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Andrews University
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“[This movie] does not attempt to hide blatant racism or an unjust justice system, but it puts it in a context that leaves an unshakeable impression on us: a love story.”

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“Also, remember that an occasional binge on Sam’s Chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, and ice cream isn’t something to lose sleep over or pass judgment on others for—just don’t make it a habit.”

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“If we can’t have utopias in our fantasy, then where can we have them?”

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David Phelps Packs Howard for Inspirational Concert

Richla Sabuin | Last Sunday evening at 7 p.m., David Phelps and his band, together with the Collegedale Community Concert Singers under the direction of Danny Anderson, performed at Andrew University’s very own Howard Performing Arts Center. It was a full house concert with people coming from all over Michigan to enjoy the Christian music concert. The concert itself was extremely packed, the ground floor was so full that the balcony section located behind the stage was also oversaturated with audience members. The concert itself was a near sellout.

David Phelps was joined onstage not only by I Cantori but also by his two daughters, Maggie and Callie, who sang at the concert. Other than being an American Christian singer and songwriter, Phelps is known as a tenor who used to sing in the Gaither Vocal Band. The songs he sang in the concert included some of his originals: “Something’s Gotta Change,” “End of the Beginning,” “What I Need is You,” “Love Goes On,” and “Virtuoso.” He also sang songs from his Hymnal album, such as “The Lord’s Prayer,” “Victory in Jesus,” “He Lives,” and “It is Well.” During the concert, he gave some inspirational words. One of the things he said was, “To make a change, we have to start with ourselves.” He also shared a Bible verse that talked about love: 1 Corinthians 13:1-8. Phelps said, “I t has always been my dream to be able to interact with the audience to sing praises together as well as interacting with the audience.” The concert ended with the song “The Battle Hymn of Republic” but it was not the end of the night just yet. In the lobby of the HPAC, there was a meet-and-greet with Phelps as well as a CD and DVD performances as well as t-shirts that were being sold.

Along with that, there was a long line of people waiting to get an autograph and picture with David Phelps. When he was asked, “What made you choose to sing for Jesus, despite having had the opportunity to be a professional world class tenor singer?” Phelps said, “It has always been my dream to do this. Everyone has their own dream and this was mine. I grew up in the church and my family is musical so it gave me the opportunity.”

It was a blessed and successful concert. Indeed, God gives us each one of us a calling to serve him in different ways as David Phelps does in his music ministry.

Story Slam

Jessina Marenga | Andrews University has been the host of various events centered on the fine arts. From the AU Theatre Wing to the HPAC concerts, the campus has opened itself up for the students to be able to enjoy the creative arts. In addition to the campus’ inclination to promote the fine arts, AU has also made an effort to honor Black History Month with special events. Due to this, it should not be a surprise that the university has combined the two. This past Saturday, on Feb. 23, Black History Month hosted its first Story Slam of the year, entitled Black Like Me. Autumn Goodman (junior, photography) describes the event, saying “Black like Me was a comedic story slam hosted by the black history committee. The event itself was an opportunity for students to share their experiences of being black. This year the theme was ‘family’ so students spoke about their respective home lives and anecdotes about growing up black.

When asked about her experience at the event, Goodman continued, saying, “this is my third year going to the event. Freshman year I was able to participate in the event so it’s been great to return and see the new vibes and be able to engage. It was good to take a break from the stresses of school life and, and at the end, we all danced.” Antone Huggins (junior pre-physical therapy) adds, “the theme was people telling their own stories about realizing someone else was black like them. Some comedic stories, some short, some long.” Adriana Santana (junior, speech pathology and audiology) concludes by saying “for my first time going, it was nice to arrive with food and appetizers first and to listen to music before the performance. It was nice to just sit around and laugh with friends and enjoy the stories. I can’t wait for next year!”
English Music Vesper speaks to the heart

**Kara Herrera**

The annual joint English and Music vespers commenced last Friday on Feb. 22 to the joy of students and faculty as well as community members. As a celebration of the fine arts, pieces are performed by the music students, interspersed by poetry recitations done by the English students. Along with the individual student pieces, hymns and a congregational response was a part of the program. Held in the Howard Performing Arts Center, the event had the advantage of enhancing the speakers and performers, to the benefit of the audience.

One of those previously mentioned poetry reciters, senior student Paul Roschman (behavioral sciences) comments on the experience, saying “I really enjoyed the selected musical and literary works. On a personal note, formal recitation in front of large groups of people is somewhat new to me, and I had a great time getting outside of my comfort zone. I’d definitely participate again if asked.”

While Roschman spent the evening on the performing side and experienced the challenge and stress of addressing a large group, audience members like Yanlingxue Wan (junior, medical lab science) observed the appeal and attraction of the written word in spoken form. Wan says “I experienced the charm of poetry during the vespers in two different ways. One of those ways came from the poetry itself, the elegance and eloquence of it. The other came from the people who read it with the perfect mix of emotions and tones. It was the first time that I felt the beauty of written English as a spoken art, and it was an enjoyable first experience as someone who is not a native English speaker.”

