

FOCUS

SUMMER 2017

Vol 53 No 3

PG 9—2017–18 Howard Season

PG 11—NSF Grant Awarded

PG 18—Meet Michael Nixon

PG 24—Strategic Plan Unveiled

THE ANDREWS UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



The Andrews Reach

Andrea Luxton, *president*

Each time our Cabinet team meets we start by looking at Scripture. Last year we focused on the gospel of John. This year we are reading and reflecting on the book of Acts. Last week was the beginning, Acts 1, with its focus on change, transitions and yet hope. And right there in Acts 1:8 is that powerful promise: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

I reflected on that promise and challenge during the August graduation weekend that immediately followed our Cabinet conversation. As I walked around, greeted and congratulated various graduates and their families it was humbling to remember how much Andrews University does reach out to the ends of the earth. In addition to the students that study on the Andrews University main campus, 20 percent of whom are from countries other than the U.S., we have students regularly studying with us in their own countries, or in other nearby countries. Some study online, some study in cohorts taught by our faculty, some study with faculty from their countries approved by Andrews. But they are all very much Andrews students. So I shook hands with individuals who had never been on our physical campus before but were graduating with our degree, and how excited they were. I remember personally meeting individuals from Kenya, Vietnam, Ecuador, Trinidad and Italy to name a few. I met others from across the U.S., including Hawaii, that felt part of "us," impacted by the Andrews experience, yet the impact had been from a distance.

Reports from our Integrated Marketing & Communication team confirmed the

reach I experienced. 9,600 individuals tuned in to watch all or part of the Sunday graduation service nationally and internationally and many were sending online messages when their family member or friend walked across the stage.

I said this reach was humbling. It is. We have a God-given responsibility to live the gospel, to represent the gospel and the Seventh-day Adventist message throughout Berrien County, and in all Michigan and North America, and to the ends of the earth. We should not, and I believe do not, take that mission lightly. This reach is also exciting, for just as with Acts there is a promise along with the challenge. That is the promise of the wisdom and the power and the strength to be those witnesses as we ask for those gifts.

So we ask for your prayers too. Andrews University has a unique role in relation to the world and the church. It can reach to the ends of the earth. Yes, we educate. We educate and must educate well. Yet we do so in the context of the gospel and of that gospel we always bear witness.

Thank you.



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18

Check out
the new VP



28

In the family



Departments

On the cover: Michael T. Nixon, vice president for Diversity & Inclusion, chats with new friends after the 2017 University Convocation on August 31. **Left to right:** Garrison Hayes, MDiv student, Jessica Yoong, AUSA president, Adriana Perera, Department of Music chair, Renee Paddock, residence hall housing coordinator, Michael Nixon. **Photo credit:** Darren Heslop, IMC staff photographer

- 2 President's Desk
- 4 Preamble
- 5 Social Media
- 6 Campus Update
- 9 Howard Happenings
- 10 Faculty & Staff
- 27 Alumni Calendar
- 30 Alumni News
- 31 Class Notes
- 32 Life Stories
- 34 My Testimony

Features

16 2017 Alumni Homecoming

This year's schedule includes events celebrating the 50-year anniversary of the Madaba Plains Project. 2017 Honored Alumni are: Christon Arthur, Larry Herr, Fred Manchur, Walter Thompson and Carrie VanDenburgh.

18 Connecting, Empowering

Deborah Weithers, dean for Student Life and Title IX deputy coordinator, interviewed Andrews University's first vice president for Diversity & Inclusion, Michael T. Nixon, who started his new role on August 1.

24 The Next Chapter

by **Andrea Luxton**

In the next five issues of FOCUS we will feature a "chapter" from the 2017–2022 strategic plan which was formally unveiled at the State of the University address on August 18.

28 Andrews Legacy

The Alumni Association celebrates the legacy connection by taking photos of the students and/or families during new student orientation.



FOCUS | Spring 2017



Visit Andrews University's YouTube page to view recent events, including summer graduation services and University Convocation.

Preamble

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the very nice piece on Alan Mitchell's retirement from his position as a professor in the Department of Music and conductor of the Andrews University Wind Symphony in the spring 2017, FOCUS. Although I never had the opportunity to perform with the Wind Symphony as a student, I have had the privilege of participating in the Wind Symphony as a community member for the past eight academic years and of touring with them to Germany, Spain and Italy.

During all that time, and on all those tours, I was constantly impressed with his musicianship, conducting skill, and his unfailing patience and courtesy toward his student musicians, all a testament to his commitment to musical excellence and to the welfare of his students.

Again, my thanks for a very nice tribute to a fine musician/teacher, and a good man.

Bruce R. Wright (EdD '84)



Don't forget to write

Letters are always welcome.

To ensure a range of viewpoints, we encourage letters of fewer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for content, style and space.

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Andrews University is partnering with PCI, a Texas company, an industry leader in production and publishing of alumni directories. Accordingly, you may receive a request to update your information by calling PCI or submitting your information online. Please take a few minutes to respond. This process is

critical to Andrews University and our ability to serve you, our alums. If you would like to learn more about this project, please visit our informational page by going to alumni.andrews.edu/2017directory. Thank you for your participation in this important project.



