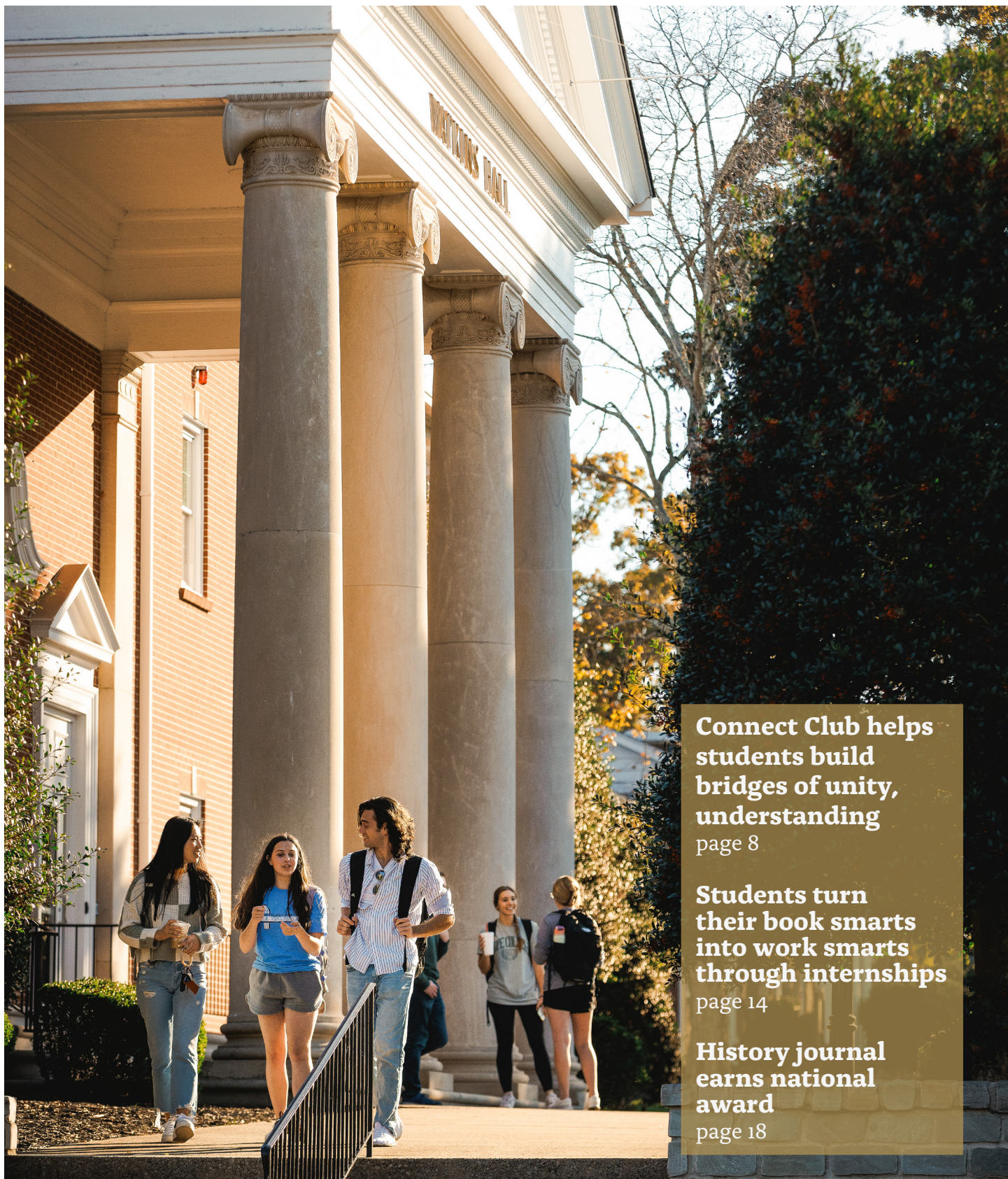


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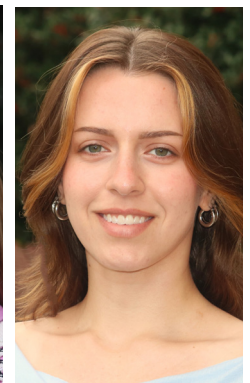
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SYNTHESIS

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AU student entertains through short comedic films

By Olivia Mettee

He's not quite a household name yet but keep an eye out for Joshua Acree. He may just be the next Steven Spielberg.

Acree is a junior communication major with a concentration in digital media and is becoming known for the short comedic films he produces with a group of friends.

During his freshman year, Acree began crafting short films as projects for his college classes, but he has since begun producing films just for fun that he shows to consistently growing audiences of a hundred or more students.

With titles like "Indiana Josh and the Search for Truth," "Spyfall," "The Suite Life," and "Star Wars: Fate of the Jedi," Acree's films are often mockumentaries or parodies of popular films or television shows, which are allowed under copyright law.

Acree said he's been encouraged to continue making the films because responses from the audience have always been very positive.

"Everyone was left cheering and laughing at the end of each film," he said.



Joshua Acree



Grant Swafford

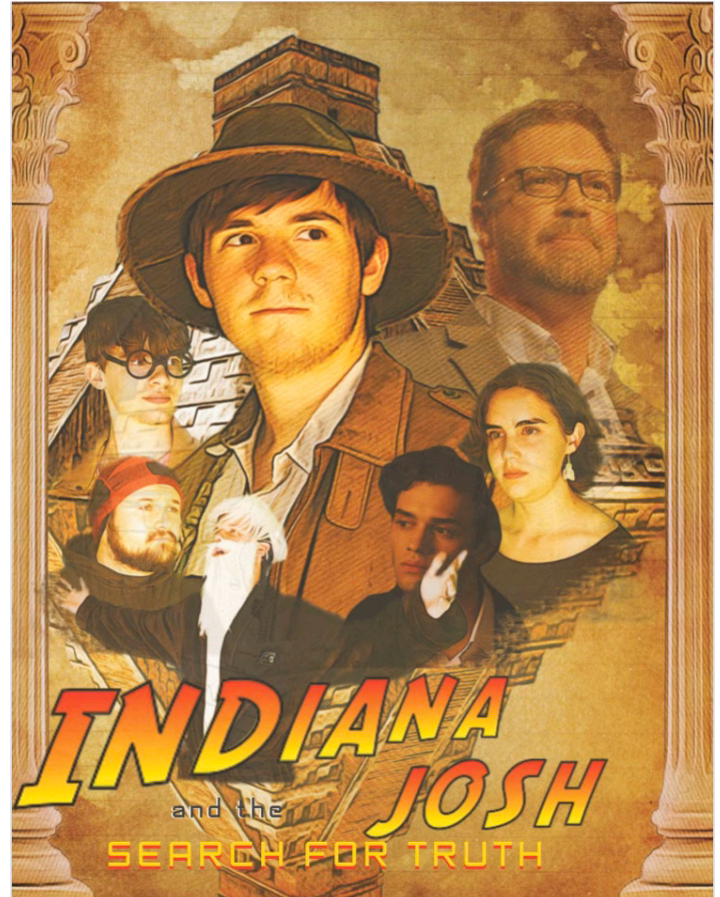
Acree's first film, which he made with friend and classmate Grant Swafford who has become a regular collaborator, started with a five-page essay for a course on death, dying and bereavement. "Dez and Rolly: Proof is in the Poison" follows two goofball detectives trying to unravel the death of a college student.

