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PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT TED WILSON VISITS AU

Andrews University

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TED WILSON VISITS AU

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STUDENT MOVEMENT

NEWS
STUDENTS STAND AT TED WILSON’S TALK

“While the silent protest represented some of those dissatisfied with the General Conference’s stance, differing perspectives rose up as well.”

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IDEAS
ROMA ROBBED

“As Vallelonga’s character develops and he goes from being very racist to slightly less racist, the screenplay uses historical context to excuse racist jokes, which are presented as humorous for the audience.”

P. 5

HUMANS
TED WILSON AT AU

“It was not until Christopher Whittaker and a crowd of students behind him came in to silently protest the event that I suddenly remembered why I am still a Seventh-day Adventist.”

P. 8

A&E
SPOTIFY? I DON’T KNOW HER

“On the bottom floor of Hamel Hall, the Department of Music building, there is a secret not-so-secret treasure just waiting to be seen.”

P. 10

PULSE
ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

“Communication is key to a relationship, so once you have this down, you’re golden.”

P. 7

THE LAST WORD
SCHOLARLY SNOBBERY

“We don’t want to say that we need to ‘dumb it down’ for the kids, but…” He trailed off into laughter. I met eyes with David across the room and raised an eyebrow ever-so-slightly.”

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“Don’t Quote Me But” Amplifies Student Voices

David Forner | Every Friday afternoon, when the rest of the buildings on campus are largely deserted by Andrews University students and faculty, a group of students meets in a small, inconspicuous office of the Department of History & Political Science. Huddled around a set of microphones, these students—members of the Andrews University (AU) History Club—push back their weekend plans to create a student-recorded, edited and produced podcast entitled “Don’t Quote Me But.” Featuring conversation on various social and political issues, “Don’t Quote Me But” has, to date, published three episodes, with plans to release a new episode each remaining Friday of the semester.

Ephraim Palmero III (senior, political science, pre-law) relates that he brought the idea of creating a podcast for students to discuss current events and relevant “hot” topics to other members of the AU Department of History, which was met with enthusiasm. With the support of the club’s sponsor, Dr. Stephanie Carpenter, Chair of the Department of History & Political Science, the club was able to purchase microphones and other necessary equipment to produce the podcast.

“I’ve always wanted to spearhead a project that enables students to share their thoughts towards a wider audience,” Palmero said. “Thus, I thought the podcast format was the best way to do so.” To date, “Don’t Quote Me But” has featured discussions of the American Dream, the 35-day 2018-2019 Government Shutdown and the controversial Instagram page @conservativeastudent. With an unscripted, open format, the podcast is a recording of the discussion between its co-hosting and contributing voices, allowing for some heated conversation and the occasional interruption.

Palmero, who moderates each episode’s discussion, said, “I enjoy the honest conversations and hearing different perspectives from everyone participating in this project.”

Stanley Desir (freshman, political science, pre-law), a co-host of “Don’t Quote Me But,” said, “The amount of value an argument holds depends on the ethics, reliability and evidence presented by those who participate. That’s why I love how diverse and difficult my podcast members are, because it gives me some good arguments. And the better the argument, the more you end up learning from it.”

Palmero explained the hosts’ attempts to discuss a wide span of topics that they think students can find interest in and want to hear discussion about. According to Palmero, future discussion topics may include immigration, institutionalization of the SDA Church, women’s ordination, food insecurity and prison reform.

Jessina Marenga (junior, political science, pre-law), a co-host of “Don’t Quote Me But,” said, “I’ve found it particularly enriching to learn from, and be challenged by, my peers on a variety of subjects ranging from US politics to more existential questions.”

Palmero noted that while many young people share similar political orientations and opinions, the group attempts to approach its topics with attention to the many viewpoints surrounding any particular issue.

“We try and create a space where we are free and open to sharing how we see the world and our take on current affairs,” Marenga said.

Protest at Ted Wilson Q&A

Jessina Marenga | On Saturday, Mar. 2, Ted Wilson, the president of the Seventh-day Adventist General Conference, visited Andrews University. The purpose of his visit was to deliver an update on certain missions and communicate on the topic of unity in the SDA Church. There was also a Q&A segment to answer questions that were submitted beforehand.

Since the recent announcement from the General Conference stating that they would be instilling a policy of disciplining conferences that stray from the official stance of the General Conference on women’s ordination, interest was high in the Adventist community on what Ted Wilson had to say. In addition to the buzz surrounding the topic, the event was also heralded by a group of students all dressed in black who stood up part-way through the talk to place themselves in formation in the right center aisle in silent protest for the rest of the talk.

Ora Battle (sophomore, Spanish), one of the protesters, says “Being part of the demonstration was a really empowering experience for me. There was obviously the initial nerves of getting up and standing in direct opposition of the president of the General Conference, but the longer we stood together and the more people I saw joining the line, the more encouraged I felt. Having people join the demonstration because they understood and agreed with our message made me so proud. I love that this demonstration gave me and other young Adventists a platform to make our voices heard.”

