UNLIKELY ROOMMATES: Marissa Cisneros and Sophia Rolph

AU juniors Marissa Cisneros (right) and Sophia Rolph (left) could not be more opposite, yet they share the same love of attending AU.

/// MARIA NEATHERY

Describe each other's personalities?

SOPHIA: "I would say Marissa is a very loud, outgoing person who loves to win others over with her personality."

MARISSA: "Sophia is a major sweetheart and is sensitive, soft-spoken, and reserved."

How did you decide to room together for your sophomore year?

SOPHIA: "It seemed obvious out of our friend group because we would be the only ones staying up late, having life talks together."

MARISSA: "I would definitely say we are different, but we really bonded our freshman year."

Individual involvement on campus?

SOPHIA: "I'm the Student Peace Initiative student coordinator on campus, and I work at a food pantry every Tuesday."

MARISSA: "I try to go to everything, like all the CAB events. I am also a part of College Mentors for Kids."

Favorite activities?

SOPHIA: "My favorite activities include photography, being involved with church, and hanging without friends."

MARISSA: "Hanging out with friends, I am a Netflix addict, and I like to do bold, exciting things."

What's one thing that you love about the other?

SOPHIA: "I love how real she is. She tells it how it is and doesn't sugar coat anything."

MARISSA: "My favorite thing about Soph is that she is a very passionate person. She is super loving."

What is it like rooming together?

SOPHIA: "We both have busy schedules, so we are not always together; therefore, we are able to avoid fighting or having disagreements."

MARISSA: "Sophia is a very chill, relaxed person."

Who is the messy/clean one?

SOPHIA: "We are both messy people!"

Favorite thing about AU?

SOPHIA: "I have learned so much from the professors here."

MARISSA: "I love the people here and the community of AU is so loving."

What's a weird quirk or habit that you notice about your roommate?

SOPHIA: "She will often get back late and not change into her pajamas. She will not even take her shoes off to go to bed!"

MARISSA: "Our beds are mid-lofted, and Soph will always try to jump on her bed from the floor."

News

ACROSS *the* VALLEY

Back on Schedule

After hiatus, golf and tennis teams look forward to new seasons

/// WES DAVIDSON AND KYLIE OSBORNE

Every school year comes with new challenges, opportunities, and possibilities. This certainly will be the case for the 2018-19 school year for Bryant Beard and Jeff Brunnemer, coaches of the Anderson University tennis and golf teams. The two programs are back at Anderson University after being cut for one year.

The news that golf and tennis would be removed from AU's athletic program devastated the men's and women's teams. Mandy Meserve, a member of the women's tennis team, recalled, "We found out before our season was even over, and it really affected how we played in conference."

Brodie Hough, captain of the men's golf team, reported a similar reaction. "The team was absolutely crushed. Every single player took it hard and we all reacted differently, but for me personally, I was heartbroken."

When Brunnemer learned the golf teams were reinstated, he began to plan for next season right away. "I immediately started contacting recruits who had contacted me," he said.

Beard was ready to get back in the game as well. "I was elated for our returning players but I quickly shifted my focus to what we could do differently. We have a very good opportunity in front of us to not only continue the stories that our tennis alumni have made before us, but to reshape and redefine what this tennis program looks," he explained.

In a strange way, Beard says that the year off prepared the team well. Without teams to coach this year, he focused on preparation and recruitment. "Our returning athletes have really stepped up their leadership and welcomed this challenge. They deserve a lot of credit for their attitudes."

Brunnemer has great things to say about his players and the possibilities that the upcoming season holds. "I have high expectations and I hope we will adjust well to the one-year absence."

Must Reads

The next book idea for your reading list

/// TYLER BRADSHAW

Looking for a good book to read? It's no surprise that a university is full of readers, but we thought we'd ask the faculty in the English Department what have been some of their favorite books over the years. Here is what they told us.

Dr. Scott Borders

Remains of the Day

By Kazuo Ishiguro

Remains of the Day offers a portrayal of a dutiful English butler, Mr. Stevens, who invested his life in his profession by serving in a great house. He comes to a late point in his career only to realize that it has consumed him, leaving him without a personal life. The first-person narrative details the butler's slowly developing awareness of the cost of his choices.