The English and Music Vesper’s unique tone and ambiance has held allure for the campus of Andrews University, and the chance to hear beautiful pieces of music and poetry alike is a golden opportunity. Hopefully, those who missed this year’s event will consider attending next year’s.

**Jessina Marenga**

If you are an avid reader and seeker of diversifying your book collection with more culturally rich voices, this is the club for you.

In light of Black History Month and this month’s emphasis on Black futurism, the BSCF Book Club on Black Writers is a real celebration of Black excellence in literature. With books by renowned authors like Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Bryan Stevenson to name a few, there is a lot to be excited about. Tapping into the great wealth found in the stories by black writers is a gift to behold. African-American stories have just as much literary merit as their canonical counterparts, but unfortunately, often go underlooked.

Despite its high value, the event has largely gone unnoticed.

Shaianne Pierre (graduate, secondary education) says “I wish I was informed about this book club because I would love to be apart of it. I think the books chosen reflect the black experience.”

Adair Kibble (junior, English & French for international trade) adds, “This is the first I’m hearing about the event. It’s a little surprising since I’m on the mailing list. However, aside from surprised, I’m also excited, and will definitely attend.” Regarding thoughts about the decision to have an event, “I think it’s a good impulse. It’s an opportunity to connect students to different cultural expressions, not just through movies or poetry, it’s something that connects people to a different discipline, a wider worldview.”

Concurring with Kibble, Nellie Karengo (junior, English) says, “I’d never heard of it until recently. I don’t know much about it but it sounds like a really great way to educate people about the works and experiences of black writers, especially because so many of their voices have been excluded from the literary canon.”

Hosted in Campus Ministries, the club meets Sundays, having started in February and continuing through April from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

**Upcoming Events**

**Free Physical Therapy Service Clinic**

**Department of Physical Therapy**

8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Adventist Engaged Encounter

Griggs Hall Council Chamber

6:30-10:00 p.m.

Andrews Wind Symphony Vespers

HPAC

7:30-9:30 p.m.

AU Theater Wing: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

Newbold

2:00-5:00 p.m. & 6:00-9:00 p.m.

4th Annual Wellness Fest

TBD

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

The Light Bearers: Discipleship Journey

Campus Ministries

7:00-7:45 p.m.

Department of Music Festival Concert

HPAC

4:00-5:30 p.m.

AU Theatre Wing: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

Newbold

7:00-10:00 p.m.

4th Annual Wellness Fest

TBD

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Horn Lectureship Series: Randall Younker

Seminary Chapel

7:00-8:30 p.m.

4th Annual Wellness Fest

TBD

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Authentically You!

Counseling and Testing Center

6:00-7:25 p.m.
All of Us or None

Lisa Hayden

The recent SFFA v. Harvard lawsuit puts affirmative action, for the umpteenth time, under public scrutiny. The lawsuit is brought by Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA) to remove the consideration of race in college and university admissions. The debate over upholding or removing affirmative action is old and heated, so, to avoid being trite, this article will ask the question of whether affirmative action is the answer to the problems some intend it to solve.

Former President John F. Kennedy’s Executive Order of 1961 was the first time the term affirmative action was introduced to the public. The formation of the Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity instructed federal contractors to take “affirmative action to ensure that applicants are treated equally without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.” President Johnson reiterated this point in his 1965 speech at Howard University: “you do not take a man job by years for chains, liberate him and bring him to the starting race, saying ‘you are free to compete with all others.’” The 1978 case University of California v. Bakke, a landmark decision which upheld affirmative action, allowed race to be one of several factors in admissions, and thereby shifted the conversation almost entirely higher education. Now, affirmative action is scarcely brought up outside admission policy. The term affirmative action is the answer to the starting race, say those who live and work in a particular society, or run a particular organization. Institutionalized racism has reinforced the wealth gap and increased the distance to opportunity to minority groups. Redlining, pursued by the Federal Housing Administration, is one such method. It is the systematic denial of various services (loans or rates) to neighborhoods containing a significant population of non-white residents. It indirectly, but immediately, depleted minority groups’ social capital.

Along with social capital familial connections provide benefits for universality admittance. A member of a legacy applicant has a 20% better chance of admission to their parent’s Ivy League alma mater than a legacy applicant (“Ivy League”, 2017). In addition, many also contend with a toxic tokenism; its foundation is the perception of small numbers of minority students (or congresswomen, professionals, take your pick) that we have made an “obligation” to them. The perception of small numbers of minority students (or congresswomen, professionals, take your pick) that we have made an “obligation” to them. The systematic denial of various services (loans or rates) to neighborhoods containing a significant population of non-white residents. It indirectly, but immediately, depleted minority groups’ social capital.

But how much minority privilege is affirmative action providing? Not much. Affirmative action gives the illusion that our environment is fair and diverse when in actuality there remain issues and concerns in our society that set up minorities with major disadvantages. Affirmative action creates a toxic tokenism; its foundation is the perception of small numbers of minority students (or congresswomen, professionals, take your pick) that we have made an “obligation” to them. The systematic denial of various services (loans or rates) to neighborhoods containing a significant population of non-white residents. It indirectly, but immediately, depleted minority groups’ social capital.