That film was finished during the fall of 2022 and submitted to a 24-hour film festival competition, Acree said.

Acree said he never works alone. He almost always has Swafford around to brainstorm concepts and they then work together to bring their ideas to life.

"I was more acting, and Josh got more friends to manage the cameras," Swafford said. "I talk to actors more about the vision, in a sense of traffic control."

Acree said the primary challenges he and his crew have experienced while making the films have been related to scheduling and actor fatigue. He said he has tried his best not to wear out his team.



The movie poster for Josh Acree's and Grant Swafford's film mimics the poster of the famous film it parodies. (Acree image)

"Through each film I learned something new," Acree said. "I learned I can't do it all by myself and nothing beats a team with a singular focus of getting the job done."

Acree said that while the films have been targeted at AU students, they are intended to be "hilarious in their own right" without too many inside jokes.

Swafford said it's notable "how much the films have improved over time and how much more confident the crew has gotten. The audience has grown across campus."

As for the filming process, Acree and his crew used an iPhone until they saved enough money to rent higher end equipment. The team received costumes from a friend's mom who worked for a theater.

Locations used for filming have included Rocky River Nature Park, Lake Hartwell, and on-campus dorms. Acree said editing for a longer film is about a three-month process.

Acree maintains a YouTube channel where these films can be viewed at youtube.com/@suitelifeproductions.

Psychology professor changes lives

Slaughter known for bringing Christ, identity, values into the classroom

By Avery Haan

Professor of Psychology Patty Slaughter is building a legacy of excellence that her students say they will carry with them well long after graduating.

The chair of Anderson University's Department of Behavioral Sciences since 2011, Slaughter is a licensed psychologist who earned a master's degree in counseling and guidance from New York University and a doctorate in psychology from Indiana State University.

Prior to teaching, Slaughter provided counseling for many years in community health centers, churches, and in private practice, working with all ages.

For Slaughter, helping her students succeed is of utmost importance.

"My expectations are for them to do their best," Slaughter said, "but I really hope they focus on learning the material rather than earning a certain grade in the class. I try to remind students: 'Your worth and value as a human being is not dependent on your GPA.'"



Patty Slaughter

Junior psychology major Valentina Borda said Slaughter is a tough but caring professor.

"She will support you and talk to you and give you a lot of feedback and help you, but she's not going to be easy on you," Borda said. "She's going to be hard on you because she really wants you to succeed."

Students say Slaughter's no-nonsense teaching style has greatly benefitted them. One example is senior psychology major Gabe Cleveland who has taken four classes with her.

"Out of any classes I've ever taken in my life I've never walked away knowing as much as I did from one of her classes," he said.

However, Slaughter has not only impacted her students academically, but personally as well, students say.

"She really cares about her students personally," said senior psychology major and human development and family studies minor Carolyn Bixby. "Her door is always open to talk about career goals or spirituality."

Slaughter says she wants to share important life lessons with her students, especially about identity. She says this is the biggest life lesson she's learned.

"My identity doesn't lie in my salary, my house, my



Valentina Borda diligently takes notes in an Abnormal Psychology class session about eating disorders. Though the course is one of the most difficult in the major, Borda says Professor Patty Slaughter provides the resources necessary for her students to succeed. (Photo by Avery Haan)

car, anything external, not necessarily anything internal," she said. "My identity is wrapped up in who I am in Christ -- who God says I am, what God says I have, what God says I can do, who God says he is, what God says he has, and what God says he can do. That identity gets lived out every day," she said.

While teaching psychology is important to Slaughter, she says she believes that caring for her students on an individual level and personal level is more important.

"I think one of the most important things that I want students to experience or know isn't necessarily the content. I want students to feel seen and heard," she said.

Senior psychology major Madi Hargett has taken advantage of Slaughter's open door and listening ear by frequenting her office throughout her time in college for advice on school and career goals.

"She has reminded me time and time again that my ultimate value is defined in Christ and being his and not in the things that I do and in the work I produce," Hargett said.

For senior psychology major Carter Lacy, this message has impacted his plan after graduation.

"My future plan right now is to work in youth ministry, and I think that she's helped me see the growth and potential for growth in younger people and how much value they can add to the lives of others," he said.

Others have observed that Slaughter's passion is evident and impactful in her classes.

"She is passionate about what she does and that passion is always in her classes. Her expectations are part of that passion. It's contagious in her class,"

Wayne Cox, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said.

Sierra Trotter, a sophomore research psychology major, has been seeing how much she has to gain from her psychology classes.

"She's really mastered the art of getting us students engaged with the content and really appreciating it," she said.

For her outstanding teaching, Slaughter was awarded the Michael Boles Excellence in Teaching Award in 2019, and her favorite, the student-selected Second Mile Award in 2015.



Psychology Professor Patty Slaughter teaches a class during the spring semester. She often connects religious themes with her psychology classes, as she did in this one when she discussed the feasts of Israel during Holy Week before Easter. (Photo by Avery Haan)

Slaughter says she works hard to integrate the passion she has for psychology and the importance of her faith.

"I think one of the most important things that I want students to experience or know isn't necessarily the content. I want students to feel seen and heard."