Prof. Deborah Fox

All the Light We Cannot See

By Anthony Doerr

"This novel earned Doerr a Pulitzer Prize. I recommend this book because it is an example of literary storytelling at its very best," explains Fox. It tells the story of two teenagers during World War II — one a blind girl in Nazi-occupied France and the other a German orphan boy pressed into service by the Nazi army.

Dr. Elizabeth Imafuji

Little Fires Everywhere

By Celeste Ng

This novel takes place in a quiet Midwestern suburb suddenly gripped by a controversy. A well-to-do white family has adopted an Asian-American baby, but the impoverished birth mother wants the baby back. The town takes sides, with households divided in their loyalties.

Dr. Jason Parks

Juvenescence

By Robert Pogue Harrison

"I chose *Juvenescence* because it offers a thoughtful, contemporary perspective on the age-old question of the role of genius versus wisdom in society. Harrison is a professor of comparative literature and a strong advocate of the role of the humanities in higher education," says Parks.

Prof. Peter Elliot

The Devil in the White City

By Erik Larson

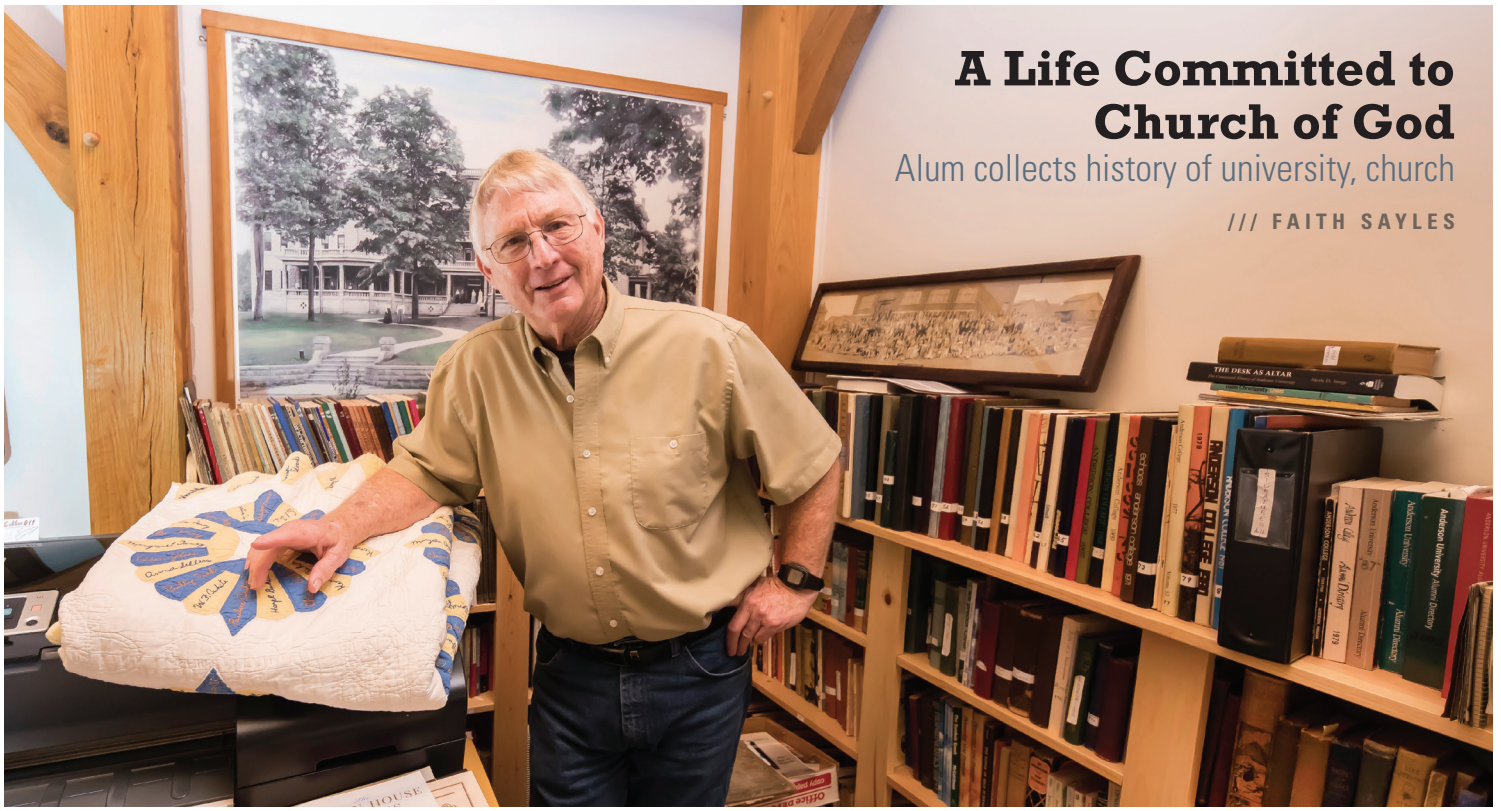
This book is an engrossing read about the mystery surrounding America's first well-known serial killer interwoven with the wonder of the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago. "I grew up in the Chicago area and found it fascinating to hear how the city was described at a time when electricity was a novelty and travel by anything other than horse and buggy was unheard of," says Elliot. "Larson does an excellent job of explaining how the fair, particularly when illuminated at night, created an iridescence that was unfathomable at the time. Set against this fantastical backdrop is the savagery of H.H. Holmes."

