION NEWS

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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
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.

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.