Patty Slaughter

"There are some theologians, pastors, and psychologists that say you can't integrate the two, but you can," Slaughter said. "I don't think I would be doing either the discipline of psychology or my Christian worldview a favor if I couldn't integrate them," she said.

Senior Gabe Cleveland said, "Seeing her be confident in her beliefs and her faith is something I really look up to and really admire about her."

Cleveland says that Slaughter is a great role model as a professor who integrates her faith in class while also pushing students to learn and grow in psychology and as individuals.

More than an achievement

AU Honors Program equips students for life

By Meg Hayton

Sometimes, what appears to be simply another achievement for a resume turns out to be a life-changing experience.

This is what many College of Arts and Sciences students in the Anderson University Honors Program discover as they explore intellectual thought through the lens of the Christian faith. Students say that engaging in critical thinking and discussion within the program causes them to view their majors and even their lives in a new light.

To apply to the Honors Program, students must have a combined SAT score of 1250 or higher, or a composite ACT score of 27 or higher. AU applicants with these test scores and a GPA of 3.5 or higher may complete the honors application essay through their admission portal. The deadline to apply each year is March 1.

The academic catalog outlines the 19 credit hours of coursework that comprises the Honors Program. Required classes include three foundations courses, a Christian apologetics course, a senior seminar, and two honors electives covering science and faith, Christian ethics, or an interdisciplinary topic.



Chuck Fuller

"In short, we want to guide students to think through perennial human questions in light of the Christian intellectual tradition," said Honors Program Director Chuck Fuller.

Fuller said the Honors Program at AU is based on a question asked by early Christian author Tertullian in 198 A.D.: "What has Athens to do with Jerusalem?". In other words, what does learning have to do

with faith? Honors students study the work of theologians and philosophers to examine deep questions pertaining to God and the world, Fuller said.

"Christians have been asking these questions for a very long time and so we use 2,000 years of Christian history to inform the way we think about the questions now," said Fuller.

Fuller said that there are approximately 130 students enrolled in the program.

"Our partnership with the College of Arts and Sciences is really key and mutually beneficial," he said.



AU Honors Program students stop to pose for a group picture during an annual hike (Photo courtesy Simone Killam)

Honors students in the College of Arts and Sciences said the program has nurtured a passion for their academic majors.

"The Honors Program is developing you as a person. That's going to branch into everything you do," said Meg Hindman, a senior creative writing major. "It's inevitable that the program will change the way you interact with your major because it's changing you."

The program pushed Hindman to discover a love for the writing process.

"Being able to slow down, be more thoughtful, and engage on a deeper level with what I'm reading and writing completely changed my understanding of how the writing process works," she said, explaining how her writing has become stronger and more personal. "You're supposed to come to your conclusion as you write and start with an open mind."

The manner in which the honors courses and professors tackle faith is a large factor in the program's influence on academic majors. For senior biochemistry major Jonathan Parker, the program encouraged an awe for God when he sat in science classes.

"I've been able to take lessons from my honors classroom and go sit in a biochemistry class or an immunology class and just be in awe of my creator in a new way," Parker said.

Parker said in the first two years of the program, students connect secular thought to Christian thought by reading literature from theologians and philosophers. Then, in the last two years, students take honors electives and make their studies more personal. As he applied honors work to his own major, Parker said he was motivated by questions.

"As a Christian called to medicine, I was asking what is



In January 2023, students in an honors interdisciplinary course on Genesis traveled to the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C. (Photo courtesy Chuck Fuller)

the interaction between science and faith? What does it look like to be a physician that walks out a life as a Christian?" he said, explaining the process of exploring these questions. "You do that a little bit on your own and also in community with classmates that are going through the same thing. We have great mentors, we have each other."

Fuller, an associate professor of Christian studies, said one of his favorite things about directing the program is helping students think through deep questions.

"The Honors Program is an intellectually rigorous yet safe space to wrestle with difficult things. I think there's a lot of benefit in that," Fuller said.

"Getting to help students navigate their own questions is something I find really satisfying."

Students say that unlike other academic courses, honors classes place less emphasis on lecture and are nearly all discussion-based. This teaches students to have thoughtful conversations with peers and to develop opinions.

"The Honors Program makes you willing to say, 'I don't know' and work to the place where you do know," said Simone Killam, a sophomore political science and public policy double major. "Part of the community building that you are doing is all admitting that you don't know what you're doing, and in that vulnerabili-

ty taking the time to grow together as a class to better understand."

Because of class discussion and the interdisciplinary nature of the program, honors students are able to engage with peers who have completely different approaches to learning and form a beautiful, tight knit community beyond their own major.

"The Honors Program for me is a chance to sit down with people in all these other majors that I would

never normally have class with," Parker said.

"They're able to bring exciting and new and unique perspectives to situations that I wouldn't have been able to see."

"The Honors Program is an intellectually rigorous yet safe space to wrestle with difficult things."

Chuck Fuller

The program has also helped students in planning for their lives after college. Hindman said it led her to consider other possible careers.

"Honors has opened my mind to more career options," Hindman said. "I probably would not have been interested in teaching if it wasn't for the Honors Program, because it has shown me what engaging with other students and leading people along in their own thought processes looks like."

Meanwhile, the program prepared Killam to read dense work in law school.

"After you've read Plato's 'Republic,' you're not as intimidated by reading," Killam said.

Empowering Diversity

Connect Club helps students build bridges of unity, understanding

By Makenna Massey

Since its formation in 2015, the Connect Club has transformed the pursuit of diversity on the Anderson University campus into a powerful platform for amplifying the voices of all students, offering broader recognition and representation. Currently, the club provides a platform for 42 students of diverse backgrounds to foster a more inclusive campus environment.

The Connect Club, linked to the AU Office of Diversity, Community, and Inclusion, is a student-led group aiming to educate and empower students about diverse experiences. Through a variety of events and activities, students of all majors can actively engage and participate.

“I think it should be considered a necessity that students should have a club where they feel welcomed and accepted for who they are,” said Emilee Haddock, sophomore clinical psychology major and member of the Connect Club. “Luckily, we have the Connect Club to do just that. Despite being a recent addition to the club, I’ve quickly found it to be a welcoming space where I feel truly seen and heard.”



James Noble

Vice President of Diversity, Community and Inclusion—James Noble said the Connect Club is making an important contribution to Anderson University’s campus life.