While the silent protest represented some of those dissatisfied with the General Conference’s stance, differing perspectives rose up as well. Dr. Erhard Gallos (assistant professor of religion) says “Elder Ted Wilson appeared to me to speak from deep inner convictions. In a humble spirit, he admitted his belief that women are called to ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist church, but only men should be ordained to pastoral ministry. While he remained aware that such a view might be challenged by some within the church, he appealed to the whole church to comply with its corporate decision. In the face of the silent protest, Elder Wilson handled it very calmly and wisely by simply ignoring it.”

Because of the controversy and attention brought to the General Conference this year, Wilson’s talk brought its share of discussion amongst the Andrews University body. Despite this, the two-hour talk still left many feeling rather dissatisfied with the outcome. Some still wonder, what does this mean for the Church moving forward?
A Night to Remember

Alicia Dent

On Sunday, March 3, the Black Student Christian Forum (BSCF) held its annual banquet. The event was held at The Brick in South Bend, the same location where the AUSA banquet was held. The night featured many things including food, performances, pictures, and fellowship. A unique part of the banquet was the Award Ceremony. Leading up to the event, BSCF gave students an opportunity to nominate people or groups for various awards including “best edges”, “cutest couple” and “best smile,” to name a few. This aspect of the banquet put a smile on the faces of the recipients and the attendees.

Unlike the AUSA banquet, this event didn’t feature games, but it did provide an opportunity for friends to just talk and take in the ambiance and music around them. One of the most popular attractions was the photo station where friends could take elegant, fun or silly pictures with the many props provided.

“The photobooth was my favorite part of the banquet,” said Matthew Agard (senior, computer science), “overall the banquet was very free flowing and organically fun.”

Josiah Everett (sophomore, business, pre-law) is social vice president of BSCF and was heavily involved in the planning of this event. He stated that he wanted “everybody to leave closer than they were before and to be able to have a fun experience that aligned with how they were raised.” This was the main motivation behind how the event was executed and the many laughs and pictures shared confirm that this was accomplished. In addition to the pre-planned awards, an award was given on the spot for the best dressed male and female.

Elyssia King (freshmen, physical therapy) was the female recipient and she stated that winning the award was her favorite part of the night. Overall, she said that the banquet “gave me a chance to relieve the stress of school work and gave me the opportunity to look beautiful.”

Anyone who was not in attendance should definitely make every effort to go next year as the night was one to remember.

Upcoming Events

Rise Up Against Abuse
Newbold
9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Honors Poster Symposium
Buller Hall Lobby
2:30-4:00 p.m.

AU’s Haitian United Club Cultural Weekend
Chan Shun Hall
7:30-8:30 p.m.

Daylight Savings Time
Rise Up Against Abuse Workshops
PMC Youth Chapel, Buller Hall
10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

AU March Preview
11:00 a.m.-9:30 p.m.

The Light Bearers: Discipleship Journey
Campus Ministries
7:00-7:45 p.m.

Tea Time at JWL
2:00-4:00 p.m.

Intramural Basketball season begins
AU March Preview
8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Mysterious Note Encore performance
Andrews Academy
7:30-9:15 p.m.
Dance On, Dance Off?

Caitlin Jankiewicz

Growing up in the Adventist community surrounding Andrews there seemed to be three cardinal rules of Adventist morality: no jewelry, no swimming on Sabbath and no dancing. Having grown up within Australian culture as well, which is by-and-large much more relaxed about such things, these prohibitions really irri­
tated me, especially the one on dancing. When I was little, my sister and I would put on “dance shows,” dressed up as spar­kly fairies. In high school we’d whirl around to “The Waltz of the Flowers” by Tchaikovsky in flowing pastels, skirts, and flowers. It felt like we were little, my sister and I, dancing along to our favorite music. When I recently joined service at PMC, the one-year-old child of one of the singers started dance­
ing to “Wade in the Water,” with her little hands wav­
ing and legs stamping and a look of pure joy on her face. One fellow can confirm that dancing from a very young age, dancing and movement are naturally human. In addition, research has confirmed that dancing is good for overall health, improving mood, increasing hand-eye coordi­
nation and increasing self-esteem (Lauren 2017). Examining what the Bible has to say on dancing reveals not that only is dancing not for­
bidden, it is actually en­
couraged. David “danced before the Lord” when the Ark of the Covenant was brought back to Jeru­
salem (2 Samuel 6:14 ESV). The prophets of old, like the one in Psalm 149:3 “let them raise His name with dancing...” So then why was one of my friends, when singing and dancing in the church, told that she couldn’t sing for special music anymore because it was, “too much.” Why didrocking out to upbeat 80’s music at the AU Barn Party a few years ago leave me with a terrible sense of guilt and the worry that I was a “bad Adventist”? Where does this Adventist no­
tion of “dancing is bad” even come from? A quick read of #2 and #3 choices being impossible for much of the prob­
lem in the world. No less so with dancing; I believe that God created dancing as a way for us to express our emotions in a healthy and positive way. How­
ever, along the way, danc­
ing has become corrupted. For example, dancing at clubs is notorious for be­
ing sexually suggestive, involving inappropriate clothing and leading to compromising situations. I also think that in setting a guard rail around the harmful part of dancing, Adventists have perhaps thrown the baby out with the bath­water. I believe we should thoughtfully and careful­ly define our guard lines and feel­ings boundaries around the ways in which we choose to dance instead of sim­ply categorizing it as evil. As with everything, our actions should ultimate­ly serve to glorify God. I firmly believe that we can do that, even while danc­
ing.