JULY 17
(Madagascar)

andrews_university Faculty and students spend time during the summer around the world, learning on-site and hands-on to dive deeper into their field of study. #aedu



AUGUST 3

andrews_university Shoutout to our groundskeepers who keep our arboretum pristine. "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." #aedu



AUGUST 9

andrews_university We're going LIVE at the clinic container in just a few minutes! Head on over to our Facebook page and join us! #aedu #auengageglobally



AUGUST 21

andrews_university Don't have eclipse viewing glasses? Improvise! #eclipse2017 #aedu #plantservicesforthewin

INSTAGRAM
andrews_university



TWITTER
@AndrewsUniv



@AndrewsUniv • Aug 22
Andy takes a break during New Student Orientation.
#YearOfTheCardinal
#aucardinal18 #aedu



@AndrewsUniv • Aug 4
Music Materials Center students saw manuscripts by Chopin, Mozart and Wagner in Chicago this week.
#auexploreintentionally

@jrbourget • Aug 27
@AndrewsUniv joined by students, faculty, staff and University administrators
#hatehasnohomehere



SEPT. 5

Andrews University Campus Ministries
Andrews University has partnered with Red Cross of South Bend, Indiana to help deliver all the items that have been donated over the last week to the victims of hurricane Harvey. A big thank you to all who generously gave.

J. N. Andrews Honors Program Passing on the Randy Sanchez Memorial Honors Office Key. This morning, Ms. Maxine passed along the Honors Office key to President Butler. Honors students seeking a safe and conducive study space in the evenings can arrange with President Haley Butler since she is our Keeper of the Key!

AUGUST 28



Andrews University Department of Agriculture

Today we hosted some students from the Agricultural Science Camp at Southwestern Michigan College! They learned about Landscape Design and got to create their own sketches!

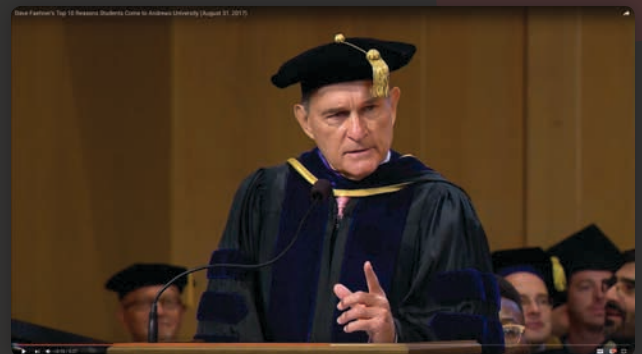
JULY 20



FACEBOOK
@andrewsUniversity



YOUTUBE



Andrews University

—<https://youtu.be/qZFstFamVBU> —Dave Faehner's Top 10 Reasons Students Come to Andrews University (August 31, 2017)

Accreditation updates

For the online MPH program, PhD in counseling psychology, and HLC regional accreditation

CEPH Accreditation

THE MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH) program received full accreditation from the Council of Education for Public Health (CEPH) on June 29, 2017. The MPH program started at the University in fall 2014, and the faculty of the Department of Public Health, Nutrition & Wellness have been working hard to ensure the program meets the strict standards of CEPH. Those standards included having a high percentage of faculty members in the department with doctoral degrees, a standard easily met by the department.



The program has been accredited for a five-year term, extending to July 1, 2022. Dixon Anjejo, associate professor and director of the MPH program, was the lead faculty member working toward the accreditation.

"Dr. Anjejo's outstanding leadership is to be celebrated and commended," comments Sherine Brown-Fraser, chair.

The MPH program is offered in an interactive online format and does not require any on-campus time.

"Public Health is the science of prevention using research-based solutions for effective health promotion and disease prevention using quantitative and qualitative methods," says Fraser. "The MPH degree will prepare health professionals for service in their communities and their church by building knowledge and skills necessary to enhance and restore health to human populations while promoting healthy lifestyles."

This program at Andrews is the first and only online MPH program in nutrition and wellness offered in the U.S. with the unique emphasis in vegetarian nutrition.

According to SR Education Group, an Education Research Publisher founded in 2004, Andrews University is ranked #2 among universities offering quality MPH programs. This ranking is based on affordability, accessibility and academic quality.

HLC Accreditation

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY IS ACCREDITED by the Higher Learning Commission, a regional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. The HLC accredits over 1,000 schools across the midsection of the U.S.



In March 2017, the HLC sent a team of accreditors made up of representatives from other higher education institutions for a reaffirmation of accreditation for Andrews University. This process takes place every ten years for each accredited college and university within the HLC's purview.

Prior to their on-site visit, the team of peer reviewers spent a large number of hours poring over the University's self-study. Their on-site visit comprised of open sessions with faculty, staff and students, interviews and meetings with administrators, members of the Board of Trustees, key operational committees and those involved in writing the self-study. Their final report was sent to the Institutional Actions Council of the HLC for a final decision.

"In the team's final report, all five criteria and 21 core components were met, with only one out of the 21 requiring follow-up," says Lynn Merklin, assistant provost. The many positive comments included the University "commitment to diversity and the world church," the evident centrality of the Seventh-day Adventist mission in University documents and the commitment of students and faculty to "scholarship, creative work and discovery of knowledge."

President Luxton reflects, "What was most pleasing to see was the number of times the visiting team commented on the quality of the faculty, staff and students at the University and their strong sense of commitment. We have a strong future ahead."

The next reaffirmation of accreditation for Andrews University will take place in 2026–27.