Dr. Kevin Radaker

Books for Living: Some Thoughts on Reading, Reflecting, and Embracing Life

By Will Schwalbe

In this collection of essays on the joy of reading, Schwalbe ponders a particular book in each chapter and considers how it relates to concerns we all share. The books span centuries and genres. "I highly recommend it, especially if you read it slowly, savoring each chapter one at a time," says Radaker.



A Life Committed to Church of God

Alum collects history of university, church

/// FAITH SAYLES

Dale Stultz
BA 1965

Dale Stultz BA '65 was born into the Church of God, and as an adult, he has devoted many years to preserving the legacies of people within the Church of God. After 15 years, Stultz continues to serve as the vice president for the Church of God Historical Society. He has worked on several projects for the Historical Society including the books *Old Main,* which details the history of the building that once housed nearly every aspect of the Anderson University campus, and *The Gospel Trumpet Years,* which covers the history of the Church of God. *Anderson University Roots: The Workers Home Years, 1906-1918* is a movie, available on YouTube, that Stultz helped create for the Church of God Historical Society. As one of his newest personal projects, Stultz has started compiling his own history and involvement with the Church of God.

Stultz's family has been active in the Church of God movement for more than 100 years. He can trace their activity in the church as far back as his mother's birth in 1907. From childhood to today, Stultz has attended 6 different Churches of God with his family, and recently, these six congregations have become the focus of his research.

As for his connection to Anderson University, Stultz was not planning to attend college. His brother's friend convinced him to stay in Anderson and work for the *Gospel Trumpet,* so he applied and started working for the publication. He was persuaded to take an evening art class and play in the band so he could attend ball games for free. Though he originally took the classes for fun and not meaning to attain a degree, some friends helped him pass the GED so that he could attend Anderson College. He graduated with a degree in art education and went on to earn a master's degree from Ball State University.

One of Stultz's goals in studying the history of the Church of God is to help people see how things used to be — churches, people, and the university. He enjoys discovering Church of God people who have been forgotten. He wants to tell the stories of these forgotten people, people whose life stories continue to have something important to say to us today.

Providing hope

Seminary alum shares her story for his glory

/// LINDSEY HRINOWICH

Emily Shanahan
MACM 2017

After her future professor literally opened the door to invite her to Anderson University, **Emily Shanahan MACM '17** was inspired to create a lasting legacy for people similar to her.

Shanahan came to the Anderson University School of Theology and Christian Ministry at the end of her rope; she was struggling to find a school that could accommodate her nonprofit dreams. When she was offered a specialized graduate opportunity, it paved the way for her to establish Empowering the Differently Enabled.

This nonprofit organization showcases individual's spiritual experiences through speaking engagements and written word. Shanahan often speaks on college campuses and closes large events to highlight what God has done in her life.

"I like to ask people, what's your story for his glory? Everyone has struggles and things they need to overcome. You never know what struggles you share," says Shanahan.

