CONTENTS

03 COVID CONTINUUM
Attending University online was definitely not on our list of expected experiences for our college days, but here are some ideas to make the best of it.
~With Jenevieve Lettsome

05 WASHINGTON
Travel and tourism in DC are especially popular, but as busy schedules and social distancing are a normality in our lives, the Journal presents a view of the Capital, right from our pages.
~With Jenevieve Lettsome

06 SO NEAR & YET SO FAR
The iconic phrase from the beloved children’s 1991 film “The Tale of Peter Rabbit” perfectly encapsulates this semester’s sentiments.
~With Max Orlanne Pierre and Anna Karla Carreno

09 20/20 VISION
Join the Journal and go on a journey, seeing the world through spiritual eyes.
~With Jenevieve Lettsome

10 CALENDAR
Keeping up with the times is hard enough as it feels like both 100 years or only 3 seconds have passed us by since everything began.

From the Editor

*I am and was raised Jewish and Christian, so I got to celebrate two holidays during the winter month of December. December also means that my father’s birthday comes to be celebrated as well. And much like my busy month, we have all just come out of a busy semester. For me, the end of the semester means that I’ve made it this far, and that I can keep going, even after juries, 4 exams, and 5 projects. Centuries ago, my ancestors fought to keep their heritage alive and allowed for Israel to flourish as a people, and this of course led to the birth of Jesus. Each year, we celebrate the festival of lights or as it’s more commonly known, Hanukkah. This year, it reminds me of how God has kept us safe throughout 2020 and how He continues to work miracles every day. And as I look forward to Christmas like many of you, it is yet another day to remember another miracle. We have made it through to the end of the semester, and certainly are not the same people from when we started. We are a little older, a little wiser, but we fight each and every day to keep our heads in the game so we can flourish as people. As we go through the winter holidays, may we also remember to celebrate ourselves, our fight, and the miracle of finishing that God brought us through.

Happy Holidays!

-Jenna
As the school year progresses, Washington Adventist University celebrates the first time that all four class standings have completely filled officer positions. This comes after a series of successful class meetings that happened earlier this semester and resulted in a full nominated roster of individuals that were voted in and confirmed during the last convocation of October.

The swearing in ceremony, despite being held virtually on Zoom, was well attended and the entire campus as well as a few supporting family members had the opportunity to witness history and a memorable event.

The Columbia Journal offers their congratulations to the Class Officers of 2020-2021.

### 2020-21 Class Officers

WAU celebrates first time that all Class Officer positions are filled

Jenevieve Lettsome

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### Freshmen

President – Daniel Scott
Vice President – Christina Hatziyannis
Secretary – Naomi Davis
Treasurer – Angelica Sterling
Pastor – Ajeya Watson

### Sophomores

President – Rachel Onongha
Vice President – Mandisa Bobb
Secretary – Rachel Canong
Treasurer – Andre Benjamin
Pastor – Abbie Charles

### Juniors

President – Erin Greenlaw
Vice President – Jenevieve Lettsome
Secretary – Sofya-Albina Puyul
Treasurer – Anna-Karla Carreño
Pastor – Gabriel Moraes

### Seniors

President – Sihle Sharrief-Hayward
Vice President – Sherwin Simpson
Secretary – Kedon George
Treasurer – Cassandra Esquibel
Pastor – Javel Walcott
Ring in the holidays and the end of the Fall 2020 semester with a Christmas celebration brought to you by the New England Youth Ensemble, the Washington Concert Winds, the Columbia Collegiate Chorale, and Pro Musica. This year’s Annual Christmas will be a virtual concert – Among the works presented will be Vivaldi’s Gloria, Handel’s Music for the Royal Fireworks, and traditional sacred Christmas favorites! Join us this Friday, December 18, 2020 at 7pm.

WATCH ON: Sligo Church’s Live Stream: https://media.sligochurch.org/
Christmas in America's Capitol is usually a very festive and busy event. Due to the COVID pandemic, Washington DC isn't as packed as it usually is around the holidays. Still, that doesn't stop DC from being perfectly decorated and lit just as it is every December.

Every year, a different National forest is selected to provide a tree to appear on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol building for the holiday season. The 2020 Tree comes from Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National forests in Colorado.

On December 2, 2020, Speaker of the House Pelosi lit up the tree that was heavily decorated with ornaments from all over the country.
That’s Christmas To Me

Usually, as the end of the school semester approaches, students are packing up, hugging friends and teachers goodbye as they prepare for the drive or flight home, but this year, all we got was a quick goodbye as we clicked "leave" on the Zoom screen. So, to bring Christmas chatter to you, we asked a few students what traditions they enjoy.