Roma: Made For TV, But Not For The Oscars?

Kelsey Book

The Oscars are an undis­puted marker of whether or not a movie is worth watching, right? After this year’s award for Best Film, I can’t be so sure. 2019’s Best Pic­
ture nominees included fan favorites such as BlackKKlansman, Bohemian Rhapsody and Black Panther, the first hero movie in history to be nominated for this award, so why would the top runners—Alfonso Cuaron’s loose autobiography, Roma, and Peter Farrelly’s “feel-good” comedy-drama, Green Book—also be the most controversial?

Most of Roma’s scenes are taken directly from director Cuaron’s child­hood in 1970s Mexico City. The matriarch of the film’s central family is based on Cuaron’s mother, and Cleo is based on his nanny. The film is firmly grounded in reality, where racial and class issues are often understated and life events come without fore­shadowing. Roma is also grounded in history, and while the film never fails to express on historical context, people familiar with Mexican history will see the personal impacts of the Corpus Christi massacre and the unstable political environment of the time. While many movies are intellectually self-gratifying, leaving people to be proud that they have absorbed an entire body of knowledge in two hours of casual view­ing, Roma’s character development forces the most familiar viewers to do their own research on political and racial issues in 1970s Mexico and, on a second viewing, the motivations of Roma’s characters become much stronger through a lens of histori­cal context.

The biggest controver­sity surrounding Roma (re­leased by Netflix) isn’t regarding the movie it­self—fans and critics alike have given Roma overwhelm­ingly favor­able reviews, with critics and fans alike seeing it as one of the best movies of the year. However, critics claim that the only reason Netflix agreed to a brief theatrical release in select theaters was to pass the minimum require­ments to be nominated for an Oscar and that the nom­ination of a made-for-tv film will disrupt the integrity of big-screen cinema. Peter Farrelly’s comedy-drama Green Book dramatizes the friendship and racial issues in 1970s Mexico and, on a second viewing, the motivations of Roma’s characters become much stronger through a lens of histori­cal context.

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Highly excessive actions should honor the humility of the pulpit. Overdone comedy or publicity-motivated messages must be for the Gospel’s gain, not the preacher’s.

“Blind belief in authority is the greatest enemy of truth.” - Einstein
Cardinals Season Recap

Jared Marsh | Pulse

On February 24, 2019, the Andrews University Men’s Cardinals played their last game of the season against the Oakland City Mighty Oaks in Oakland City, Indiana, officially wrapping up the end of the 2018-2019 season. The men’s cardinals placed 11th overall, two rankings up from the 2017-2018 season where they placed 13th overall. “We improved a lot from last year, so definitely a positive” remarks Josiah Charles (senior, wellness).

“It was a pretty good season, but I feel like we should have gotten a higher ranking to push us into the tournament”, Charles continues. “We worked hard, and won some tough games, but I guess that’s how the chips land sometimes.”

The Cardinals certainly started their season off right with a seven-point win against Indiana University South Bend.

Charles, the guard for the Cardinals, recollects that that particular win was due to the fact that “everyone was in a rhythm, and overall we played like a team.”

In January, the Cardinals boasted four wins in a row over the span of five days, including a 48-point win against North American University, a 42-point win against Burman University and a 20-point win against Chicago’s Moody Bible Institute.

Although the many wins throughout the 2018-2019 season can be partially attributed to the players’ skill, practice and dedication, credit also goes to the coaches. Michael Pallas is head coach, in his 11th season with the men’s Cardinals team, along with assistant coaches Bryan Von Dorpowski and Isaac Nwadike.

Charles stated that he felt that Pallas’ drive for energy is what led the Cardinals to many of their victories. “Coach was constantly expressing energy, and how we have to bring it every night.”

Although Andrews University doesn’t have very many sports teams, every student, teacher and fan of the Cardinals basketball team is very proud of how much effort each player put in to this season.

February 24 was also the last game for the Andrews University Lady Cardinals basketball team. Hannah Sabangan (sophomore, nursing) described as “memorable, historical, and laughter-filled.”

The Lady Cardinals ended up ranking 12th overall, their best ranking in Andrews University history! The Lady Cardinals had 13 wins over the course of this season, including the first three against Glen Oaks, Penn State, and Stratford University. Sabangan, a guard for the women’s team, describes a game against Cincinnati-Clermont that sticks out in her mind as particularly memorable: “We left around five in the morning. It was a tough road game, but it was a really fun game to play. I believe that it was one of our best-played games as a team. Definitely a great win.”

January also turned out to be one of the best months for wins for the women’s team with five wins in a row, against Burman, Southwestern Adventist, Richland, Wright State and Great Lakes Christian College, respectively, with a whopping 45-point win over Burman. The women’s team coach, Kevin Woolridge, is in his eighth season with Andrews University athletics and the assistant coaches, Bill Redman and Katie Dominguez, are in their first year.

