

Excellence Beyond the Classroom

Meet the 2016 DeHaan Award winners

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By: Chris McLean-Wheeler & Becky St. Clair

This year, 50 Andrews University students were recognized with the DeHaan Work Excellence Award. We invited several of the winners to chat with us, and would like to share the stories we heard.

Sponsored by Frank and Dolly DeHaan, the DeHaan Work Excellence Award honors student employees nominated by their supervisors for their remarkable performance in the workplace in multiple areas, including attendance, ability to take responsibility, initiative, team player skills, human relation skills and work excellence. The award comes with a scholarship ranging in increments between \$100 and \$2,000.



Jessica Buchholz

Office Worker, Student Success Center

Jessica Buchholz is the office worker for the director of the [Student Success Center](#). She processes changes students make to their majors and minors so that records across campus are up-to-date, and fulfills basic office duties such as copying, filing and, as she says, “various other odds ‘n ends.”

“I really enjoy the people I work with,” she says. “I’m grateful for the friendly and relaxed environment. My boss is incredibly flexible with my hours and puts my education before work.”

Buchholz finds working at Andrews rewarding in multiple ways.

“It’s incredibly important to me that Andrews is a Christian university, she says. “It’s invaluable that I am able to work for people with shared morals and values.” Additionally, it is convenient because she doesn’t have to drive to get to work, and she naturally gets time off during breaks, since many campus offices have reduced hours or are closed.

Originally from Cambria, Wisconsin, in her free time, Buchholz enjoys reading, gymnastics and organizing things. She recently graduated with a degree in speech-language pathology and audiology. She also plans on acquiring her master’s degree at Andrews.

“In the future, I would like to work with different clients in a clinic to help them improve their communication abilities,” she says. “I am particularly interested in working with children who have articulation errors.”



Bradley Church

Aircraft Mechanic, Andrews Airpark

“My job entails fixing and maintaining the Andrews flight aircraft,” says Church. During the 2015–16 school year, his job entailed many tasks, including inspections, cleaning, repairing and maintaining the planes. “I’ve had opportunities to do things as large as remove wings and tasks as humble as scrubbing the belly clean of grease and exhaust stains.”

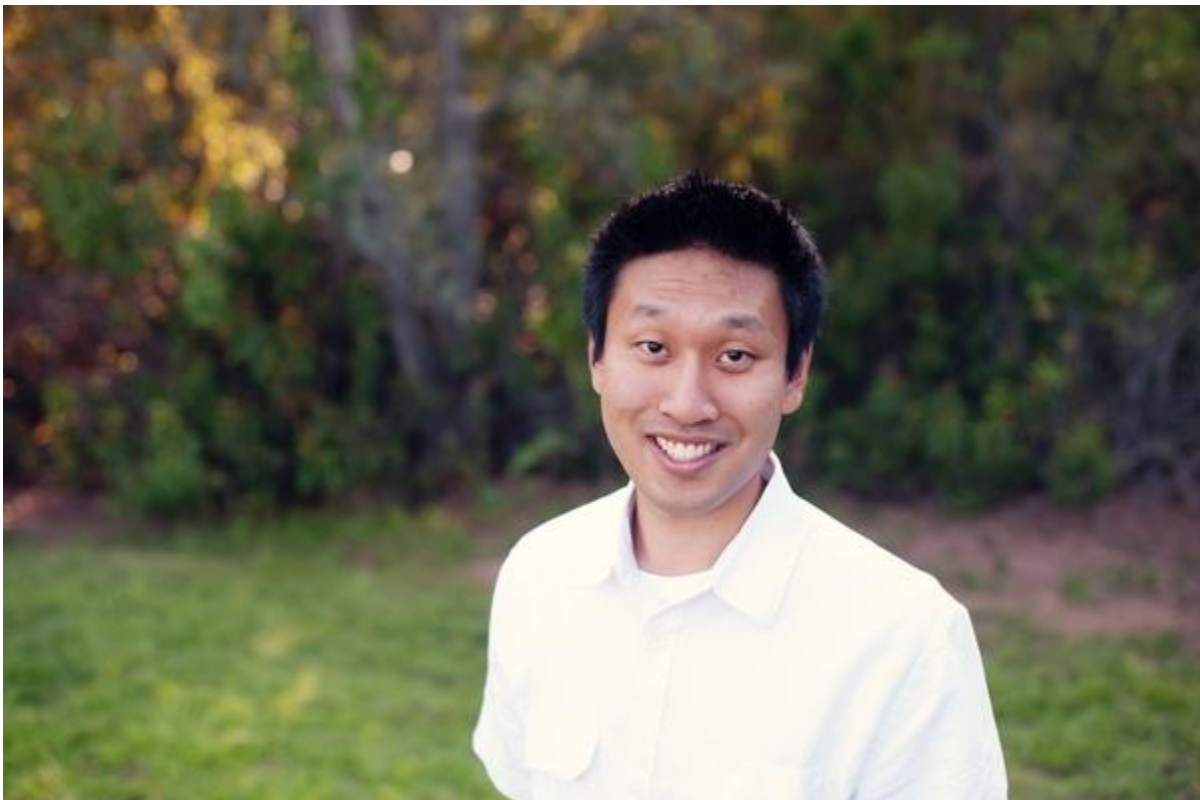
His most frequent job, however, was inspections.