Empowering the Differently Enabled has four cornerstones. The first, naturally is to offer speaking and writing opportunities for members to share their stories. Secondly, volunteers will work with a client to create a "roadmap to hope." This comes from a personal achievement counsel in order to support them medically, socially, and spiritually. Third, their facility will have an equipment showroom to offer clients insight into what kind of resources are available to them. The fourth and final cornerstone is called Harriets Hospitality House — an opportunity for an alternative living situation offered to selected clients looking for assistance.

Her upcoming blog is going to be a welcoming space that offers a platform for stories to be told. It will begin with Shanahan's personal anecdotes and move on to feature her friends and clients. Although she is filling her plate quite high, blogging isn't the only place her writing is going to be available to the public.

Shanahan is in the process of writing her first novel. It's inspired by her passion for learning from her own trials and her decision to make a positive impact while here on earth.

AU grad thrives in entertainment industry

Stafford is living out his dreams on stage

/// LINDSEY HRINOWICH

Luke Stafford
BA 2016

Since graduating Anderson University, **Luke Stafford BA '16** has quickly risen to stardom.

Earlier this year, Stafford wrapped up his Broadway debut in the show *Home for the Holidays.* The performance featured Josh Kaufman, Candice Glover, and Bianca Ryan, and was hosted by The *Bachelorette's* Kaitlin Bristowe. It ran for seven weeks and served as a Christmas production during the holiday season. Stafford was the youngest person cast in the show and the freshest in the profession.

"I can't tell you how much I learned. How much growth I've been able to find and, even then, I've been finding out how much there still is to learn," says Stafford.

Being that this was his first time on a stage of that magnitude, Stafford found that his peers were able to teach him how to succeed in the industry. After receiving a featured solo on his coveted saxophone, he was able to understand how much work it truly takes to become a household name. He mentions that the standout reason he has been able to endure the hills and valleys has been his faith.

> **"YOU CAN'T QUIT,** and you've got to rely on your faith," says Stafford

"You can't quit, and you've got to rely on your faith," says Stafford.

It is no secret that the entertainment business is cutthroat, and his education at Anderson University adequately prepared him for it. The university's core values played a key role in how he continues to become a business professional and man of God. Specifically, he learned from his years at Anderson how desperately people need to have solid relationships. Being able to connect with one another and understand his colleagues on a deeper level is essential for Stafford.

"Before I go out anywhere, I seek out alumni and relationships. AU taught me so well how to build those relationships," says Stafford.

A key reason his career has taken off has been due to the work of the AU Alumni Office. Stafford raves about how the staff has helped open doors for him that would not have been possible without their help. He has made appearances from the west to east coasts; each time he has looked for direction from the alumni office to guide him toward life-changing opportunities.

A global business

Alum uses education to run online business

/// FAITH MIDDLETON

Eva Tan
BA 2012

Eva Tan BA '12 has used her education to become an entrepreneur in Fishers, Ind. After graduating from AU with a degree in math and finance, she earned her MBA at Northwestern University. She started her jewelry company, Rosa Vila, three years ago while also working full-time in corporate finance and strategy. Hailing from Beijing, China, Tan values her education, saying it helped to jump-start her career.

"The finance classes at AU helped on a foundational level as well as from a mathematics perspective, which really expanded my way of thinking," says Tan.

Tan also appreciated her global business class. "It introduced me to how connected we are as a globe. I always look for ways I can get into the international business side because I know that it's the future of any business."

As the founder and CEO of Rosa Vila, Tan's schedule is "flexible," but she says that being an entrepreneur also requires discipline to "make sure that you are on the trajectory for financial success."

"Given this flexible schedule, I am able to make a lot of progress because I can prioritize based on what I think is important and needed for the business," Tan says. "You have to decide what is urgent and what is just a distraction, and it requires reflection and discipline to figure that out."

Tan also wants the company to grow into a socially impactful business.

"Not only can we give value to our customers by offering unique, great designs that inspire people, but I think we can also channel our profits into something that as a company, as a founder, as a team, we see as important," Tan says. "I think that Rosa Vila could be a catalyst in the jewelry industry to really push people to think about more sustainable ways of running a business, rather than just taking from the market."

"I THINK THAT Rosa Vila could be a catalyst in the jewelry industry to really push people to think about more sustainable ways of running a business, rather than just taking from the market,'' says Tan.