Andrews University continues to be proud of the skill, dedication and perseverance that both the men’s and women’s team players and coaches have put in to this season. Although the men’s team didn’t break any records this season, they are on a statistically upward trend, so maybe a tournament win is in the foreseeable future. The women’s team did break one of their records this season, and for that, all of Andrews is exceedingly proud of our Lady Cardinals basketball team.

Budgeting in College

Dani Maletin | Pulse

The age-old question isn’t whether you want to do something in college, but whether you have the money to do it. For many of us, money tends to be the determining factor in the things that we buy, the food we eat and the hang outs we have with friends. This is because as college students, not only are we paying for things like college, but we are also paying for the lifestyle we want to have.

Many people resort to getting a bunch of credit cards and loans, but that’s not the answer. Rather than getting into further debt, you should implement a super simple trick to keep track of your money and spending—a budget. For those who don’t know what a budget is, it’s a place where you write down your monthly expenses along with your monthly income, and the main goal is that you are never negative. This may mean you allocate more money to your phone bill and food, choosing to forgo the movies this month, or that you choose to put a bunch of money in savings so that when your loans are due you have some money saved up.

However you choose to spend your money, a budget can help you keep track of what is coming in and what is going out. If you are a person who has a hard time keeping track of your money, put everything in cash, because it is so much harder to give up $50 when eating out at Olive Garden than it is to swipe a card.

Furthermore, be honest with your money situation. If you’ve been maintaining a lifestyle you can’t afford, either begin working more hours or find ways to cut down on your monthly expenses. Smart choices will help keep you from furthering your debt. Lastly, find resources to help you!

I am currently taking a personal finance class, and we’ve been given many resources such as www.foundationsu.com, a site that offers you resources to help calculate your own budget, figure out how to get out of debt, and simply understand money and your own finances in ways you’ve never thought about before. Choosing to find help is not only the responsible thing to do, but also the best way to start a financially stable future. Don’t let money rule your life.
Engaged Encounter

Vanessa Angel |
Interviewing: Kaitlyn Rigg (senior, liberal arts)

Andrews University hosted Engaged Encounter on Friday March 1, 2019-Sunday March 3, 2019 in Griffis Hall. The event was presented by Jeffrey and Twyla Smith. Jeffrey works at WAUS Andrews University.

Recognizing Drug Overdose

What was the event all about? What major topics were covered?
Engaged and Encountered was a dating, engaged and newly married couples. This program is a way for couples to learn about each other. It was also a way to grow through each other and Christ. Some of the main things that were discussed were how to apologize, how to write a love letter, God, our spiritual relationship as a couple and money.

What major point captivated your attention the most?
I don’t need to have everything figured out as a couple right now; we have our whole lives to experience things.

How did this particular event helped you as a couple?
This event did wonders for our relationship. We get so much about each other and how we work. For instance, we had to do a lot of writing to each other and some things are easier to say in writing than in spoken words.

Is there any advice that you would give both couples and aspiring couples based on what you learned?
Go through this program. Before you get married, you both need to figure out your communication styles. Communication is key to a relationship, so once you have this down, you’re golden.

What is one thing you wish everyone knew before getting into a relationship, as well as one thing you wished people knew about dating in general?
I think before someone gets into a relationship they should think about what they want. I wish people knew how much work they have to put into a relationship. We have always talked about that, that when you get together there are only two ways out—to break up or get married.

Overall, do you feel like this event helped you or proved to be beneficial?
Yes! Absolutely! We didn’t expect the program to go so well. We both loved every part of it and would recommend it to anyone.

Other couples not from AU were also able to contribute their experience in attending this retreat. Kelsey Kelly (graduate of SAU) states, “Engaged Encounter is a perfect opportunity to reconnect with your significant other and take the time to grow closer together and most importantly with God.”

Overall, whether you are a couple, engaged, or a newlywed, retreats like Engaged Encounter prove to be beneficial because they give major talking points and advice for partners in various stages of a relationship. It is imperative that couples get guidance and advice before, during and after sealing the real deal and walking down the aisle. As both Kaitlyn and Kelsey mentioned, God needs to be at the forefront of any couple if a relationship wants to last. For when God is at the center of it all, serenity will reign within the hearts of each individual and that is what life is all about.

Rise Up Rally

University Wellness | Rise Up Against Abuse is an initiative focused on taking action against all forms of abuse through awareness, education, intervention and prevention. For this reason, Rise Up Against Abuse will have its first launch rally from March 7-10, 2019 on the campus of Andrews University.

On March 7, 2019, special speaker and two-time Grammy nominee Sarah Kelly will be kicking-off the rally at the HPAC for Thursday chapel. The Rise Up Rally features many special speakers including, but not limited to: Sarah Kelly; two-time Emmy-winning filmmaker, Chris Silber; 2018 Mrs. America, Mekayla Eppers; Ty Gibson and lead researcher Tanya Asim Cooper. In order to be a part of this initiative (and trust me this is an initiative you will want to be a part of), you must first register here: www.riseupagainstabuse.com.