“We almost always have an airplane that needs to be inspected,” said Church. “Whether it's a 50-hour, 100-hour or annual inspection, it can be quite busy at times to make sure that the inspections don't overlap between aircraft.”

Church recently moved to Bismarck, North Dakota, with his wife, but his hometown is Berrien Springs. Outside of work he plays guitar, hikes and does woodworking; a project he wishes to start soon is building a cedar strip canoe.

As an [aviation](#) mechanics major with a business emphasis, Church's future goal is to become an excellent mechanic and put his skills to use in mission aviation. This is why Church values the opportunity he got to work on campus.

"The experience I gained from my work is immensely useful in my field, and has helped me further my career," he says. "Because of the experience I have obtained by working at the Andrews Airpark, I was able to find a job right out of school, which is truly a blessing!"



Joshua Kim

Building Manager and Stacks Assistant, James White Library

Kim's responsibilities included supervising new student shelvers in the library, conducting inventory, shifting books from crowded sections and locating missing books.

"It's definitely great working on campus because I'm actually contributing to the education of my fellow students," Kim reported. He also enjoyed his coworkers at the library, its atmosphere and its proximity to his classes. "It's nice to not have to worry about commuting between class and work," he says.

Though he was born in Washington State, Kim grew up in Virginia and California, and considers himself from the West Coast. In his free time he likes spending time outdoors, hiking, camping or playing basketball, but he also enjoys working with electronics and playing video games.

Kim graduated in May 2016 with a computing degree, which he hopes will allow him to continue helping others.

He says, “I just want to work for a company where I can create products that other people use.”



Alaryss Bosco

Administrative Assistant, J.N. Andrews Honors Program

Alaryss Bosco began working for the [Honors Program](#) as administrative assistant in January 2013, her second semester at Andrews University.

“I went through a formal interview process before I got the job, which definitely made it feel official and professional,” commented Bosco. “It was a great way to get experience interviewing for a job once I graduate.” She added that over time, her role shifted to a reader position for [Monique Pittman](#), director of the program.

As a result of her work in the program, Bosco has realized that the honors program is not only an asset to her life, but to the students in the program as well.

“I have witnessed firsthand the way in which it prepares students for life beyond Andrews, whether that be graduate school or the professional working world,” she explains.

Working for the honors program and for Pittman has taught Bosco a lot about professionalism, research, teaching and academia.

“Dr. Pittman has been an amazing mentor,” she says, “both personally, and for my research project, even helping me take it to a conference.”

In addition to the academic benefits, Bosco also appreciates the social aspect of her work.

“I also love the interaction I got to have with the other students on a daily basis,” she says. “I formed friendships with people whose paths may not have crossed with mine otherwise.”

Outside of school, Bosco spends her free hours reading, cooking, traveling, attending opera and following international politics and diplomacy. She graduated in May 2016 as a J.N. Andrews Honors Scholar with a Bachelor of Arts in [political science](#) and a minor in [English](#). Her future plans are to visit Southeast Asia and then work at a law firm in her hometown of Melbourne, Australia, and begin law school in fall 2017. In preparation for that she is currently studying for the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT), but will also spend the summer researching Shakespeare with Pittman.



Peter Trine

Student Web Programmer, Integrated Marketing & Communication

Peter Trine has been working in his current position since before he was a college student. As a homeschooled high school student he was able to dedicate some of his free time to earning money for college and found a natural fit within the [Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication](#) (IMC) at Andrews.