APA Accreditation

THE DEPARTMENT OF GRADUATE Psychology & Counseling in the School of Education has received a three-year accreditation from the American Psychological Association (APA) for the counseling psychology PhD program. APA is the largest professional association of psychologists in the world and the major accrediting association in the U.S. for psychology programs, internships and post-docs. In the worldwide Adventist educational system, there are currently only two psychology PhD programs that prepare students to provide clinical services and to be eligible to become fully licensed doctoral-level psychologists. Andrews University now joins Loma Linda University who has an APA accredited clinical psychology PhD program.

The APA accredits approximately 850 doctoral programs in school, counseling and clinical psychology. Only approximately 69 of these programs are counseling psychology PhD programs, and Andrews University is now the only Adventist educational institution to offer this accredited program.

Andrews University's APA accredited counseling psychology PhD program not only provides Adventist Christians with a uniquely Christian environment in which to train to be psychologists, but is also sought out by people of other faiths as there are so few faith-based universities with this level of psychology training in the country. For students in the program, APA accreditation means they have the option to be licensed in all states and are now eligible to work for the federal government if they desire. It maximizes their opportunities for careers in clinical practice, academics, research and consultation.



For more information about the MPH at Andrews, visit andrews.edu/publichealth

For details about each of the five criteria and their core components, visit hlcommission.org

Visit andrews.edu/gpc to learn more about programs offered in the Department of Graduate Psychology & Counseling

Summer graduation 2017

315 students granted Andrews diplomas

DURING THE WEEKEND OF AUGUST 4–6, over 200 students marched across the platform in Pioneer Memorial Church for the long-awaited, much-anticipated honor of graduating from Andrews University. A total of 315 students graduated.

Robert Zdor, professor of biology, offered the Consecration address on Friday evening titled, “Life in the Quarry.” As a native of Colorado, Zdor enjoys the mountains and the solitude of the wilderness. He has taught biology at Andrews University for the past 25 years and specializes in the field of plant microbiology, in which he continues research.

On Saturday, John Wesley Taylor V, associate education director for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, presented the Baccalaureate address titled, “Life, a

Journey. God, the Guide.” Taylor was born in Puerto Rico and has served as teacher and administrator in various institutions in Mexico, the Philippines and the U.S. He has taught at the elementary through graduate levels in a dozen different countries and also serves as chair of the Advisory Board for The Journal of Adventist Education.

The Commencement address was presented by Maurice Valentine II, executive secretary of the Lake Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and was titled, “Rise and Shine!” Valentine’s journey in pastoral ministry has covered five states and 11 churches, and he has trained over 500 church leaders in strategic planning, leadership coaching, conflict management, marital enrichment and team-based discipleship systems.

The summer Class of 2017 was split evenly down the middle with 183 males and 183 females. Representing 51 countries, the class was comprised mostly of students ages 23 and 24; the youngest graduate was 21 and the oldest 72.

Valentine ended his Commencement address by saying, “Graduates, God loves you. Your church needs you. You need the church. And you need God. As you leave these hallowed grounds, choose a church to serve in before you go. Find a place where you can take that which God has deposited in you here to use it for his greater glory. We need each and every one of you to finish the work. We need you to continue down the path of discovery to put the light of God’s word where it truly belongs: in the hearts of men.”



Counter-clockwise, from left:

Byron Graves, new Wind Symphony director, performed for Commencement

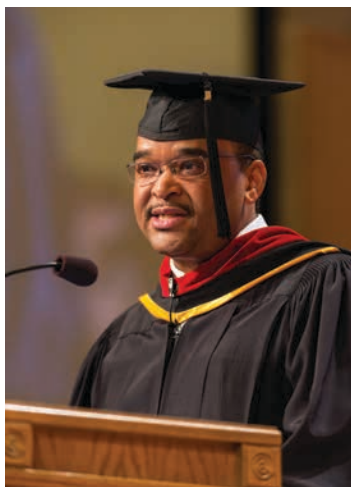
The Department of Physical Therapy had a large class of 37 DPT graduates

Robert Zdor, professor of biology, was the Consecration speaker

John Wesley Taylor V, GC associate education director, Baccalaureate speaker

Maurice Valentine II, executive secretary of the Lake Union Conference, delivered the Commencement address

President Luxton delivering diplomas



Planning for the future

Leadership Conference focuses on simultaneous planning

THE 7TH ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE began early Monday morning, July 24, 2017 at the Howard Performing Arts Center. After a networking breakfast and opening ceremony, guest speaker, author and Marvin Bower Fellow at Harvard Business School Vijay Govindarajan presented his Three Box Solution as a better business model. Sponsored by Whirlpool Corporation and Lakeland Health, the leadership conference was attended by Andrews faculty and staff, local educators, and employees of both sponsors.

Three big red boxes constructed by Andrews architecture students were positioned just upstage of Govindarajan as he introduced his innovative leadership model. “It is well-understood that creating a new business and optimizing an already existing one are two fundamentally different management challenges,” said Govindarajan.

He went on to say, “The real problem for leaders is doing both simultaneously. How do you meet the performance requirements of the current business—one that is still thriving—while dramatically reinventing it? How do you foresee a change in your current model before a crisis forces you to abandon it?”

Quite simply put, his solution leads businesses to plan creatively, smartly and with a unified goal, to not only maintain daily business, but to do so while innovating

“The beginning of every journey should have the end in sight.”

future business. It is applicable to modern business, higher education and leadership.