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In closing thought, maybe America needed Donald Trump. In politics, manipulation of the law is generally followed by a recalculation of how one gained the political authority and jurisdiction to do so. Seeing the divi- sions of Federal Law from the Constitution regarding the separation of powers should make the nation reconsider how much power we collectively will assign to a sitting president—particularly, when this emergency power seems all too easily accessed.

*Accurate as of February 26


Trump’s National Emergency: By (W)all Means Necessary

Daniel Self

The war rages on between the presidential powers of Donald Trump and the Nancy Pelosi-led House of Representatives. The House of Representatives looks to block President Trump’s national emergency resolution on Tuesday afternoon. This initial bill will require a majority vote to transition to the Senate, where it will also require a simple majority. From reports from White House Aides (Wagner & Rocha, 2019), it appears as though this particular resolution will pass directly through Congress; however, this does not signal the end of the conflict. Based on President Trump’s past history of standing his ground during conflict, as well as with comments he has made from the Oval Office, Trump will unquestionably veto the resolution even if it survives Congress. However, this allows for a congressional override of Trump’s veto. Both houses would need a two-thirds majority for the override.

Clearly, this discussion centers around the Separation of Powers and the constitutional authority. Congressional Democrats, led by Nancy Pelosi, argue that Trump’s decision undermines Congress’s constitutional right to the Power of the Purse. Clearly, separating the Power of the Sword from the Power of the Purse was fundamental for the Founders; as Federalist 58 directly acknowledged the Congressional responsibility of the purse, while Federalist 78 indirectly notes both as Executive and Congressional responsibilities. Indeed, for President Trump to evoke Executive power to redistribute upwards of five billion dollars towards a stalled campaign promise seems to directly undermine the Constitution. Beyond the presidential powers of Trump, the legality of Trump’s call for a National Emergency, many also contend with the situation occurring at America’s southern border. While very few would argue that there is not a humanitarian problem—one that Trump’s administration only furthered its times—very little of it qualifies as an “emergency.” Trump, simply returning to his most comfortable position, argues that an increasing influx of illegal southern migrants and harmful narcotics warrants American being in a state of emergency. It is clear that over the past year, the federal data from the Customs and Border Protection department demonstrates an overall decrease in total apprehensions from 2016 to 2018, Trump does not appear to agree (“CBP enforcement statistics”, 2018). As previously discussed, it currently appears that this Congressional resolution will not carry enough weight to force Senate Republicans to vote in its favor. Again, little in American politics exists within a vacuum; in many of these Republican Congress-members’ states, Trump maintains a much more comfortable position, seeing the divide he does nationally and his endorsement could determine the fate of their reelection bids. The Senate may consider this issue for 18 days before bringing it to a vote, and the negotiations will inevitably continue.

In closing thought, maybe America needed Donald Trump. In politics, manipulation of the law is generally followed by a recalculation of how one gained the political authority and jurisdiction to do so. Seeing the divisions of Federal Law from the Constitution regarding the separation of powers should make the nation reconsider how much power we collectively will assign to a sitting president—particularly, when this emergency power seems all too easily accessed.

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Why I’m Not a Patriots Fan (Anymore)

Frentzen Pakpahan

I started following football during the 2013 season. The Broncos had defeated my New England Patriots in the conference championship game; we were a few missed plays away from another Super Bowl berth. At the time, I thought I would never see the Patriots in another Super Bowl. We had made it in 2011, only two years earlier, but I wasn’t interested in football back then so it didn’t count.

It’s been easy as a Patriots fan. Since that Super Bowl, the Patriots have appeared in four of the last five and won three. It’s been both parts equally satisfying yet upsetting: I have had to watch my team play in the Super Bowl for the last three straight years, while I’ve been away from home. I live in Rhode Island, about 45 minutes away from Boston. How many streets could I have helped clog, running and celebrating with other New Englanders?

Yet not even a month after our sixth championship news emerged out of Florida this past weekend that Patriots owner Robert Kraft was charged with soliciting sexual favors at a day spa posing, according to prosecutors, as a front for sexual trafficking. He is one individual tied up into “a wide-ranging investigation into prostitution and suspected human trafficking in South Florida” (Mazzie, Draper, & Leibovich, 2019). So what? He’s the owner—not a coach, not a player. He’s not himself a trafficker. It’s not like when Aaron Hernandez, a great Patriot tight end who together formed a formidable duo along with the dominant Rob Gronkowski, was arrested for murder. We’re not going to lose a chance at a future Super Bowl over this. Our championships aren’t going to be revoked. For many fans, this is not the end of the world.

While I can continue try to enjoy our on-field success, I cannot support an organization whose owner can participate in and support the exploitation of defenseless, vulnerable women. Any individual who considers this appropriate ought to first wonder what he would do if he found his sister, mother, daughter, etc. forced into such a criminal industry. I worry that Kraft will exercise his billionaire wealth to get him out of this compromising situation, and this despite the claim from the county attorney that “the accused billionaire should not expect ‘special justice’” (“Rober Kraft”, 2019). The future well-being and liberation of these women will no doubt be subject to legalase dispensed from the golden tongues of the best lawyers money can buy. As for Kraft, I doubt the National Football League can or even would attempt to remove Kraft from ownership. He is worth too much financially and for the League; he is, after all, responsible for its most successful franchise in the last two decades. His reputation will suffer in the coming years, but win enough Super Bowls and he’ll once again return to the good graces of society, no public repentance necessary. As for the men who lack the means, they will likely see some sort of legal consequence, whether it be jail time or a fine.