“It’s important for the Connect Club’s platform to maintain its position here so that students can have a space to come together, talk, and be civil,” Noble said. “We are committed to fostering

inclusive opportunities for every student, including those in the College of Arts and Sciences, who seek a platform to actively engage and contribute to a club where they can genuinely find a sense of belonging. In a space that celebrates diversity and encourages open expression, we are confident that our collective journey will only ascend to greater heights.”

De’Shaun Booker, a senior political science major and president of the club, said the group members meet regularly to discuss ideas and support each other.

“We have at least two meetings a month where students are granted the opportunity to present their



De’Shaun Booker, left, and Allyson Hernandez welcome the audience to the Connect Club-sponsored event, Open Mic Night, at Anderson University’s Books and Beans. (Photo courtesy the Connect Club)

ideas and voice how they want to see Connect thrive. Even if it’s something the leadership team didn’t originally have in mind, we will make it happen because the goal is to have these students heard,” Booker said.

Allyson Hernandez, the vice president of the Connect Club and a sophomore majoring in communication with a concentration in digital media, emphasized the club’s commitment to promoting and celebrating diversity through various initiatives.

MLK Trivia Night, a standout among the Connect Club’s events, had more than 60 attendees this year.

“The success of this event is attributed to the students’ effective promotion on the Connect Club’s Instagram account and through AU411 emails,” Hernandez said.

The club also hosted an “Open Mic Night” at the university coffee shop, Books and Beans, to give students



Allyson Hernandez



Connect Club photographer Alex Pham takes a selfie at a monthly meeting with fellow students involved with the Connect Club.

an opportunity to share poetry, songs and writing, as well as various campus movie nights. The film, “Selena,” a biopic about the Hispanic singer, was shown to celebrate Women’s History Month.

In the past, the club has also promoted food drives and discussions on such topics as black history, mental health and combatting hate speech.



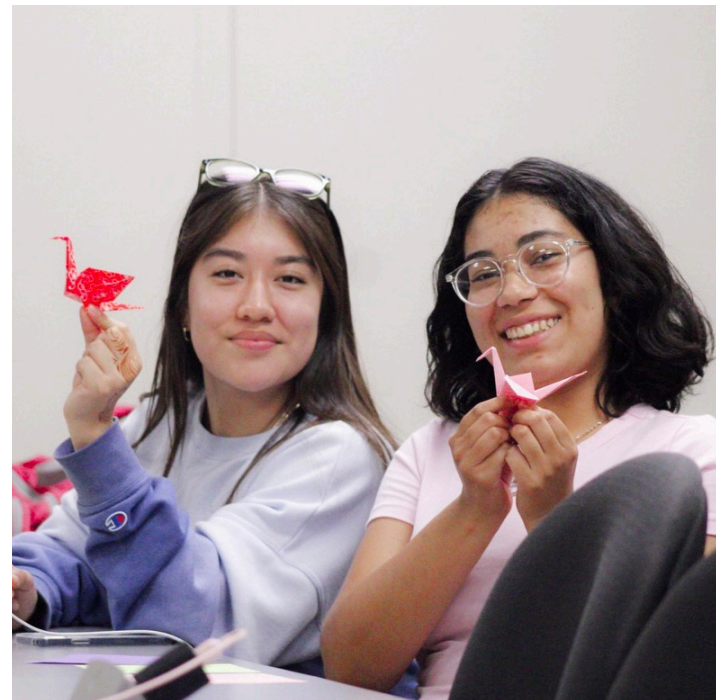
Hui de Velasco photo

Mei Hui de Velasco

Mei Hui de Velasco, a freshman psychology major and vice chairman of Connect Club, said she’s found in the Connect Club a place of belonging.

“I discovered Connect Club through the Expo held at the beginning of this year,” said Hui de Velasco. “I saw Allyson Hernandez, whom I had previously met at the Diversity, Community, and Inclusion scholar-

ship event, so I approached her about it. From there, I knew I would be authentically represented and part of Connect, not just a member.”



Two Connect Club members at Oragami Night show off their work. The Connect Club sponsors events that span the gamut between serious topic discussions and just plain fun. (Photo courtesy the Connect Club)

Library helps students explore the world

By **Christina McEwen**

Thrift Library is one of the most prominent buildings on Anderson University's campus, but through the work of librarians, students quickly learn to think of it less as a structure and more as a place where they can be nurtured in their education.

The library helps students and faculty both in person and online through traditional printed materials, e-books, online journals, databases, and a variety of research helps. According to the library website, Thrift Library's collection contains over 72,000 physical volumes, more than 1.8 million ebooks, and approximately 200 electronic research, reference, and subject-specific databases that provide access to countless scholarly journals, periodicals, ebooks, digital images, and audio and video recordings.



Whitney Rice

Whitney Rice, research and instruction librarian, explained that students will come talk about their projects and she will help them find resources.

"We help them find (a resource) if it's here," Rice said. "If it's not here, we help them locate it in another place and get it here."

She said students don't always understand how to fully take

advantage of the resources that are available and that the librarians help to walk them through the process so that the students not only learn for the current project but develop skills for future projects as well.

"Students will come in with a broad topic, and we can help them narrow it down, help them communicate with their professor, and make sure everyone is on the same page," she said.

Kenzie Barnett, research and instruction archivist, is a liaison for history and political science courses taught in the College of Arts and Sciences as well as for art, music, theater and dance in the School of the Arts. She also manages the Anderson University Archive.

She said the archive consists of more than 8,000 items related to the university's history as well as a variety of other topics.



Kenzie Barnett

Barnett said the archive is a great resource for students writing and completing projects in their diverse majors. She said the archive can be especially meaningful for students planning to continue their studies beyond their bachelor's degree.

"Anyone going to grad school will want to have some knowledge of what a working archive is like," Barnett said.

Barnett said she helps students learn how to navigate and use the archive.

"Professors can bring their classes to the library to see the archive, and get hands-on experience understanding the tools offered to them at the library," Barnett said.

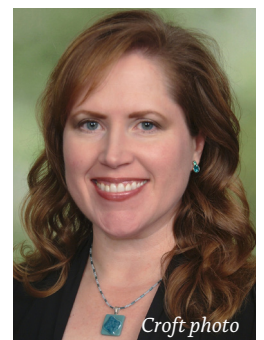
If students are off campus, or the library is closed, they can also receive help online through the library's website.

Under the library's resource pages, tools are categorized by subjects so students can have information curated specifically for them.