Govindarajan’s model for leadership and innovation is made up of three components: The Present, wherein the core of a business is strengthened; The Past, wherein one would let go of the practices that fuel the core business but fail the future business; and The Future, wherein a new business model is invented.

Many conference attendees resonated with the following statement: “Your risk of obsolescence is as great as your chance of execution.”

In response, Lee Davidson, chair of the Department of Teaching, Learning & Curriculum, reflected, “How education is done is changing, but we don’t know where it will be 10 years from now. We need to prepare for whatever the future is bringing us, and this particularly applies to Adventist education.”

As Govindarajan put it, “The beginning of every journey should have the end in sight. And I know, because so much is unknown and unknowable about the future, planning may seem like a waste; I assure you it is important.”



Deborah Weithers, dean for students, who participated in facilitating the event, suggested how the Three Box Solution could be used at Andrews. She said, “A leader is someone who develops distinct points of view about the future,” she wrote, leading with Govindarajan’s own words from his book. “As faculty, staff and students of a Seventh-day Adventist institution,” she continued, “I believe we have a distinct point of view of the future we would like to see and that is in the direction that God calls us. As we follow Govindarajan’s recommendation of planning for, then creating that future, we will continue to position ourselves for success. Our distinctive message of faith, service and mission combined with high quality education is not only a winning combination, it honors the God we serve.”

STUDENTS TAKE A STAND AGAINST HATE

Organizing a prayer walk on campus

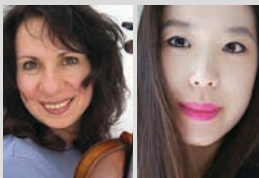
THE TRAGIC EVENTS THAT UNFOLDED IN CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA on August 12, 2017, shocked Nitasha Duran, senior social work major at Andrews University. The overt racism and need for more of God’s love burdened her mind. Duran teamed up with close friends and they set out to ensure that God’s spirit would unite Andrews students during the new school year. She also aimed to reach out to residents who needed help in neighboring communities. Her desires gave birth to the idea for a “Hate Has No Home Here” prayer walk around the campus.



For the complete story, visit andrews.edu/agenda



HOWARD CENTER PRESENTS THE 2017-2018 SEASON



CARLA TRYNCHUK & CHI YONG YUN

September 17, 2017, 7 p.m.



FUEGO QUARTET

October 29, 2017, 7 p.m.



SAM OCAMPO & FRIENDS

September 24, 2017, 7 p.m.



ANTHEM LIGHTS

November 19, 2017, 7 p.m.



HERITAGE SINGERS

October 7, 2017, 7:30 p.m.



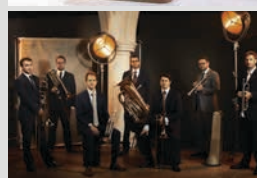
JAMIE GRACE

January 28, 2018, 7 p.m.



USAF BAND OF MID-AMERICA

October 12, 2017, 7 p.m.



SEPTURA

February 4, 2018, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY MUSIC SERIES



Ian Hobson, piano
Sunday, Oct. 8, 2017, 4 p.m.
Free Admission



**Southwest Michigan
Symphony Orchestra**
featuring Rachel Miller, harp
Sunday, Nov. 12, 2017, 4 p.m.
Tickets are available at the SMSO
office or online at www.smso.org



**Christmas Sing-A-Long with
Carrie VanDenburgh**
Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017, 4 p.m.
Free Admission



**Department of Music
Faculty Trio Recital**
Sunday, Jan. 21, 2018, 4 p.m.
Free Admission

**Community
Choir Festival**
Sunday, March 11,
2018, 4 p.m.
Free Admission

Chi Yong Yun, piano
Sunday, April 15,
2018, 4 p.m.
Free Admission

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Paula Dronen receives top advising award

The 2017 MIACADA Outstanding Advising Award from the state of Michigan

IN MAY, THE STATE OF MICHIGAN recognized Paula Dronen, associate professor of architecture, with the 2017 MIACADA Outstanding Advising Award—an honor which no Andrews University professor has ever before received. She was chosen from among more than 250 of the most competent advising professors in the state.

“I feel blessed to be presented with such heartfelt appreciation from students, colleagues and now the state as well,” Dronen says.

At past advising conferences the MIACADA has honored outstanding faculty advisors from other colleges including Michigan State University, Western Michigan University, Grand Valley State University and Oakland University, but this is the first time an Andrews faculty member has been selected. Each year, three individuals from different categories are nominated in keeping with high standards of excellence such as strong interpersonal skills; frequency of contact and availability to advisees, faculty and staff; evidence of student success rate; mastery of institutional regulations, policies and procedures; caring and helpful attitude toward advisees, faculty and staff; and meeting advisees in informal settings.

“Paula brings strong communication skills to our program, advising between



advising plan for those pursuing architecture and interior design.”

Long before the state became aware, Paula was inspiring and touching lives all around her with not only excellence in advising, but also personal interest and care for each and every student and co-worker she has interacted with in her 17 years at Andrews.

“Paula has always set the highest bar for her advising because she cares about all of our students,” says Rhonda Root, fellow architecture professor at Andrews. “It is great that others now know what we have known for a long time—that we work with the best.”

The true test of a great advisor, though, is the testimony of those they have advised.