In 2014, the National Basketball Association banned Donald Sterling for life after a video surfaced in which he made several racist comments towards African-Americans. After getting past the sheer irony that a white, racist businessman would opt to own a franchise in a predominately African-American association, we should applaud the league for taking these necessary efforts. The issue called into question Sterling’s ability to treat and pay his employees—from players to coaches to staff—fairly. Trying to compare Sterlingsing fined $2.5m and banned for life by NBA, NBC News. Retrieved from https://www.nbcnews.com/ Winter, T. & Kesslen, B. (2019, Feb. 25). BBC News. Retrieved from https://www.bbc.com/news/ 

While I can continue try to enjoy our on-field success, I cannot support an organization whose owner can participate in and support the trafficking of women.
Appreciating Our Lady Cardinals

Vanessa Angel | Allison Walean: Senior and Exercise Science
Brittney Byrd: Senior and Psychology

How do you feel playing for the AU Cardinals?
Walean: Playing on the basketball team was a great experience for me. I enjoyed meeting people and traveling to compete with other teams—all while playing the sport I love. I honestly never thought I’d play at the collegiate level, but I’m grateful for the opportunities basketball has given me.

Byrd: It was a really good experience to see how sports are played at the collegiate level. I’ve been a part of sports for most of my life, so it was refreshing to have a family of team members again. Overall, I had a lot of fun with the girls, got some good exercise and was able to add another awesome college experience before I graduate in May.

Do you think there is pressure playing as a women athlete?
Walean: In sports, there are certain expectations for each player to meet and for female athletes, I feel like the expectations are unfortunately low. So when they see a “good” player, most people are shocked. Performing well and surpassing those expectations from society can be burdensome. As for me personally, when I was growing up, I didn’t see many Asian female basketball players (and I still don’t see that now). With that being said, ever since my freshman year, I felt like I had to prove something. So whenever I had my chance on the court, I tried to make my mark.

Byrd: I think the question itself is giving into the stereotype that somehow females must work harder in order to prove themselves. This season our girls made a new record for most wins in a season ever for a Lady Cardinal at AU, and I think that speaks for itself. In addition, the relationship between the girls and guys are very family-like and we are always supporting each other at games, so there is never a competition to be better than the other. Whether you’re a man or a woman, we all have strengths and weaknesses.

What is one lesson that basketball has taught you?
Walean: Determination. Basketball has taught me patience. I've learned to have my chance on the court, I tried to make my mark.

Byrd: It served as a good reminder to manage and balance my time.

What motivates you the most in life?
Walean: My family is my greatest motivation. They are my foundation and I wouldn’t be here without them.

Byrd: My future career and personal (my family, buying a house, kids, etc.) goals motivate me to always do my best and work hard in the present, so that way I set myself up for the best future possible. In addition, helping those around me have a better life or day, whether it’s a laugh or helping someone study, encourages and reminds me to stay motivated so that one day I can give back and help with bigger stages.

Basketball has taught both girls about determination and time management in a college level setting as well as the value of teamwork and breaking stereotypes. The AU Cardinals left a mark this year—leaving the court having made a school record of most wins ever on campus for the women’s basketball team.

Finding a Christian Community After College

Dani Maletin | 

College has been largely catered to our spiritual needs. You might disagree because you haven’t found the right church, the right community or even the right praise sound, but you have to agree that Andrews University has given its students many opportunities to increase our spirituality levels, and the rest is up to us, and whether we choose to engage. Once we leave, an outside force will no longer be there to guide us, so we need to continue engaging with our spirituality and faith and go in search of a church community that we can connect with.

Sandra Fermin, a Seminarian student, presented in Lamson Hall Chapel some tips and encouragement for the next steps after college. Sandra shared the importance of finding a church that suits your needs, and while she said church hopping might be necessary, she also reassured that you would eventually find a fit that works for each individual.

When sharing her frustration with the church, she said, “Be the hope that you want to see. If you want the church to change, it’s got to start with you.”

She engaged the students very well, allowing for discussion time and the opportunity to think about their own spiritual journeys. Sandra also emphasized that our church communities are special, so we should cherish them because they enable our growth. Furthermore, students were encouraged to use technology wherever permissible as a tool to help our search of the community we would like to join, and explained the need for coming together with others. She shared that “Spirituality isn’t just about reading the Bible. It’s more dynamic and involved,” and therefore encouraged students to engage in Bible studies that functioned also as potlucks, soccer games, or hangout sessions so that your whole essence was enriched rather than just your spirituality. She shared the verses Ephesians 3:6, 17-19, and explained why God talks about the importance of the church community for each individual. It was a very important topic for students who are nearly done with their college experience to think about.