I spend my Christmas with my Ethiopian family. We usually stay here in Maryland, and we eat food like kitfo.
- Misrak Demessew (Biochemistry 22’)

We like to look at Christmas lights usually, but this year, my brother is getting married in Michigan so that's what I'm doing for my Christmas.
- Jefferson McCain (History 21’)

Decorating a Christmas tree is a must, along with chilling by the fireplace and drinking a lot of hot chocolate. I pray for snow and if it falls, I get to go snowboarding... I mainly like doing activities to reconnect with family, getting a restart for the following semester.
- Ava Abtahi (Biology/Pre-med/Honors 23’)

Usually my whole family goes over to my house or one of my aunt's houses on Christmas Eve. Then on Christmas day, we open presents in the morning and then my grandma and a few other friends and family come over for dinner.
- Erin Greenlaw (Pre-Physical Therapy 22’)

That’s Christmas To Me
We celebrate Christmas like everyone else, but it’s really all about the food for me: Hallacas, asado negro, chicken salad, jam bread, fruit cake, and sometimes turkey. We always celebrate with a lot of fireworks. In Venezuela, we used to have a fireworks competition at my grandma’s house with other guys from another corner; it was crazy.
-Abner Marquez (Political Science/Music 23’)

I spend my holidays with my family some days and other days alone. I like to have somedays just being lazy but other days spending time with my family. I like to watch Christmas movies with my siblings and enjoy the holiday spirit.
-MacKenzee Smith (English 22’)

I usually celebrate with my dad’s family in Maryland. We get together on the 24th and we sing songs until our voices are hoarse, and then the kids open presents.
-Anna Karla Carreno (Music/English 22’)

For Christmas break I take part in a toy and clothing drive for homeless children, I practice my Korean, and spend time with my family cooking and watching movies.
-Anascasia Palmer (Counseling Psychology 23’)

Christmas is the time where I get to be with my family. I also celebrate Hanukkah and besides the amazing meals, the communication and spiritual moments that God provides me, are just another way to be with Him, and at the end of the day, it’s all about being thankful!
-Felipe Cioni (Theology 23’)

We celebrate on the 24th till like 3 am with family, with good food, music, dancing, and karaoke. Everyone opens presents at midnight.
-Jasmine Colato (Psychology 22’)

During the holidays, I like to relax after the semester has finally ended. I like to crochet and watch movies. For New Years Eve, my family and culture have a tradition of making a specific dish for Eve and the New Year as January 1st is our Independence Day. We relax, eat together, and celebrate our history both as a family and as a group of proud Haitians.
-Max Orlanne Pierre (English 22’)

SO NEAR...... CONT.
They were minding their own business, dealing with their own problems, and watching sheep, goats, or whatever was out there on that field. There was probably a fire started as evening set in to make sure no one would get too uncomfortable.

And just as they'd settled, it happened.

The sky lit up, brighter than day had ever looked, and it erupted in the most beautiful and terrifying display of lights, terrifying the simple men who normally would have scattered to collect their possibly scared flock, but this time, they were afraid.

I wonder how many times the angels had tell them to not be afraid. I wonder how many times they struggled to stay calm enough to listen to what message these celestial beings had come to say.

But on the other hand, after all the wonder and excitement of the night, I wonder how they felt to know that God had chosen them, lowly shepherds, to visit His plan for salvation on earth.

God has protected us, all of us through this turbulent time, and we, like the shepherds, now in a cold season are stuck in a state of isolation, from each other, from our families, and we're trying to build fires just to get warm. We've maybe heard the angels telling us repeatedly, "do not be afraid" and "fear not", and yet we all sit in our rooms, shaking and waiting for the fear to pass.

But know, as we bring in the holiday season, during a time where life certainly isn't as merry, as we stay isolated in the fields, away from the years of warmth we used to enjoy, let us see in our hearts the hope and happiness of God's truth: A savior was born, he IS Christ, the Lord.
DECEMBER
12.18 Winter Break Begins
12.24 Christmas Eve
12.25 Christmas Day
12.31 New Years Eve

Heading to Campus???
Be sure to fill out the COVID-19 questionnaire before you do! Thank you for keeping our campus and community safe!

Stay Connected! Use some of these hashtags or tag the school in your covid school experience updates

#thisiswau
#wauhonors
@waustudentassociation
@thisiswau
#wauhonorscollege

Helpful Phone Numbers:
WAU front Desk: 301–891–4000
WAU Security: 301–891–4019

Need to know what’s happening? Text WAUAlerts to 888–777

The Mission of the Student Association is to establish a culture of engagement and unity on the campus of Washington Adventist University.