A student advisee expressed how “Professor Dronen is ready and willing to help whenever needed. She motivates you to achieve and is willing to help you however she can. She makes a point to recognize you outside of the architecture department.”

Many others have also shared their sincere appreciation for her genuine attitude and desire to help however she can. One student expressed, “My life would definitely not be the same without Professor Dronen in it. She is a blessing from God.”

Keeping track of 80–90 individual advisees along with the duties of teaching architecture and pre-law classes just begins to scratch the surface of Dronen’s

various responsibilities at work—not to mention the privileges and duties of home life with her husband, John, and their four children. When asked how she does such a great job advising, Dronen replied, “Well, I’m not sure that I always do a great job, but I do my best to be consistent. There is always something to learn.”

She continues, “Academic advising, at its core, is much more than having a lot

of knowledge. It’s about having empathy. Being able to meet students where they’re at, offering suggestions while instilling ownership, listening more than speaking, showing kindness with candor, celebrating achievement and learning from perceived failures—these things are what I consider to be the ‘heart’ of advising.”

During her own college years, Dronen experienced the joy of having an advisor who made all the difference in her experience as a student, and she brings that experience into every advising session, recalling what it is like to sit on the other side of the desk.

It is obvious to all who know her that advising students is one of Dronen’s favorite responsibilities at Andrews, and praying with them the very highlight of her job.

“Recognizing that God has made each student unique, having both gifts and challenges, and never being tempted to exercise a one-size-fits-all approach is essential to the art of good academic advising,” says Dronen.

It is clear that her success and award have come as a result of much diligence and effort, yes, but also the faith and the legacy Dronen has embraced from her own academic advisor.

“I’m not at all convinced that I do these things well all of the time, but I know that the Lord is patient with me,” she concludes. “This award is every bit my own advisor, Bill ‘Doc’ Davidson’s, award, and I’m blessed to be a part of it.”

“Recognizing that God has made each student unique...is essential to the art of good academic advising”

80 and 90 students each academic year at both the undergraduate and graduate level,” said Carey Carscallen, dean of the School of Architecture & Interior Design, in his nomination. “Her attention to detail, knowledge of university policy, systematic review of student records, and consistent student meetings ensure a solid academic

NSF grant awarded to three professors

To develop an ECL sensor utilizing existing mobile technology

HYUN KWON, CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT of Engineering & Computer Science, Padma Tadi Uppala, professor of public health, nutrition and wellness, and Rodney Summerscales, assistant professor of computer science have been awarded a research grant by the National Science Foundation in the amount of \$249,198.

“These sensors have significantly improved the sensitivity of detecting low molecular weight biomarkers present in early stages of cancer,” explains Uppala. “This is important because of the prevalence and mortality rates of the disease.”

Both undergraduate and graduate students will participate by conducting



Right to left: Hyun Kwon, Padma Uppala, Rodney Summerscales

“Many mobile devices have built-in sensors—cameras that can serve as detectors for biosensors,” says Kwon, primary investigator on the project. “We are developing an ECL sensor utilizing existing mobile technology, transforming what was traditionally an expensive and bulky biosensor into a portable and affordable one.”

ECL sensors work when a small voltage is applied to an ECL chemical and the chemical emits lights in the visible spectrum. The small voltage can be provided by the mobile device itself and the emitted light can be captured by the cameras, the resulting images of which can be analyzed by a mobile app.

“Our goal is to make this new sensor platform equivalent not only in performance to that of existing high-end biosensors,” says Kwon, “but also more affordable and for many different biosensor needs.”

The ECL biosensor can be used for diagnosis of biomarkers of various diseases, including breast cancer.

experiments, running simulations, analyzing data, programming mobile apps and designing and prototyping sensor hardware.

“Revolutionizing existing sensors with the latest mobile technology fascinates me,” Kwon says. “It’s the inevitable trend in biosensor instrumentation.”

Though there have been attempts to develop ECL sensors with cell phones in the past, they have been limited to demonstrating feasibility of detecting very high concentrations of reactants without having any specific target molecules.

“This means no innovation has been made to the level of detecting proteins at clinically relevant levels,” the team says in their proposal.

“I am very excited to see this research taking a multidisciplinary approach,” Uppala adds. “To improve the health of the public is very fulfilling and I appreciate this avenue to serve the public and make the world a better place.”

New Department of Music chair

ADRIANA PERERA IS THE NEW CHAIR OF the Department of Music, and associate professor of theory and composition. She is currently completing her doctoral studies at the Universidad Catolica de Argentina, where she is a DMA candidate in music composition.

Prior to coming to Andrews, Perera taught music theory and composition at Oakwood University, and before that, she served as the chair of the J.S. Bach Conservatory in Sagunto, Spain. She also taught music and worship at the Adventist Theological Seminary there.

She was born in Uruguay, where she started piano lessons at the age of 6. She continued her musical studies in piano, music theory, orchestral conducting, and composition in Argentina, Spain and the U.S.

More than 200 sacred pieces written by her are currently performed by choirs, orchestras and soloists around the world. As a composer and recording artist, she has co-produced six album CDs with her sacred musical works.

Perera is an international speaker and has published several articles and two books on the topic of music and worship: “En espíritu y en verdad” (Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2013); and “More than Music: Worship” (Biblio Publishing, 2017). Her research interests include the African American music legacy and its influence on contemporary choral works.