Day”. Our editorial staff interpreted the cartoon as a satire on white complaints about Black History Month, given that white history consistently dominates the historical narrative. However, some readers interpreted the cartoon as a criticism of the concept of Black History Month and were duly offended. In retrospect, it would have been a better idea not to run the cartoon at all, and just stick with celebrating Black history directly. We apologize, and will continue to aspire to serve the diverse Andrews community to the best of our ability.
You Are What You Eat

Jared Marsh |
Between the busyness of studying for exams, writing papers, working and a half-frenzied attempt at some form of a social life, attempting to eat healthier sounds daunting—especially when food of little nutritional value is so easily accessible and cheap. However, given the right information, making plans ahead of time and sticking to them, eating healthy on the Andrews campus is actually quite painless.

Let’s start with breakfast: the healthiest option the Gazebo has to offer would certainly be their oatmeal platter. It comes with blueberries, which provide a refreshing nutritious touch to the fiber-packed oats. The vast majority of the smoothies at the Gazebo also pass the nutritional checkpoint and are a good on-the-go option. If you have class before the Gazebo opens, or are trying to save money on your café account, you can opt to make overnight oats in your room if you have a refrigerator. Oats and your choice of fruit and milk or plant-based milks are available for purchase at the Gazebo, and there are numerous recipes on Pinterest for amazingly satisfying overnight oats. Although being touted as a breakfast superfood, try to avoid yogurt—often it is packed with added sugar.

Lunch and dinner options are a bit more diverse. Overall, the Terrace Café has healthier options than the Gazebo does, but you can make both as healthy as you want. If you’re upstairs, usually Classics Too has the healthier option, typically some form of rice and beans with a vegetable or salad side. The salad bar in the middle is also a good place to load up on nutrients. Start your salad with a base of a darker leaf like spinach or baby kale—salad bases like iceberg lettuce aren’t necessary bad for you, but have only slightly more nutrients than water. If you are at the Gazebo, you can also order rice and beans with your choice of salsa, or their baked sweet potatoes, which are also nutrient-packed.

Also, remember that an occasional binge on Sam’s Chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, and ice cream isn’t something to lose sleep over or pass judgment on others for—just don’t make it a habit.
What Would You Change About AU?

Interviewed By Darius Bridges

Maxwell Aka, seminarian, MDiv
I would like to change the city where Andrews University is located.

Camberly Berkel, sophomore, elementary education
I would like there to be more of an effort to display cultures and educate people on the different experiences a person may have.

Erin Song, junior, business administration
I would change Andrews’ recycling process and their environmental factors. There is so much we can do to eliminate the amount of waste we produce.

Daniel Morant, sophomore, finance
We are diverse by having different ethnicities on campus, but every person spends most of their time with people who look like them. I would like to change that.

Josh Knowlton, senior, business administration
One thing I would change about Andrews is to be more considerate of the community members that come here on campus. During the winter it’s very dangerous. We understand Campus Safety does a lot to make it safe but if it’s dangerous, it’s dangerous.

Michael David Moses Cuke, sophomore, religion
The co-curricular system should be altered, where a set amount of credits can be required, but no mandatory dorm or chapel credits. It should just be a required minimum number of credits in general but not specific amounts for different types of credits, especially for chapels. While initiatives pushing for students to grow and learn outside the classroom are great, knowledge that is forced is less like education and more like propaganda. Also, affirming our faith through worship, whether it be at chapel, vespers or church should be voluntary and from the heart.

Ev Milliner, senior, social work
An AU problem I would like to change is how people who feel uncomfortable with conversations of injustice stay in dark places, when there are forums and places for them to have open conversations. I don’t want to attack anyone but I do want to have a dialogue. Let’s chat instead of staying anonymous behind social media account.

Alessandra Pineda, junior, international business
Communication between the students and administration. We have issues because a lot of times the administration just doesn’t know. We need to find a way to communicate that and make them interested in what we have to say. This would be a good way to start on the issues we have.

Thato Lehoko, senior, photography
I would change the way some administrators treat certain departments better than others.

Anna Gayle, junior, digital communication
I would like for there to be better mental health services on campus.
From Ghana to Berrien

Albert Owusu Ansah
Masters in Divinity student
Interviewed by Adriana Santana

You are originally from Ghana. How long did you live there?
I grew up in Ghana and lived there until I was 24 years old.

What are some of the differences you’ve discovered since moving to the USA?
It’s completely different. The culture, weather, food and people are all different, but I have always adapted well and enjoyed every place I have lived. All those places have had an influence in shaping me to who I am now.

I heard you played soccer in both Germany and South Korea on the international circuit. What sparked your love for the sport?
I grew up playing soccer. I started playing in junior teams as a boy. Playing soccer and not going to school was not an option I had as a young boy, so I chose to go to school. During this time, I played soccer as a hobby until after high school, when I started playing actively again. I have since played regularly until recently due to injuries and other personal reasons.

How did you get involved in playing soccer for both countries?
When I moved to Germany at first, I didn’t play soccer. My focus was more on my education than playing soccer until one time after playing volleyball, some friends and I found out about a team in our city to play for. Shortly after that semester, I left for an exchange program in South Korea. It was in South Korea that I began playing soccer actively again. I played for a team called Intersuwon FC, but had to leave after almost a year to go back to Germany. Upon my return to Germany, I trained with a team I had spoken with while in South Korea. After a week of training with them, I signed on to play for the team that season and then played two more seasons after that.