Resource pages can be about finding articles, choosing topics for major assignments, getting started with research, and creating citations in their required form.

Library DIY is a specific section on the website that is a, "set of online tutorials that walks everyone through the basic research process," Director of Library Services Melanie Croft explained.

Croft said this section can help students who need help getting started or need to know how to properly format their assignments according to the stylebook used by their discipline.



Melanie Croft



Thrift Library is located in a 53,000-square-foot multipurpose building that houses not only the library's collections but a coffee shop, classrooms, makerspace and various university offices, including that of the university registrar. Students say the librarians help them find materials and understand how to do research properly. (AU photo)

If students do not see specific books or tools they need at the library, they can request them to be shipped to AU, Croft added. She said AU students have access to most university libraries in the state through the PASCAL consortium.

Students also have access to an off-site librarian around the clock through a chat feature made available to help students find resources anytime they are working on projects.

McKenzie Upton, a senior communication major, said she's found the library's resources to be extremely helpful.

"I've used the online communications database on the library website a lot for projects and it's nice to have that availability so I don't have to worry about paying for books and articles," Upton said. She said she also loves how Thrift workers are "always super nice and willing to help if I have any questions."

Biology major Ryan Ireland said he's also benefitted from the library's resources.

"As a biology major, I've had many instances where I've benefited from using the library's online resources -- especially this school year, as I've been getting deeper into research-related studies with my major," Ireland said. "I've used the databases and journal search tabs on the Thrift website to look up primary sources for my assignments. These have been really useful for finding scholarly articles that I am required to use for my research classes."

Professors also receive the librarians' help.

"I've used the resources myself, had the librarians find things for my research projects, (and) taken students on tours," Senior Lecturer of English Katherine Wyma said.

Wyma said she created a scavenger hunt assignment to help students learn more about the library. It had them go to all the various locations inside and take pictures with the resources. This scavenger hunt also included finding the specific library liaisons for different majors and exploring the library website.

Associate Professor of Psychology Jason Neill said he loves the Thrift Library. "I think the resources at the AU library are a treasure trove of information," Neill said. "It is my 'go-to place' to help me find credible, scholarly material."



McKenzie Upton

People studying people

Behavioral Sciences Club educates, inspires students

By Joshua Senter

People studying people might be the best way to describe what Anderson University's Behavioral Sciences Club is all about.

The club, led by students with Assistant Professor of Psychology Susan Doughty as faculty club advisor, helps students to learn about the behavioral sciences outside of the classroom, said Lydia Morgan, the club's event coordinator.

Behavioral science is the study of human behavior and encompasses the disciplines of psychology, sociology, and human development and family studies at AU.

"I think it's a good way to connect with others outside of a class setting," Morgan said, adding that the club also helps students network with professionals.



Rachel Radin

Club President Rachel Radin said the club seeks to put together fun and educational events for about 60 members each academic year.

Frequently these events involve guest speakers or panels of professionals who are invited to speak about their work, said Club Treasurer Madison Hargett.

"We'll have professors and speakers from local counseling offices or outreach places come and talk about

what they do and how that can be a potential career," Radin said.

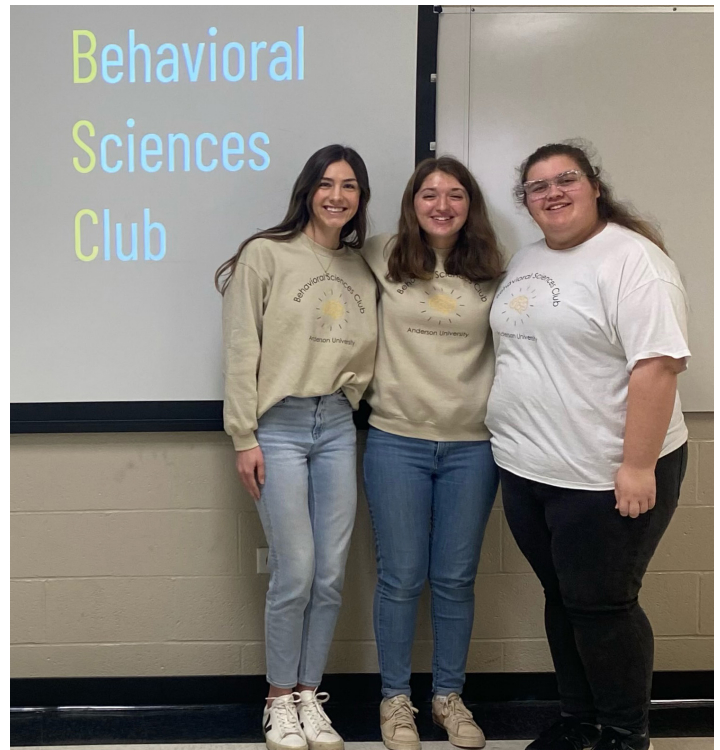
Morgan said the club helps students learn more about the professional application of the behavioral sciences.

"The goals of the club are more than just giving students interesting and new information," Morgan said.

Morgan said helping students find internships and graduate

school programs, and exposing them to professions that match their interests is a high priority for the club leadership. Guest speakers and panels frequently offer guidance by focusing on how students can advance their careers after graduation.

"We do a lot of bringing people in from the commu-



From left to right, Behavioral Sciences Club officers Kaitey Threatt, Madison Hargett, and Lydia Morgan pose in front of the club logo. (Photo courtesy Madison Hargett)

nity and talking about internships and what their job looks like. I think that's a really important thing for behavioral science" Morgan said.

Club member Sarina Fazio said she appreciates the focus on careers.

"I see the Behavioral Sciences Club as a launch pad into a career," Fazio, who is studying clinical psychology, said.

Radin said that while the club is focused on making



Members of Anderson University's Behavioral Sciences Club gather for a planning session. (Photo by Joshua Senter)



Behavioral Sciences Club members show off their work as they learn to make their own Rorschach inkblot tests. (Photo courtesy Behavioral Sciences Club)

events educational, the members also strive to make them fun and keep students engaged.

“You’re meeting people within your major, but still hanging out and having fun,” Radin said.

Some notable events include collaborating to make club apparel and a Valentine’s Day talk given by Doughty on the different types of love. Radin said one of her favorite events was a lecture given by Professor of Psychology Patty Slaughter, on how mental illness is portrayed in films.