Swanson retires from seminary

After serving as professor, counselor and evaluator since 1988

FROM AN EARLY AGE, PETER SWANSON wanted to become a doctor because he wanted to help people. His parents got him a toy doctor's set with stethoscope and bandages, etc., and helped him "operate" on the family's Doberman pincer and their ginger cat named Shenanigans.

"As it turned out," Swanson recalls, "instead of treating people's physical maladies, my doctoring became focused on the minds and souls of those who brought their troubles and heartaches to me."

During his first year in college, Swanson was undecided about the direction he wanted to take. At the time, the only two paths available to him at Helderberg College in South Africa where he lived were education or ministry.

"Neither of them appealed much to me," he admits with a wry smile.

With two pastor uncles, there was an expectation that Swanson would follow in their footsteps, but he felt no sense of calling.

"A turning point came one evening when a very reluctant me told God that if someone spoke to me that night about going into the ministry I would take it as a sign that that was what he wanted me to do," Swanson recalls. "Then I turned out the light, got into bed and pulled the covers over my head, thinking I had outsmarted God."

Only a few minutes passed and then an announcement came over the public-address system in the dormitory that a call was on hold for Swanson in the administration building. It was his mother. As he hung up and turned to go back to the dorm, the girl at the switchboard called to him.

"Peter, it's time for you to stop wavering back and forth about your future," she said. "You just need to decide to do theology. You need to become a pastor."

Needless to say, Swanson was shocked.

"I was also more than a little angry at God for tricking me into doing what I was trying so hard to avoid," he says with a chuckle. "But I knew I couldn't go back on my word. Ironically, the career paths of pastoring and teaching that I originally wanted so much to avoid turned out to be

the professions that have given me over 40 years of joy and fulfillment."

After graduation, Swanson entered ministry as an intern in a suburb of Johannesburg. Many years later he found himself back at Helderberg attending an intensive. The lecturer, Smuts van Rooyen, presented the concept of righteousness by faith. Swanson found himself weeping uncontrollably at the realization that he did not need to do everything perfectly in order to be saved.

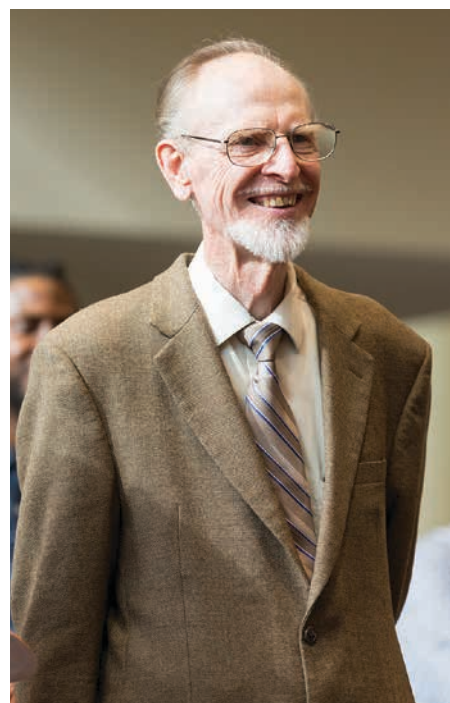
"I had already demonstrated convincingly that I couldn't be perfect, no matter how hard I tried," he says. "Now I had the assurance that when the father looks at me, he sees the perfect righteousness of Christ, not my filthy-rags-righteousness. I tasted for the first time the peace that surpasses human comprehension, for now I saw the face of God and he was smiling at me."

In 1988, ten years after first stepping onto the Andrews campus as a graduate student in religion, Swanson became a full professor in the Seminary, doing psychological evaluations on Seminary applicants as well as teaching. This he did until his retirement in 2017.

In 70+ years of life and 40+ years developing a career in ministry, Swanson says that what surprises him most is the resilience of the human spirit.

"I have had the sober privilege, time and again, of hearing people describe atrocities they have suffered; degradation they brought on themselves through shockingly poor choices; and harsh circumstances of life that seem to thwart all efforts at self-betterment," he says solemnly. "And yet, despite everything, they refuse to be crushed. Sadly, this is not true for every-

"...There is more to life than work. Significant amounts of time and energy should be invested into relationships and into simply having fun."



one. Some do give up, and some die. And that surprises me, too. How is it that some who have so very few odds against them crumble? And how is it that others have everything stacked against them, and yet, incredibly, they survive, they overcome adversity, they succeed when failure seems inescapable? I am surprised by human strength and human weakness."

After a lifetime of teaching, evaluating, counseling, and even directing musical groups and recording the first-ever album produced in Afrikaans (the native language of South Africa), Swanson has a lot to look forward to in retirement. Among the litany of activities on his retirement bucket list, Swanson has included flying a plane, visiting the Grand Canyon, taking a photography class, composing music, and maybe even skydiving. More than anything, however, Swanson wants to spend more "unhurried time" with family.

"It is true that among the rewards of work well-done are the pride of accomplishment, the joy of knowing you are capable and competent and the assurance that you are making an important contribution," Swanson says. "But there is more to life than work. Significant amounts of time and energy should be invested into relationships and," he pauses and grins, "into simply having fun."

Retirements of Alice & Gary Williams

Both devoted a large share of their careers to Andrews University

“WHEN I WAS 12, I JOINED THE SCIENCE book club and every month I got a new book,” says Gary Williams, recently retired senior associate registrar. “My mom and grandma bought me the World Book Encyclopedia and I read the whole thing, A–Z.”