Are you interested in knowing more details before you register? Here are some of the highlights:

Thursday, March 7: 12:30 p.m. | Against the Wall by Ty Gibson (Campus Center) 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. | “Unredacted” Photo Exhibition 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. | “Abuse Awareness Zumba Celebration” (free & co-ed at Life Rx)

Friday, March 8: 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. | “Rise Up Against Abuse Symposium” (Newbold Auditorium)

Saturday, March 9: 4:30 p.m. | 6:30 p.m. | “Rise Up Against Abuse Expert Discussion Panels” (PMC Youth Chapel) Hosts: Ty Gibson & Tacyana Nixon)

Sunday, March 10: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. | “Rise Up Against Abuse Workshops” (Buller Hall and PMC Youth Chapel)

This weekend will be filled with many more opportunities, and so we invite you to register today to see what’s best! It’s free for AU students! So what are you waiting for? Rise Up Against Abuse today.

Recognizing Drug Overdose

Counseling and Testing Center

Dear Cassie: How do I recognize the signs of a drug overdose and what are some substance use recovery centers in the area that I can go to for help?
— Cassie

Dear Cassie: Great question! Substance use/abuse and overdose can cause serious harm and even death. Here are a few signs to identify a drug overdose:
1. The person is unresponsive and you are unable to wake them
2. The person has slow or no breathing
3. There is gurgling, gasping or snoring
4. Clammy, cool skin
5. Blue lips or nails
6. Nausea or vomiting
7. Abnormally high body temperature
8. Violent or aggressive behavior
9. Disorientation or confusion
10. Paranoia
11. Agitation
12. Convulsions or tremors
13. Seizures

If you abuse any substance, there is always a risk of overdosing. However, certain actions and conditions may further increase that risk, including:
1. Significant physiological dependence on the drug
2. Prior overdose(s)
3. Abusing multiple substances
4. Taking a large amount of the substance at once
5. Dropping out of substance abuse treatment
6. Gradually increasing the dose of the substance over time
7. A reluctance to seek emergency help when needed
8. Intravenous drug use
9. Being recently released from prison
10. Previous suicide attempts
11. Resuming drug use after a period of abstinence
12. Low level of physical tolerance

If you or someone you know have a drug use/abuse problem, please contact the Counseling and Testing Center at 269-471-3470. They can help you get the help you need by providing you with appropriate referral as needed.

If you have questions that you would like answered by Dear Counselor, please email ctcenter@andrews.edu

Source: https://drugabuse.com/drug-overdose/and www.voicexchangehope.org
Andrews Reacts: The GC Forum With Ted Wilson
Interviewed By Darius Bridges

Nathaniel Patterson, junior, marketing
The biggest problem with Ted Wilson’s Q&A session last weekend was that it wasn’t a Q&A. Those expecting to attend a two hour Q&A with the president of our church were thoroughly disappointed. As a Gen-Z with a more liberal ideology when it comes to social issues, I sat de-spondent in the pew as a young woman’s testimony was used to discourage church members from being politically active. After about an hour and a half of mission updates, Ted Wilson finally started answering questions. Listening to the president of our church, my church, talk about the SDA LGBTQ+ community as if wanting to find a lovable middle ground with church members of non-cisgender orientation was laughable and quite aggravating. I wanted a Q&A because I have questions for Ted. Why have you created a compliance council? What is your motivation, or biblical basis, for disallowing women to be ordained? Why do you discourage members from getting involved in achieving social justice? Will you not speak out in support of saving our environment? It was not until Christopher Whittaker and a crowd of students behind him came in to silently protest the event that I suddenly remembered why I am still a Seventh-day Adventist. It is easy to forget that this church belongs to the members. All feelings of depression left as I was welcomed into the group protesting. I encourage anyone who feels like I do to stay in the church and help make it better, and please, have transparent dialogue.

Deandra Joseph, junior, speech pathology and audiology
Going to PMC this past Sabbath to listen to President Ted Wilson answer questions from our student body was an eye-opening experience. In my opinion, seeing the president ignore the peaceful protest of my peers magnified the pressing issue that the Adventist church is dealing with presently: the voices of the youth of our church aren’t being heard. I respect President Wilson because he is said to be whom God has appointed for this era, but I honestly wish he would actually give us young people the platform to voice our opinions more often, and moreover answer our questions with responses that have more direct input other than “we are losing sight of what the Bible says.” In actuality many of our youth have prayed and asked the Lord for discernment of the scriptures, and the Holy Spirit has revealed to us things that are inherently different from what is taking place in our church today. In regards to the event itself, I was extremely grateful for the opportunity to ask questions, but I think it would have been more effective if the atmosphere were more of an open forum rather than a scripted dialogue, seeing as this is how our generation communicates best.