Kaitey Threatt, social media manager for the club, said that socializing can be just as important as learning, so some events are focused on connecting and having fun, like holiday parties and movie nights.

“I really like that it is an opportunity for students to engage with each other outside classes,” Doughty said. “I think it’s really important to have a sense of community in your major.”

While the club focuses on the behavioral sciences, there are no restrictions on who can attend. Morgan said all students are encouraged to participate regardless of their major.

The club meets multiple times a month and is free for all students.

“I think that anyone that goes and is going in with the mindset to learn will learn something,” Fazio said.



Club members enjoy a Thanksgiving event. (Photo courtesy Kaitey Threatt)

Learning on the job

Students turn their book smarts into work smarts through internships

By Abby Smith

While classroom learning is important, students in majors across the the College of Arts and Sciences know that building their resumes through practical work experience in internships is also crucial to their educational experience.

Internships enable students to delve into a professional setting prior to graduation, fostering a deeper understanding of their respective fields.

“Internships offer students the opportunity to acquire firsthand experience in a particular industry, establish professional connections, and potentially pave the way for future career opportunities,” said Wendy Smith, director of the Center for Career Development at Anderson University.

Smith advises students who are in internships to seek “opportunities for skill and knowledge enhancement and research past interns’ career paths following their tenure with the organization.”

In doing so, students can grow their understanding of their field and possibly continue working at the company, she said.

Four College of Arts and Science students share their recent internship experiences:

Carolyn Bixby

Carolyn Bixby, a senior double majoring in psychology and human development and family studies, interned at Restoring Hope Counseling in Anderson. Her tasks included scheduling appointments, interacting with clients, and shadowing counselors in counseling sessions.

“The ability to shadow counselors in appointments with clients was formative to my understanding of what branch of counseling I wanted to enter,” said Bixby.

Bixby’s internship allowed her to gain experience in multiple types of counseling, such as marriage and family, children, and mental health counseling. She also grew in her interest in clinical mental health counseling.

“My internship enhanced my understanding of what being a licensed professional counselor, or LPC, looks



Carolyn Bixby

like, and it gave me the confidence to pursue my career.”

She has been accepted into Liberty University’s Master of Arts clinical mental health program, where she will further her education and experience in counseling after she finishes her time at Anderson University.

Bixby said the biggest lesson she learned from her internship is that “asking questions and learning from others in the field is vital to becoming a successful future professional.”

Jessica Rathbone

While internships can help students to learn more about careers fields they desire to enter, internships can also allow students to learn what fields they don’t want to work in.

Jessica Rathbone is a senior biochemistry major who interned at ClubSci Kidz in Tuckahoe, Virginia. Through this experience, she learned how to integrate her knowledge into activities, allowing children to learn about science in interesting and fun ways.

Through her internship, Rathbone also learned that education is not a field she wants to pursue, she said. She said that both her time at Anderson University and interning for ClubSci Kids have shown her that she wants to work in hands-on science.

“Although the internship was fun, education is not for me,” Rathbone said. “I need a career path that requires hands-on activities -- specific ones with dissection techniques, etc.”

Students learning about what jobs they don’t want to do can help to grow their understanding of what they fields they would like to enter into, she said.

“It is important to do internships and shadow career paths that you are interested in,” Rathbone said. “Internships are also important to help you step out of your comfort zone, learn more about yourself, or gain a different perspective on other career paths related to your major.”



Jessica Rathbone



Skylar Bruner, far left, enjoys coffee at Bridge City Cafe in Greenville with her fellow interns and coworkers from Crawford Agency. (Crawford Agency Photo)

Skylar Bruner

Skylar Bruner is a sophomore majoring in political science and public policy with minors in campaigns and elections and public relations.

She was a Public Relations intern at Crawford, a marketing and branding agency in Greenville. Her tasks included conducting research, writing press releases, and attending client meetings, internal meetings, and one-on-one meetings to observe many different aspects of the agency's work.

Bruner said she felt fully prepared to work in the public relations sector from her time at Anderson University.

"From all things public relations to interpersonal skills when communicating with others, I was able to take advantage of all that I learned to continue to learn in the job setting," Bruner said. "I felt prepared by the scenarios, research, presentations, and overall skills that I acquired from my classes at AU."

Bruner said the internship helped to grow her interest in public relations.

"I learned (through my internship) that I want to focus more on public relations than I thought previously," she said. "I loved the communication between the public (and the clients) more than I thought I ever would."



Skylar Bruner

Crawford is an award-winning marketing and branding agency. Craig Tobin, operations manager at Crawford, has helped create the current internship program at the company and worked directly with Bruner during her internship.

"She is unbelievably bright, She's going to go on and change the world," Tobin said.

Bruner's advice to others interested in interning is to: "Step out of your comfort zone. College is the best time to see what the real world of professional life is truly like. Trial and error is the best way to learn."

Gabe Miller

Gabe Miller, a senior communication major with a concentration in digital media who served as the digital communications intern for Concord Baptist Church in Anderson, said he learned to deal with unexpected challenges through his internship.

"It can be tough filming certain people sometimes because it is awkward when you are just sitting there with a camera in people's faces," Miller said in describing an awkward encounter at an event.

He said his internship has given him the opportunity to grow in his storytelling skills.

"I learned that you have to do what is uncomfortable sometimes to tell a story," he said.

Miller's advice is: "Be open-minded. Do not just do an internship because it is a thing you have to do or because it fills out a schedule. I would say find something you are really passionate about and think how you can tell a story through that experience."



Professor of Communication James Duncan assists a student with a coding assignment. Duncan's creation of the iAttended app used by more than 50 universities helps to showcase the importance of coding skills as a valuable tool for communication professionals. (AU Photo)

Byte by byte

Professor's app demonstrates importance of majors in coding

By Reese Tabor

A need to provide a more efficient way to record students' attendance in chapel services has now become a perfect demonstration of the importance of app coding skills in modern communication.

In 2018, Professor of Communication James Duncan was approached by campus ministry leadership for help in developing a better way of quickly and accurately recording attendance by hundreds of students at the campus's weekly chapel services. Anderson University students are required to attend a certain number of services each semester, but the system being used to record attendance was cumbersome and susceptible to error.



James Duncan

The result of Duncan's work was an app called iAttended that allows students to use their phones or tablets to record their attendance by inputting a numerical code or scanning a QR code. The app has proven to be so efficient and useful that it is now used for many large meetings other than chapel on the AU

campus and has been adopted by more than 50 other universities as well.