Gary is a quiet gentleman with sandy hair, glasses and a mustache that tops his unassuming smile. He’s the quiet one in the room, watching and listening to every-



one else—pretty much standard for any occasion. When he does speak, his Eastern Tennessee upbringing is evident.

“I liked to go to the library as a kid,” he says. “I was a bookworm then, and I’m a bookworm now.”

Next to Gary sits his wife, Alice, recently retired University archivist. Alice grew up south of Cadillac, Michigan, on a farm and she, too, was a bookworm.

“I read everything,” she says with a laugh. “My parents begged me not to read aloud the signs I saw while in the car—they wanted some peace and quiet!”

Alice has a large, cheerful smile that crinkles her face around her eyes. It’s the kind of smile that draws you in, knowing you’re with a friend.

“I’m the oldest of nine children; after me came five brothers, followed by three sisters,” she says. “I quickly learned not to show fear of garden critters. It was common to see my 2-year-old brother bringing me a snake, holding it right behind the head like he’d see his brothers do, quite proud of himself.”

Neither Alice nor Gary were born into Adventist homes. Alice recalls family Bible studies at the kitchen table when she was 4, Alice’s mother turning the pages of the Bible in front of her. She was baptized at age 8.

Gary’s family was ecumenical of several denominations, but they were, unbeknownst to Gary, friends with Adventists. One day a friend of his mother invited them to attend church with her.

“Until we walked in the door I thought this woman was a Jehovah’s Witness,” Gary recalls with a chuckle. “I suddenly realized I had no idea who these people were.” Gary was baptized before high school graduation.

Gary’s high school teachers pushed him to focus more on English than science, and it became a passion he never

lost. He was convinced to go to Southern Adventist University and worked his whole life for the church. Alice studied dietetics and spent a good part of her career in that field.

The pair met in Tennessee, when Gary attended a nutrition class Alice taught at Southern. Despite his pointed correction of some of her health message details, the two eventually fell in love and were married on the same day Mt. St. Helens erupted: May 18, 1980.

The Williams’ story intersects with that of Andrews in 1983, when Alice was hired to teach dietetics and Gary was offered a position in the Office of Academic Records, where he remained until his retirement in 2017. In 2010, Alice moved into the archives role she held until her retirement, also in 2017.

“I knew the campus, and I had served on the committee that helped establish University Archives,” she explains. “I had a history there, and it was a good fit.”

Some of their most memorable experiences come from interactions with students. Gary recalls one particular older student who marched into his office and declared,

“We’ve watched with interest our colleagues grow up in their positions and then move up when the superior retires.”

“I’ve heard about you. I hope you lose your job.” They had never met before, so Gary suggested they sit down and talk.

“We became close friends,” he says, thinking back to that day. “People get irritated about something and if they feel safe to express to you what is really going on, then they have an avenue where they can work through the issue constructively. I gave her that avenue, and to this day we’re still friends.”

Both Williamses recall watching the campus change over the decades. Buildings have been repurposed, remodeled and rebuilt. New spaces have been created and others removed. The people have changed, too.

“We’ve watched with interest our colleagues grow in their positions and then move up when the superior retires,” says Alice.

There have also been surprises, such as the woman who stood at her son’s graduation party and said she had wanted him to work for Gary because she felt Gary would be a positive influence on her son.

“I was shocked,” says Gary softly. “The whole time her son was working for me, I thought he was a great influence on me.”

Travel tops their list of retirement plans. Their list includes Nova Scotia, Maine, Vermont, Montana, Wyoming, the Dakotas and more, eventually culminating in a “jump across the pond” to England and Scotland.

Additionally, Alice will stay involved in service projects, such as knitting and making quilts for a prayer shawl ministry she’s been working with for nearly a decade. Gary plans to volunteer and continue writing.

“One of the most rewarding things at Andrews,” Alice says, “is the degree to which you get to watch people mature and become somebody more than what they were. It’s a chance to focus on the good in the world and the potential for our future.”

Moskala receives J.N. Andrews Medallion

Acknowledging his leadership in theological education

JÍŘÍ MOSKALA, DEAN OF THE SEVENTH-day Adventist Theological Seminary and professor of Old Testament exegesis and theology, was recognized with the John Nevins Andrews Medallion during summer commencement on August 6, 2017.

Moskala said, “I was nicely surprised by the faculty choice to be the recipient of the highest Andrews University award. This public recognition brings deep feelings of satisfaction and appreciation for my leadership role and work at the SDA Theological Seminary and beyond. J.N. Andrews was a missionary to the Europeans and being from Europe I feel that I am a missionary in America.”

Moskala completed his BA from Comenius Faculty of Protestant Theology in 1976. He went on to complete a Master of Theology in 1979, also obtaining two doctorates in the following decade: Doctor of Theology in 1990 from Comenius Faculty of Protestant Theology and Doctor of Philosophy from Andrews University in 1998.

“J.N. Andrews was a missionary to the Europeans and being from Europe I feel that I am a missionary to America.”

He served as a youth director for the Czecho-Slovakian Union in the 1970s and from 1979 until 1990 he served as a pastor in the Czech Republic. During this time, Moskala also taught Old Testament and Systematic Theology. By 1990, Moskala was the principal of the theological seminary in Prague. He also began teaching full-time at the seminary in 1990. While in the Czech Republic, Moskala served as director of both the education and health departments.

