

Sonscreen Film Festival awards

Andrews University graduates receive five awards

JOSHUA MARTIN AND NINA VALLADO, graduates of the Andrews University documentary film program, received five awards at the 2018 Sonscreen Film Festival held at the North American Division headquarters in Columbia, Maryland, from April 5–7.

Martin, who also studied photography, won Best Art Experimental and Best Cinematography for his film “125 Pounds.” The film explores Martin’s insecurities about his weight and the importance of getting to know the person beyond the body.

Vallado’s film “Sisterly,” a documentary about autism and sisterhood, won Best in Festival, Audience Choice and Best Documentary Short.

“We are very proud to take the top awards in what I believe was one of the strongest selections of films to ever play at the festival,” says Paul Kim, chair of the Department of Visual Art, Communication & Design and professor of documentary film & communication. “What’s notable, too, is that the cost of our students’ productions is very low. It appears that the jury is responding to our commitment to artistic merit and to our mature storytelling about things that really matter and connect

with the human experience rather than the flash and sizzle of a big fancy production.”

Keith Mattingly, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, says, “Paul Kim and company are to be congratulated for the wonderful success of Andrews University students and faculty in the Sonscreen Film Festival. The judges were nationally-recognized individuals, which makes winning the awards that much more impressive. We are thankful for Paul’s excellent leadership and the talent he shares with his students.”

This year 47 official selections from student filmmakers were screened during the three-day festival. Schools and student groups represented at the festival included Andrews University (Michigan); Hawaiian Mission Academy (Hawaii); La Sierra Academy, La Sierra University, Loma Linda Academy, Loma Linda Uni-

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Professor Paul Kim (second from left) and students with the awards that Andrews student projects received. Also pictured are Julio Muñoz, festival director (third from left) and the lead juror for the Sonscreen Film Festival (far right)

versity and Pacific Union College (California); Plantation Seventh-day Adventist Church (Florida); Rio Lindo Academy (California); Spencerville Adventist Academy (Maryland); Southern Adventist University (Tennessee); Southwestern Adventist University (Texas); and Walla Walla University (Washington).

Kim says, “Overall, it is remarkable to see the growth of the Adventist film community throughout North America. At the festival, I was on a panel sitting between Dan Jackson [president, North American Division] and Alex Bryant [executive secretary, North American Division], and they were very much advocating in support of the growth and maturation that is happening in Adventist media.”

Student awarded prestigious scholarship

Sophomore math major Mykhaylo Malakhov given Barry Goldwater Scholarship

MYKHAYLO M. MALAKHOV, A SOPHOMORE mathematics major and J.N. Andrews Honors Scholar at Andrews University, was one of 211 undergraduates to receive the Barry Goldwater Scholarship, the most prestigious national award for undergraduates who intend to pursue careers in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering.

Scholarship recipients are awarded \$7,500 per year until they graduate for use towards tuition, fees, books and housing.

Malakhov is the seventh recipient from Andrews University, with the previous scholarship going to Libby Megna (biology/math) almost a decade ago during the 2008–2009 school year.

Ryan Hayes, professor of chemistry, is

the Andrews campus representative for the Goldwater scholarship. He says, “This was quite an honor to Mr. Malakhov, the Department of Mathematics, the Department of Biology and Andrews University.”


Malakhov’s primary research is with the Seabird Ecology Team, an interdisciplinary research group of mathematicians and biologists. His project focuses on investigating the effects of climate change on glaucous-winged gull populations in the Pacific Northwest.

Henson says, “Mykhaylo Malakhov is an outstanding young mathematician who also has a heart for people and for Jesus. He is a true intellectual, with strong interests in the arts, literature, philosophy and music. I en-



joy discussing Dostoyevsky, bread baking, plate tectonics, piano and hiking with him. He is the kind of person who will become extremely successful and will then invest heavily in the careers of others.”

In addition to his work with the Seabird Team, Malakhov is actively involved in additional research projects and leadership positions. He plans to earn a PhD in mathematics and become a professor.

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