Jesse Castang, senior, biology
I think that President Lupton and Ted Wilson did a good job of addressing several major points of discussion in a short period of time. However, I don’t think having Ted Wilson speak only on the questions sent in a week before is enough to properly gauge, understand and address issues and points that the younger generations of the church posit (though it was a way for Ted Wilson to address some overarching questions that people have). I think that in addition to the answering of previously sent questions, President Wilson could have also engaged in a roundtable-type discussion (assuming this did not occur unbeknownst to the public), whether in a public setting, a private meeting or both with the goal of having actual discourse with young adult representatives. I think that while answering questions was beneficial, it would have been even more effective to have actual conversations with the young people of Andrews. I also think that while answering questions was beneficial, it would have been even more effective to have actual conversations with the young people of Andrews. I think this sentiment is what was shown whether the voice of the youth is truly being considered.

David Hamstra, ThD student
An excerpt from Adventist Today’s “Elder Wilson Answers Questions at Andrews University”: “Yet, to the attendees seated near me, his presentation and responses still came across as ‘propaganda.’ The messaging from the GC was entirely about casting a vision for an Adventism that comes from Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC), the Michigan Conference and selected sectors of global Adventism where that vision has grassroots buy-in. And those are expressions of Adventism that young people in the North American Division (NAD) should not dismiss. But the GC representatives gave no indication that they cared to learn what vision for Adventism students on NAD college campuses, at least those who care enough about their church enough to listen to its president answer prescreened questions, have to offer their world church” (The rest of the article can be found at today.org).
Step Up And Take the Mantle

I was raised to be an involved member of the SDA church, and to pursue involvement in all aspects of the church. Lately, after graduating from high school and the Pathfinder program, church involvement has become work. I had to fight to maintain the leadership positions I was moved into during my high school years. I was dismissed directly before graduation, from ministries that promised a paid position upon completion of high school, and all of these contributed to a negative view of church employment and involvement.

I don’t believe that my views are isolated, although the reasons behind them may be drastically different. I believe many, if not the majority, of the senior youth and young adults struggle to find their place in the church. Andrews University does a reasonable job of including the college-age young adult in the planning, participating and maintaining of vespers, church services and events. I also see a consistent desire from not only the NAD but the General Conference to recognize the voice and the actions of the young adults. Not only are we the future, we are also the present.

While trying to plan the next few years of life, as many other students do, I got invited by the NAD Youth Director to attend a conference in Phoenix, AZ. Pastor Armando Miranda (NAD Youth Director), invited me to the NAD Youth and Young Adult Ministries Advisory, a yearly gathering of the conference, union and NAD youth directors, campus ministries directors and pathfinder leaders. Its purpose is to discuss incoming issues, policy changes and future plans as well as helpful “tips” for reaching not only our generation but the next.

When I arrived, I was greeted by a breath of fresh air and an amazing 72° temperature. And the sight of the sun after these cold winter months was pretty amazing. There was a second breath of fresh air waiting for me—the soul. At first, it seemed to be the classic friendly Adventist greeting. “Happy Sabbath, glad you’re here,” but after genuinely hearing the intent of the individuals, I realized they were really glad that a young adult was present. Quite a few of our conference and union directors came up to me after the daily meetings and thanked me personally for coming and giving them hope of our generation joining with them in their ministry.

Step up, take the mantle and lead our church into the next greatest generation!
Andrews University Unites Schools for Music Festival

Jennifer Lara | The Andrews University Music Department holds the Band and Keyboard Music Festival ("music fest") every year. This music festival brings high schoolers from the Great Lakes region and some schools from Canada. This year, there were a total of ten schools—two of which were from Canada. The students began arriving Wednesday, February 27 around 5 p.m. and soon after had their first rehearsal, which was 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. On Thursday and Friday, they started their day bright and early at 8:15 am, rehearsing for a total of six hours (with appropriate breaks, of course). I was able to meet with Byron Graves, the wind symphony conductor and the Music Education Area Coordinator. He had participated in the festival for about five years when he was an academy director bringing his students to music fest, and when he was in high school (2001) he also came and took part in the festival.

Graves gave me an insight as to how music fest works and his role in the planning. Music fest alternates between the choir and orchestra and this year was band and orchestra. This year was Graves’ first year in charge of music fest and if I may say so myself it turned out really successful. The preparation for music fest takes months of planning.

Graves explained, “The students audition. I send audition music in November and around Christmas time they all send me audition tapes, I listen to them and decide whether they can play the music we’re going to perform and from there they are placed into sections.”

He went on to tell me how once audition time and selection is over he sends over the music that will be played for the festival. We rehearsed hope-fully practice and be prepared once they arrive on campus. The biggest changes these students face while performing is getting used to the fact that they are with a larger group.

“Any of these schools have tiny little bands, like 15 or 10 people in the band; it’s not really a full band. It’s their first experience really playing in this large group where all the parts are covered. It takes adjustment,” Graves said. Over those few days, there was much practice. Graves continued, “Many of these students are used to only meeting an hour or two a week. For them, it’s about two months of rehearsals packed into three days.”

Graves was very proud and exhausted after working so hard alongside the students, many of which were his former students or students he had worked with previously. With many familiar faces, there were still new ones.