Which country did you like playing for more?
I enjoyed playing in Germany more because it is very organized and there are great facilities that encourage playing soccer.

What made you want to go to the seminary?
I realize there are many people out there who living without the hope we have in Christ. Such people need to hear about God’s love for them and so I decided to be a bearer of the Good News to such. God loved us and gave his only Son for the world. People need to here this. They need to know there is hope in Christ Jesus.

How is it living in Berrien compared to all the other places you’ve lived in?
Berrien Springs is different in its own way. It’s calm and very serene, but colder than the places I have lived. I realized it snows more here but it has a lot of friendly and wonderful people, especially within the Andrews Community.

Would you want your child to play soccer like you did?
I would support my child if he/she decides to play soccer. I have a 3-month old baby girl now. I don’t foresee her playing soccer but if she decides to play soccer when she grows up, I will give her all the support she needs.

Have you gone back to Ghana since your departure?
I was in Ghana in December 2017 for a friend’s wedding, but I also used the time to do literature evangelism.

What is the next step for you in your journey?
I still have two years of Seminary but after that I just want God to lead me where He needs me most.

I see you singing a lot on different praise teams. How do you preserve your voice?
Listen, I am starting to think it’s by the grace of God because there have definitely been times when my voice should’ve been gone but I was able to keep singing. Seriously though, I try to drink as much water as I can before and after a performance because keeping your vocal cords hydrated is key. I also try not to strain my voice while I’m singing so I don’t push it.

Usually when people have racial discussions it’s mainly about black or white issues, but since we’re such a diverse campus, do you think we should shed light on other racial problems?
I think we should. There are so many racial issues and stereotypes that as a collective don’t think about because it’s easy to focus on the most popular ones. I remember talking to one of my friends who is Korean about how the word “chink” derogatory, and the dislike he had for it. I had always known it wasn’t a nice word to use to describe Asians as a whole, but hearing his opinions really added a new perspective. It made the word more personal, and created a connection of understanding between me and him. I think Andrews could really benefit from having different conversations of culture on campus. For one of the most diverse campuses in the nation, we really don’t take advantage of the different perspectives students may have on life, especially if they’re from a different country.

What do you think the dating culture at Andrews needs to be fixed, and if so, how?
Mercy, well, that’s something I don’t know can be fully fixed. I think the biggest thing would be for people to figure out why they’re dating, and what they’re looking for. Also, I feel like people tend to make a big deal if someone is “talking” to another person where we should actually just leave people alone. Maybe that person is looking for something serious, maybe they’re not, but either way we should just let people live their lives.

Ask Adri
Roma: A Memorable Win for Mexican Cinema

Karl Arrogante | This review does not contain spoilers.

When I walk into a movie, like most people I want to have an entertaining experience. To grab the attention of a movie goer, we see a lot of films oversaturated with action scenes, CGI explosions and the like. Films that move away from the weather and more modest visuals often are not as popular. Now, while these may be true on a general level, there are some films that do well despite lacking more traditional elements of popular movies. And that is exactly what Alfonso Cuarón’s Roma does. Roma tells a story without an oversaturation of visual effects, stripping the film down to its bare storytelling elements, exploring the life of a 1970’s live-in maid, Cleo, working for a middle class family in Mexico City. It sounds rough, but if you stick with it, you come out with a beautiful story that grips you from start to finish in unconventional ways.

The most striking visual choice we see immediately is that Cuarón films Roma entirely in black and white. Subconsciously, colors do a lot to deepen a film’s narrative: they set the tone for the film, they can draw your attention to specific objects on screen, they can indicate how a character feels, or influence how the viewer feels. Cuarón shows that without color, everything on screen is equal and up for interpretation: the tone of the movie, how a character feels—all of these things are perceived and interpreted by the viewer. As I watched Roma, I tried to take note of everything that happened on screen, paying special attention to the actions and dialogue of each character in a particular scene to determine these big narrative building blocks that color can influence so easily. Ironically, by removing color Cuarón paints a story even more colorful, capturing the attention of the viewer and enriching their investment in the plot.

Filmed stories are also deeply affected by the movements of the camera. In Roma, we see the camera move only in two different ways, sliding and panning. Some of these follow Cleo, the main character, to track her movements; others begin without her in the frame, and we see her surroundings before we catch up to her and her actions. In every shot, however, I noticed that the surroundings were busy, with scenes saturated with motion centered around Cleo. Together, these give the viewer a real feel of Mexico City in the 1970s, and for the individuals who inhabited that timeframe. From the beginning of the movie, Cuarón grabs our attention by showing us real places with real people in a real time, powerfuly connecting us to them because of how the camera moves about.