"Find a headache and fix it," said Duncan, who has more than two decades of coding experience.

Attendance had definitely become a headache for campus ministry staff.

"Originally, staff would scan the ID of the student, and it was up to the staff to record the student's attendance," said Micah Tassy, a student chapel employee. "This method left the system vulnerable to glitches."

As a method to track attendance, whether it be for chapel services, meetings, or events, the app has surpassed Duncan's expectations.

"It is used in ways that I had not originally considered or intended," said Duncan. "It's been rewarding to see its growth."

Duncan encourages students to take advantage of opportunities to learn the valuable skill of app coding.

"Everybody who is making a good living in coding, started out not knowing how to code," Duncan said. "If an old guy like me can do it, anybody can."

The success of the app helps to drive home the importance of coding education, said Professor of Commu-

nication Paige Meeker, who provides leadership for majors in app development and game development.



Paige Meeker

Meeker said she found her own passion for computer science during her formative years, which was catalyzed by a middle school elective that sparked her love for coding.

"I was fascinated", said Meeker. "There are so many opportunities out there for people that can code. You don't ever want to limit yourself."

Meeker is now working to expand the number of coding courses offered at AU and is developing the university's new computer science master's degree.

She is especially keen on helping more women enter the coding discipline and provided leadership for the Carolinas Women in Computing conference held at AU for the first time in March.

"I have found that this field has very few women, and I believe that it is important to nurture the expansion of the field by bringing as many of us together as possible," said Meeker.

She said the conference helped to provide networking between professional women and students.



Attendees at the Carolinas Women in Computing conference hosted at Anderson University in March gather for a group photo. The conference seeks to encourage women to pursue coding and other technology-related careers that tend to have a greater proportion of men than women. Students in attendance received opportunities to network with women already in the field and connect with technology companies. (AU Photo)



Professor of Communication Paige Meeker, right, participates in a panel discussion at the Carolinas Women in Computing conference at Anderson University in March. Meeker, who provides leadership for AU's majors in app development and game development, says she is passionate about helping students find job opportunities in the coding field. (AU Photo)

Student history journal earns national award

By Avery Torok

Res Historica, Anderson University's student-led history journal, published its third volume in April.

The journal began in 2022 and has seen a steady increase in student contributing authors. The journal includes historical essays submitted by Anderson students of all disciplines. Res Historica is also the project of an internship class that sees students serving in positions on the editorial team.

The journal's second issue earned a second place national journal award through the Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society. According to its website, Phi Alpha Theta seeks to "promote the study of history through encouraging research, good teaching, publication, and the exchange of learning and ideas among historians."

Associate Professor of History Lynne Renberg advises the Alpha-Rho-Epsilon chapter of Phi Alpha Theta at AU. Renberg came to Anderson University in 2018 and said she wanted to create an experience for students similar to what she had as a student at Oklahoma Christian University as an undergraduate.



Lynne Renberg

Renberg said that as she completed her undergraduate degree, contributing to a school journal was "one of the most valuable things that I was able to do as a student to prepare for entering into a career."

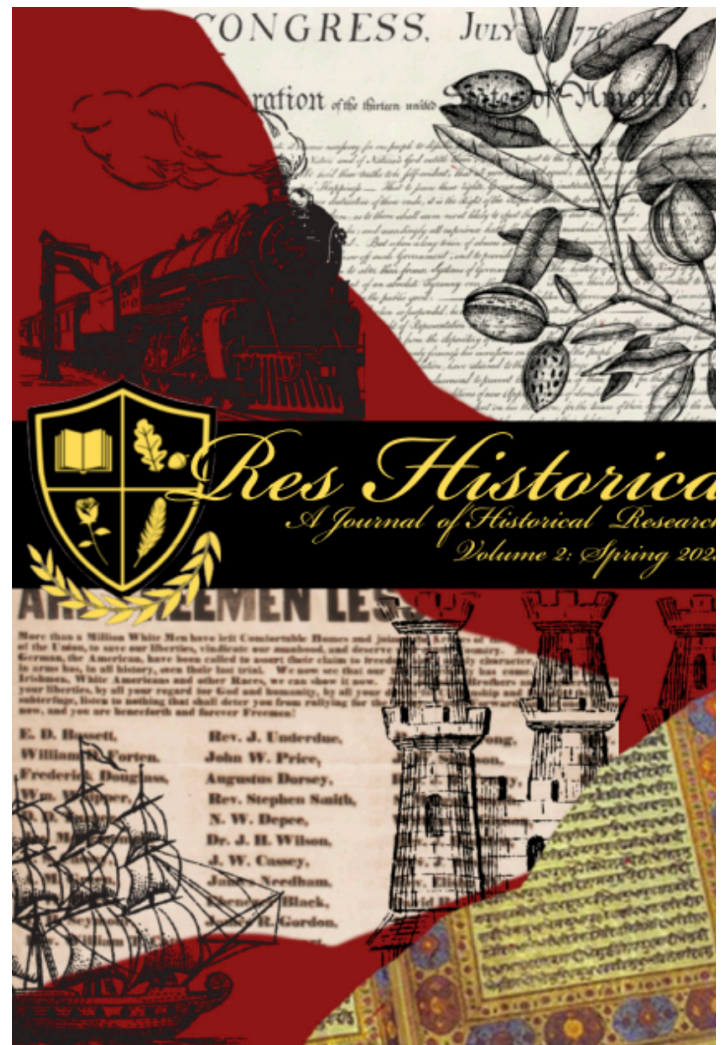
Renberg said she intends to consistently submit Res Historica to the national competition as an avenue for Anderson students to gain a strong reputation and to obtain funding for future volumes.

Jonathan Sorce, a senior creative writing and history double major, served as senior editor for the second and third issue. He said he first got involved after Renberg encouraged him to contribute his research to the 2021 volume of the journal. For the award-winning second issue, he submitted an analysis on the Norman conquest of southern Italy in the 11th century as well as its successes, longevity, and politics in the region.



Jonathan Sorce

He said he desires for his work to be impactful and



Res Historica's second issue received national honors through the Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society. It featured 15 student authors and more than 200 pages. The third volume of the history journal was released in April. (Res Historica image)

Res Historica helps him achieve that goal.