I wondered how he managed to make a connection with them with such a busy schedule. He responded, “When you first start to interact, it’s a little like. ‘Who is this guy? Who are these people?’ You don’t know each other yet. But by the end, they come up to you saying how much they enjoyed it and that they’re hopefully coming to Andrews. The first goal of music fest is to improve musically, but right underneath there is a ’Hey you should come to Andrews! We’ve got a good music program here.’ It’s a great recruiting tool for Wind Symphony. I really try to have one on one time with them in our breaks to form connections and learn a little bit about them beyond music.”

If you did not get a chance to see them in concert, do not fret. You can watch a recording of their performance on the Andrews University Department of Music Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/AndrewsUniversityMusic/videos/2040414582743447/. This festival was made possible by the hard work and generosity of many, and it all paid off. There is nothing quite like groups of people coming together to create art.

Step Aside Spotify, NAXOS is Here

Megan Napod | On the bottom floor of Hamel Hall, the Department of Music building, there is a secret not-so-secret treasure just waiting to be seen. If you enter the main doors and go downstairs, straight to your left is the Music Materials Library. The library has been there for ages, and many may think it is only for music majors. Not true. It’s accessible to all students and faculty of Andrews University. Any student can use their ID card to borrow and listen to music anytime, just like a normal library. There is a wide variety of tracks and physical sound recordings students can find with a great variety of styles to choose from. It is a great little area for those who have a deep appreciation for the art of music.

As millennials, we don’t seem to use CDs, cassettes and records to listen to music anymore, but don’t stop reading now, because the university uses a music streaming database called Music Library. NAXOS is an online music library that is widely used by many other universities such as Notre Dame. Andrews has been using this database for over a decade now. It was purchased for the university’s use in 2009. Back then, the director of the Music Materials Library started to see how the rise of music streaming networks such as Pandora, Spotify and Apple Music, changed the way the most recent generation listened to music and wanted to find a way to still provide access to music from Andrews that students would be receptive to. As of now, about 500 AU students use the database, but there could definitely be more. There are over two million tracks available on the database with styles such as classical, jazz, pop and even Chinese music, all of which people love. You can also make specialized playlists to make the experience more personalized for you. Over 500 new releases are automatically put into the database each month for students to have access to. I spoke to the director of the Music Materials Center, Marianne Kordas, and she mentioned that the university purchased NAXOS to broaden the scope of recording resources on campus, but also to help with the congestion that the Music Materials Library got with many students trying to listen to music in the library at the same time. In this way, even though they were reducing congestion in the library, they expanded the way the university was providing music to students on campus. This increased the efficiency and versatility of the library, adjusting and aiding the way students listen to music nowadays.

Like other music streaming services, NAXOS can be accessed anywhere, not just when you are on campus. The database also has a mobile app that can be downloaded for free on any Android and Apple device. Whether you are back home or studying abroad, as long as you are using your Andrews account, free and unlimited access to music will be readily provided. So what are you waiting for? Go check out NAXOS and the music materials library at Hamel Hall 110 today. For more information on how to start getting access, go onto the James White Library page at https://www.jameswhite.library.auburn.edu and you will easily find NAXOS.
Margaux Tan

During the first weekend of March, the Andrews University Documentary Film students took a trip to Missouri. Pretty random, right? But what’s hidden in the the little college town is truly special. A four-day film festival that leaves any festival goer reminiscing during the rest of the 360 days of the year. The True/False Film Festival is a Documentary Film festival that happens every year in Columbia, Missouri. The University of Missouri, better known as Mizzou, welcomes thousands of people for this unique experience. Organized by the RagTag Film Society, nestled in the downtown streets of this college town, the festival welcomes not only filmmakers but also other fine artists and musicians. While walking from theater to theater throughout this four-day event, you’ll pass art installations that leave glowing lights that seem almost a little too whimsical. What’s so amazing is that art isn’t left at the doors when you enter the buildings for a film screening. Art is displayed all the way up until you enter the doors of whichever theater you’re at. Then music fills the space that the physical art cannot. Before every film screening, musicians occupy the stages as tone-setters, playing to empty rooms as seats are quickly filled. The musicians are then asked to exit the stage of the now crowded venue. While it may sound harsh and almost neglectful to the musicians, the festival organizers have made it a point to open venues for True/False concerts when the sun goes down, and festival-goers aren’t ready to go back to their hotels. The musicians truly shine in the night when the focus is entirely on them.

True/False is an underground, up and coming event, just like the musicians who are asked to perform. This year, artists like Soccer Mommy, Mesonjixx and Tonina came and shared their talents. If you haven’t heard of them (and it’s likely that you haven’t), I suggest you get right on it—former president Barack Obama featured Tonina on his “Must Listen” playlist of 2018. So if our good friend and former president is jamming out to artists like Tonina, so should you. I saw her band live before one of the film screenings and also at one of the venues designated for the concerts. I am so grateful I found her music. Now, some of you are probably thinking “okay, music is cool, but documentaries are boring.” I had the same mindset at one point in my life, but let me tell you, open your heart a little bit for documentary films. I would also like to point out that ‘documentary’ does not automatically mean National Geographic nature films only made better by Snoop Dogg’s voice-overs. ‘Documentary’ is such an ambiguous blanket term, and I promise you that you’re probably watching way more documentaries than you are actually aware of. At True/False, these documentaries are beautifully crafted stories that include never-before-seen footage from NASA as the Apollo 11 mission is retold, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s emotional and intimate moments with her family in the days leading up to election day against Joe Crowley, cultural feuds in Dayton, Ohio at factories owned by Chinese and even the shocking truth about China’s One Child Policy that recently ended in 2015. While I watched these films in large amphitheaters, I realized that these filmmakers are making films for so much more than just film festival accolades. Filmmakers make these films for us. They are crafted to make us as the audience feel real emotion, to truly educate, and to open eyes to virtually any topic.