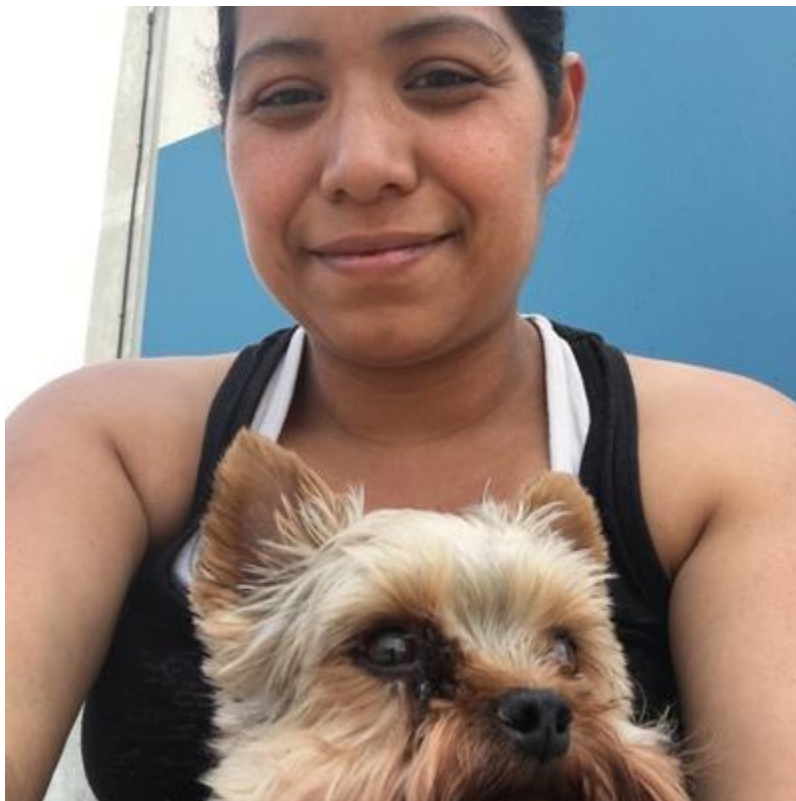
“I write whatever I’m told to write,” Trine says with a smile. “Basically, I make the webpages do what they’re supposed to do. I make them interactive rather than static. If you click, the page should do something, and that’s what I make sure happens.”

Trine is now a junior [computer science](#) major at the University, and he spends several hours a week throughout the year programming web projects such as Andrews Photos, a recently released photo database for use across campus. Since the completion of the photos project, Trine has begun working within the Content Management System (CMS), a totally different kind of task.

“I like solving problems,” he says. “That’s the greatest part of my job. The problems I solve aren’t the traditional problems people generally think of. It’s more of, ‘How do I move this around without making the website slow or confusing?’ And whatever I do, I have to make sure someone else can come along and read what I’ve written after I’m done.”

When he’s not in class or programming for the University’s website, Trine enjoys—you guessed it—programming. It’s not all he does, though; he also enjoys spending time outdoors walking and hiking, and also likes to compose music, utilizing composition computer programs and his basic abilities at the piano.

“I intend to go on programming once I finish college,” says Trine. “I know it’s something I really enjoy and I think I’m pretty good at it. It would be interesting to find some way to do some service with what I know, actually. I’d really enjoy being able to serve others with my skills and experience.”



Melissa Cooke

Student Assistant, James White Library

A seminary student working toward her Master's in Divinity, Cooke works both for the seminary librarian and in Bibliographic Services. She catalogues and discards books, as well as uploads and edits theses, dissertations and more on the Andrews Digital Commons.

Cooke sees a lot of advantages to working on campus, not least of all the short distance from class to work.

"I've met many people through my work, some of whom have become close friends," she says. Cooke has taken the opportunity to get to know undergrad students working in the same area, as well as other staff. "I especially appreciate Norma Greenridge and Terry Robertson, both of whom are like mentors to me."

Though Cooke's parents are from El Salvador, Cooke was born in Houston, Texas, and raised in Toronto, Canada. After finishing her MDiv program she intends to return to British Columbia.

"I want to use all the talents God gave me to serve him," she says.

Currently, she enjoys spending time with her husband, who also is working toward an MDiv at the seminary, and their 3-year-old son.

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