Working on the journal has expanded his skillset as he prepares for the editorial field, Sorce said.

Res Historica "has been helpful in expanding my skills because the editorial field is something I'm interested in going into in the future; that's not something that you get a lot of experience with as an undergraduate student in a class," Sorce said. "This provided an opportunity to do that, to work with authors, to be very involved in that outside of a class, and to learn valuable skills."

Samuel Sanders, junior editor of Res Historica and a junior history and secondary social studies educa-



Members of the Res Historica team that produced the second volume of the historical journal show off their newly-printed copies. The volume received a second place award in the undergraduate journals category from the Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society. (AU Photo)

tion major, joined the team in spring 2023 after being encouraged to contribute by Renberg.

“If you are thinking about submitting, you think your paper is good, but you are unsure if you want to submit it or not, just submit it. Go for it,” said Sanders. He said all submissions are reviewed thoroughly by an editorial team that will offer suggestions to improve the piece. Sanders also suggested that all students should read Res Historica because it covers a variety of topics that students may be interested in and can encourage them to contribute to the magazine in the future.

Sorce said his first publication was a book review on “Global Awakening: How 20th-Century Revivals Triggered a Christian Revolution” by Mark Shaw, a thesis on global Christian revivals.

He also submitted a paper on the investiture controversy between the German King Henry IV and Pope Gregory VII during the 11th century. Sorce also submitted his senior thesis on coups in the Byzantine Empire and a paper on an analysis of Kokutai No Hongi, which is about the philosophy and political doctrine of imperial Japan.

Sanders’ said his published paper in Res Historica’s second edition was based on a biography by Voltaire on Charles XII of Sweden. He said he wrote an analysis on King Charles XII of Sweden and Czar Peter the Great of Russia, comparing and contrasting early modern kings’ roles and qualities that make an effective king.



Renberg said she encourages students of all majors and disciplines to submit papers to the journal to garner outside perspectives.

“One of my favorite parts about editing Res Historica is getting to read widely on what I would never otherwise be able to look into and to learn from our students,” said Renberg. “As a scholar, I like learning widely and broadly.”



All volumes of Res Historica are available for purchase through blurb.com.

Passport to immersive learning

AU Abroad makes the world the classroom

By Caitlyn Wilde

From Germany and Switzerland to Greece and Spain, College of Arts and Sciences students traveled the globe for on-site learning through AU Abroad courses this spring.

Coordinated through Anderson University's Center for Global Engagement, the CAS class trips were the highlight of semester-long courses designed to create diverse learning opportunities for students.

The "Printers and Protestants: A History of the Printing Press and the Reformation" class took 14 students on a trip to Germany and Switzerland.

Professor of Communication James Duncan was the lead faculty member with Associate Professor of History Lindsay Privette as the travel assistant. The two escorted the class on a 12-day trip to visit key places in the history of printing and the Protestant Reformation, with emphasis on Johannes Gutenberg, Martin Luther, and John Calvin.

"I've taken the trip four times, I've been five times, so most of the places I've seen before," Duncan said. "So they ask 'what is your favorite moment of the trip?' and truthfully, my favorite moment was seeing them (the students), see things for the first time."

Gutenberg, a German inventor and printer in the 14th-century, created the first movable type printing press, which allowed for books to become more

widely accessible. Luther, a German theologian in the 16th-century, became the catalyst for the Protestant Reformation. Calvin, a French theologian and statesman, was the catalyst of the theological tradition now known as Calvinism.

"We're a Baptist university. Without the Reformation, we wouldn't even exist," explained Duncan. "As Christian educators, as Christian learners, it's all fundamental. The Christianity that we practice and the learning that we do, all derive from those characters, Gutenberg and Luther."

The important history was not lost on the students.

"Five hundred and seven years after these world-changing events occurred, it was breathtaking to stand on the ground in which these reformers proudly declared their devotion to God," Communication major Sullivan Black said. "As believers, we have been blessed by the reformers and their studying of the Word."

While Duncan and Privette led the class to Germany and Switzerland, Assistant Professor of History Ryan Butler was the lead faculty for a Greece AU Abroad trip.

Associate Professor of Art History Candace Livingston was the travel assistant for the "AU in Greece: Footsteps of Paul and the Early Christian Movement"



Students from the "Printers and Protestants" class, led by James Duncan, take a selfie with an Anderson University pennant in Wittenburg, Germany. The students were in Germany as part of an AU Abroad course called "From Printers to Protestants." (Photo courtesy James Duncan)



Evan Ronan poses in front of the Parthenon in Athens, during the “Footsteps of Paul and the Early Christian Movement” class trip to Greece. (Photo courtesy Evan Ronan)

class that visited Athens and the ruins of the ancient city of Philippi and Corinth.

Sixteen students were able to explore the land, culture, and history of ancient Greece during the time of Paul. They were able to visit the ministry sites of Paul, the early churches, and could follow the initial spread of the Christian message through each location, said Evan Ronan, a communication major with a concentration in digital media.



Ann Themistocleous

“This trip in particular not only widened my perspective on the Christian faith, but it also gave me a deeper appreciation for ancient church history,” Ronan said. “Standing in those places also helped me to realize just how revolutionary the Christian message was when it was introduced all those centuries ago.”

The Anderson University Center for Global Engagement provides students full semester, summer, and short-term study abroad programs in over 30 different countries, said Ann-Margaret Themistocleous, who directs the program.

Themistocleous said locations vary based on student needs and interests. Seville, Spain is currently being offered as a summer abroad destination to help students finish their Spanish major or minor.



Sullivan Black smiles in front of the Wartburg Castle in Eisenach, Germany. He was part of the AU Abroad class that visited Germany and Switzerland during Spring Break this year. (Photo courtesy Sullivan Black)

“We live in a global economy and a study abroad experience has been proven to help students stand out from the crowd when applying for jobs,” said Themistocleous. “It shows you have a great deal of maturity, responsibility, and resiliency when you have studied abroad. In addition, you learn cultural competency by engaging with a new culture.”

SYNTHESIS

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Communication major Joshua Senter uses protective glasses to view a solar eclipse from the front of Watkins Hall on April 8, 2024. A total solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the sun and our planet, blocking the sun, and darkening the sky. It was the longest total eclipse over land in more than a decade. Although Anderson was not quite in the path to achieve total darkness, the eclipse was still a spectacle. (Photo by Bobby Rettew)