True/False is a festival that just gets better and better. It’s uniquely beautiful; there isn’t anything like it in the world. To be surrounded by so many people that share the same interest in just wanting to see a good film, listen to good music and experience incredible art? Those types of opportunities don’t come up often. True/False used to sound unappealing to me, but after my second year going, I’m hooked. I’ve truly fallen in love with the festival. I can’t wait to go back.

Watch of the Week:

Room

With the highly anticipated Captain Marvel coming out this weekend, I want to recommend another movie that stars Brie Larson. Nominated for four Oscars (and winning one—Brie Larson for Best Actress in a Leading Role), Room follows Larson and her five-year-old son as they attempt to escape “Room,” a tiny shed in the back of their kidnapper’s backyard. Typically, just trying to get out of that kind of predicament is enough for any movie. I’d have no problem watching two hours of nerve-wracking escape attempts. What makes this film stand out, however, is that it looks at the problem as a whole. A superhero saves the world and gets the girl, but it’s not often that you see the after-effects of destroyed buildings and wrecked lives. Room takes you on the roller coaster of escaping imprisonment but then puts you on an entirely new ride as a mother and son must now figure out how to operate in a world that they have been hidden from for so long. Your heart will go through the wringer on this one.
Student Discourse

Alexi Decker | Last Friday was my very first professional conference. I picked out my clothes the night before, put on just enough make-up to look half-alive, and boarded the Andrews bus at 5:00 a.m., curling up in my seat for the three and a half-hour drive to Alma, MI. Outside, we didn’t see the snow pile up as we headed north, wishing I’d worn dress slacks instead of the skirt-blazer ensemble I had on. The paper I’d spent a year editing, researching and reworking lay quietly in a folder on the cold metal floor of the bus, waiting. My friends had careers in briefcases and binders. Although no one said anything, we were all a little nervous, a little excited, jittery with the chance to try out our academic chops for the first time. Once there, I left the bus with a few friends and a professor, pinning on name tags and trying to find the room we were presenting in. Three flights of stairs and two detours later, we made it. Inside, the rather generic classroom was set up with a projector and a table at the front. One was a college professor, the other a high school teacher, co-authored a paper discussing the ways of learning in varying examples of professional dress and degree levels. My friend David presented first. He shared his research on rhetoric and crafting national identity in two Renaissance works, a Shakespeare play and an early novel. He was professional, erudite and clearly well-read. So far, everything was going well.

Then David sat down, and two gentlemen went up to the table at the front. One was a college professor, the other a high school teacher. They had co-authored a paper discussing the difficulties in choosing a suitable edition of Shakespeare for their classrooms and the pros and cons of several major publishing lines—namely, their accessibility levels. As a student who had been assigned many of the “scholarly” texts in class, I found the presentation interesting—until it became insulting. I thought of my bookshelf at home, stacked with deagedar versions of Othello and Hamlet and the Arden single-copy edition of Shakespeare’s complete works. “We don’t want to say that we need to ‘dumb it down’ for the kids,” one of the gentlemen asserted during the question-and-answer portion. “We are already immersed in a world of study and discourse, enabled with the best tools and resources that allow us access to the highest realms of education. We are automatically qualified as scholars, and deserve to be called so.”

The most frustrating part about that presentation was the way the two gentlemen seemed to utterly divorce us—my friends and classmates—from their judgment. They were so impressed by our work that we didn’t seem to count as students, anyone de spite our lack of degrees. We were scholars like them. And while I was grateful to be taken seriously, for the most part, I was deeply saddened for the young men and women they would never teach in the future. Because the truth was that those of us presenting at the conference were no different from our future students. We’d just been given a challenge, an Arden Shakespeare, a couple of professors who believed in us and the expectation that we would rise to the occasion.

We had several other presenters that morning in a non-formal context. I don’t know what I would have asked them if I had—maybe “where do you think the line is between students and scholars?” or “aren’t all scholars just students in their field?” Maybe I would have asked if they thought my professors should have withheld the Arden, if I should have studied some “kid friendly” version of Shakespeare for my formal paper, if they thought I was different from the masses. Instead, I looked at my friends around me, in all their academic, well-researched glory, and wondered what the true difference was between a scholar and a student—or if it even existed.

I do know this: I don’t want to be stingy with my learning, or to make assumptions about other people’s abilities. I want, instead, to set my goals high and my hopes higher, to build up those who have less, to challenge and be challenged by those I surround myself with. Most of all, I want to be both student and scholar—of literature, of writing, of life.