At its core, Roma is not an exciting or a particularly fun film. Rather, it’s a story about people living difficult lives day-by-day in a way that isn’t watered down with tons of action. So why is this film good? Because it is memorable. Many movies I watch are “safe” in the aspect that they are simply fun—a movie where you can turn your brain off and just have a good time. After a while, though, I tend to forget what happened in those films, whether it be the plot or character motivations. Roma does the impossible by telling a person’s story without the use of color, conventional camera techniques, being nearly devoid of action, all the while without the aforementioned issues. If you’re having a chill night, and want to enjoy a beautifully told story filled with well-written characters and a unconventional yet memorable visual appeal, this movie is the one for you! Plus, it is the 2019 winner of three Oscars: best foreign language film, best achievement in editing, and best achievement in cinematography. Overall, Alfonso Cuarón’s Roma was a marvelous film, and I strongly urge you to watch and experience it for yourself.

University Singers and Chorale Chase the Blues Away

Megan Napoli | On Saturday night, Feb. 23, the University Singers, in addition to the Chorale, held their winter concert at the Howard Performing Arts Center titled “Chasing the Blues Away.” This name came from the weather and the length of this year’s winter. Through its song selection and performances, the concert conveyed the feelings of how sometimes we can feel around this time of year. Stephen Zork directed and Gabriel Palacios (freshman, engineering) accompanied for the night. The concert featured 14 songs, including choral renditions of “Can’t Buy Me Love” by John Lennon and Paul McCartney and “America the Beautiful,” which ended the concert on a glorious note. The program highlighted a few different themes during the evening, singing songs that would “lighten up” the mood, show aspects of life and of course, celebrate the winter. In between each of these songs one of the singers would go up to the mic and read a piece that correlated with the song, which connected the themes together as well as added another artistic genre to the concert. Songs such as “Gossip, Gossip” added a bit of a humorous element to the concert as Zork referenced his wife, religion professor Susan Zork, as not being the inspiration for the selection of the song. The concert also featured the Chorale, a group comprised of singers that do not take the choir class to receive degree credit, but just sing because they want to! The Singers and the Chorale sang several songs together in the duration of the concert, adding a fuller sound to the music. The audience reacted well to all of the aspects of the concert, the humor, the narrative and of course the quality of the overall performance. All in all, the night was a success, with many attending and enjoying what our university choirs worked hard to offer to us.
Care for Cuba Concert Raises Awareness

Jennifer Lara |
The Care for Cuba Hope Benefit Concert took place at the Fil-Am church on February 23 at 5 pm. The concert consisted of people sharing their talents, singing and playing various musical instruments, including a singing solo, a cello and guitar duet and an a cappella performance from the Watchmen. After a few performances, Fernando Ortiz (a seminary professor) and a pastor from Cuba gave the audience a better understanding of what Care for Cuba was about by speaking about the background of the event. To better understand the need these people have, both men said we first need to know that Cuba has been under a communist government for over 60 years. Cuba has a population of 11 million, with about 300 SDA churches and 35,000 SDA members. The pastors addressed a few major problems in Cuba: the first being no freedom, including religious and business freedom and free speech. The second is that Cuba is an atheist State with no Christian education. There is no access to Ellen White books. Children are not allowed to be homeschooled and must be sent to public school where they are not taught that there is a God. The third problem is that there is no reliable transportation. There are 60,000 cars for 11 million people, which is an average one car for every 180 persons. Plus a car would cost too much to maintain on a church worker's salary. Pastors and other church members have to go door to door on foot while risking their lives since they are not allowed to do this. The pastor from Cuba said that at his church alone there are about 600 members and none of them own a car. Andrews University has helped by sending bikes to Cuba—more than 500 bikes have been given. Even with all these hardships, people are so hungry to hear about God and read his word. In 2018, there were 500 baptisms and 1,300 into since the church has started.

At the end of the program, we were called to give back, whether it was with money, donations or through prayer. In about three weeks, many volunteers from the seminary will be heading back to Cuba to continue the work that is waiting for them. If you are interested in getting involved, they are accepting donations of clothes and gently used instruments which can be given to the M.Div. office in the Seminary building. You can also donate money and learn more about the project on their website: www.careforcuba.org.

Watch of the Week:

Bandersnatch is the kind of movie that you will want to re-watch with people who have never seen it before and experience their reactions, which is exactly what I did a few days ago. Created by the team behind Black Mirror, it has a runtime of an hour and thirty minutes, but I have to constantly tell my friends that, really, it depends on your choices. This is the brilliant thing about Bandersnatch: you control the film. While it’s not the first interactive movie on Netflix (Minecraft, anyone?), it is the first targeted for adults. The film takes place in the year 1984 and follows Stefan, a young Brit developing a choose-your-own-adventure video game based off a novel. The film is beautifully meta as Stefan begins to question his reality, and you can’t help but desperately try to help him make the “right” choices, but this is Black Mirror, a series meant to capitalize on our techno-paranoia. Is anything ever “right”? Seriously, helping Stefan pick a cereal for breakfast stressed me out. It can be overly graphic (again, it depends on your choices), but for some Bandersnatch is still worth a watch—or play—as it explores the concept of true reality.

There are 60,000 cars for 11 million people, which is an average one car for every 180 persons.
How To End Your Trilogy

Alexi Decker

This article contains spoilers for the How To Train Your Dragon Trilogy

I am weirdly fascinated by the phrase here be dragons. It’s originally a relic from medieval mapmaking—when the mapmaker’s knowledge of geography ran out, they’d draw a dragon and add the expression. It was, I shudder to say, an easy way of saying we don’t actually know what’s here, but it’s probably scary. Here be dragons shows up on several ancient maps, and it never fails to remind me of the opening sequence of Dreamworks’ How To Train Your Dragon.

I was 13 when I first saw How To Train Your Dragon on a trans-Atlantic flight. Viking teen Hiccup’s adventures fit up the grainy screen on the back of the seat in front of me, Gerard Butler’s muscular Scottish accent piped through tinny airplane headphones. I, newly discovering the joys of fantasy after a relatively magic-less childhood, was enchanted by the opening scenes—an enchantment that only grew as the movie progressed. There is no better movie to watch at 40,000 feet. As Hiccup learned to fly over the Viking sea on his dragon’s back, I glanced out the window at the endless ocean beneath me, and smiled. When the flight ended, I still had half an hour left on the film, and anxiously waited all through the three-hour layover in Paris to finish it on the next plane. When I did, I shook my mom awake in typical pre-teen fashion because she just had to see it, like, right now (pro tip: in retrospect, are the worst).

And look, I stand by How To Train Your Dragon as one of the best movies, especially the first one. Local misfit be-friends wounded enemy, realizes they aren’t all bad, and fights to change the stereotypes around them and usher in an era of peace between the village and their dragon enemies. It preaches a message of love, understanding and mutual respect between people as well as cross-species, and ends by turning the viking village of Berk into a utopia where even monsters can live in harmony with humans. It argues that every story has another side, that tradition isn’t always right and that violence shouldn’t be our first response when we don’t understand someone else. It’s perfect.

Don’t get me started on all the ways it was robbed of the Best Animated Feature award at the Oscars—Toy Story 3 is great, but does it have anything on the first moment of connection between Hiccup and Toothless? No. It does not. Plus, Toothless the dragon looks like a cat sometimes, and I really love cats. Like any good fan, I went to see the third movie, How To Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World this weekend, and although the animation was typically stunning, and the plot unsurprisingly heartfelt and tear-jerking (seriously, take tissues), I was disappointed by the ending. Not because the third movie itself didn’t earn it, but because I thought it ruined much of the optimism and joy of the first film. Because the best part of How To Train Your Dragon is knowing that, despite everything, that Hiccup and Toothless sacrifice, they make it out. Their friendship creates the dragon-human utopia that seemed so impossible at the movie’s start, and they change everyone’s minds. The first movie promises that no matter how dark the night, dawn is coming—dawn, and peace, and beautifully animated flight sequences with the occasional sarcastic one-liner thrown in. Here be dragons, yes, but with a little understanding here be pets instead of enemies.

The Hidden World, in comparison, ends on an exact opposite point: instead of Hiccup and Toothless working together, beating the odds, and finding a solution in a seemingly hopeless situation, they just accept it. They accept the fact that the world they live in will never have enough space for both dragons and people to live together, and just... let each other go. Boy and dragon say goodbye, sad piano music plays, and they spend years without each other. Hiccup gets tearful, Toothless tackles him in a hug before he leaves, and I tried to weep discreetly into my sweatshirt sleeve.

But I was also angry. Don’t get me wrong—the third movie makes a good point within its own, internal logic. Hiccup and Toothless’s separation is inevitable within Viking universe that The Hidden World presents. But it vastly compromises the best, most hopeful parts of the first two How To Train Your Dragon movies. It ruins the utopia. And if we can’t have utopias in our fantasy, then where can we have them? These last few years have felt anything but utopic. I remember spending the week after the last election in a kind of daze, like I’d gone to sleep in Narina and woken up in The Hunger Games’ Panem. It’s a feeling only exacerbated in recent months, with Kavanaugh, Jussie Smollett, and countless others feeding a steady stream of poison into society’s veins. And worse yet, I don’t know what’s coming, where the next dragon will appear on the map.

Sometimes, I don’t want to fight the dragons anymore. I like realism in my movies as much as the next person, and am probably drawn to tragedy more than most, but sometimes I just want to see children’s movies and be reminded of happy endings and long flights spent reading books by the sun play on the water. Sometimes I just want to pretend I live in a world where humans can get along with other humans, much less an entire other species of dangerous, intelligent animal.

Sometimes, I want the fantasy.

Ending the How To Train Your Dragon series on a downbeat note, instead of the optimism of the previous two, says, in effect, that the world cannot be changed, that we cannot fix it. Love and understanding—between a boy and a dragon, between a father and son, within a community—creates no lasting change.

That is a philosophy I refuse to accept.

Give me the fantasy. We live in a world where there are dragons. But we also live in a world where there is music and flight and love, where the unknown is only as scary as we make it. Who knows? Maybe, with a little love and understanding, we’ll discover that the dragons on our maps are friends instead of foes. Maybe, with a little more fantasy, we can have the utopia.

That’s what I hope, anyway. In the meantime, I think I’ll skip the thing installment the next time I rewatch the series. The world has enough darkness and realism all on its own.