Since the beginning of his service at Andrews, Moskala has served in various capacities. He has been a contract teacher, an associate professor, director of the MDiv program, professor of Old Testament exegesis and theology, chair of the Department of Old Testament and now dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary.

In addition to teaching dozens of courses over his time at Andrews, Moskala has volunteered his time to his church, school and community. He has been a Sabbath School teacher for almost 20 years, served as a deacon, is a member of the Shabbat Shalom Committee and serves as president of the Adventist Theological Society. He also currently serves as the vice president for Global Outreach for the Adventist Theological Society and is a current member of the SDA Bible Commentary Board and associate editor of the SDA International Bible Commentary.

“God’s providence and guidance in my life enables me to do many things in different fields of expertise and I praise His goodness and faithfulness. I am grateful for my outstanding faculty and staff who are completely dedicated to God’s cause. It’s a true joy for me to work closely together with them,” Moskala commented.

Moskala is a prolific writer, having published seven books since 1994. Additionally, he has published more than 115 scholarly articles in various journals and periodicals, contributed more than 45 chapters to various books, authored four

encyclopedia articles, written four book reviews in academic publications and authored almost three dozen newsletter articles. Over the years he has presented more than 115 of his scholarly papers and delivered more than 300 sermons at Bible conferences, evangelistic series and revival meetings.

He was recognized for his profound contribution to the area of biblical research with the Andrews University Faculty Award for Excellence in Research and Creative Activity Award for the 2000–2001 school year. Most recently, he received the 2012 Siegfried H. Horn Excellence in Research Award.

He received the J.N. Andrews Medallion for his leadership in theological education on a global level and his vision for centering mission for the church in deep biblical understanding.



Andrews welcomes new faculty

For the fall 2017 semester

AT THE BEGINNING OF EVERY NEW SCHOOL year, Andrews University welcomes several incoming faculty. Here is a brief overview:

College of Arts & Sciences

Anthony Bosman joined the Department of Mathematics as an assistant professor of mathematics. He graduated from Rice University in May 2017 with a PhD in mathematics.

Wayne Buckhanan is associate professor of engineering in the Department of Engineering & Computer Science.

The Department of Visual Art, Communication & Design welcomed three new faculty members, as well as a new department chair, **Paul Kim**, associate professor of documentary film. **T. Lynn Caldwell** is associate professor of communication, returning to Andrews after teaching communication at Southern Adventist University and La Sierra University. **Heather Day** is assistant professor of visual art and communication, and **Everett Wiles** is assistant professor of visual art and communication.

Rodney Palmer joins the Department of Religion & Biblical Languages as assistant professor of religion.

The Department of Music has two new additions: **Adriana Perera**, chair and associate professor of theory and composition for the (*see page 11*), and **Byron Graves**, serving as assistant professor of music, music area education coordinator, and conductor of the Wind Symphony. Graves previously served as director of the band and bell ensembles at Andrews Academy and Ruth Murdoch Elementary School.

Ralph Reitz joins the Department of Agriculture as an instructor of horticulture.

Kristen Witzel is assistant professor of sociology in the Department of Behavioral Sciences.

Kari Prouty is assistant director of the Undergraduate Leadership Program

School of Business Administration

Two new faculty joined the Department of Aviation: **Bryce Fisher**, assistant professor of aviation and **Alan Scott**, assistant professor of aviation.

School of Education

Charity Garcia, assistant professor of curriculum and instruction, joined the Department of Teaching, Learning & Curriculum

Renette Portecop-Prentice, assistant professor of school psychology, Department of Graduate Psychology & Counseling

School of Health Professions

The Department of Nursing welcomed three new faculty members: **Barbara Harrison**, clinical associate professor of nursing, **Shawna Henry**, clinical associate professor of nursing, and **Leila Nogueira**, associate professor of nursing

Seminary

The Department of Discipleship & Religious Education welcomes two new faculty: **Scott Ward**, assistant professor of discipleship and religious education and **Edyta Jankiewicz**, assistant professor of religious education.

Denis Kaiser is the new annotation project editor for the Ellen G. White Estate (Center for Adventist Research) and assistant professor of church history, Department of Church History

September 28–October 1, 2017

Alumni Homecoming



Honor Class Reunions

1947, 1957, 1967, 1977, 1987, 1992, 1997 and 2007

Honored Alumni 2017

Christon Arthur (BA '90, MA '95, EdS '99, PhD '00)
Larry Herr (BA '70)
Fred M. Manchur (BA '74)
Walter Carroll Thompson (BA '57)
Carrie VanDenburgh (BMus '00, MMus '02)

For up-to-date information, visit alumni.andrews.edu/homecoming

Thursday, September 28

1:30–5 p.m.
Registration
Alumni House

2–5 p.m.
Wellness Lounge Open House
Campus Center 168
Stop by the University's Wellness Lounge for a free body scan, short chair massage, updated sketches on the new Health & Wellness Center, a chat with the director of University Health & Wellness, and more!

6 p.m.
Spirit of Philanthropy & Homecoming Banquet
Great Lakes Room, Campus Center
All alumni are invited to this premier Homecoming celebration. Enjoy some of Andrews' signature dishes, including Sam's chicken. The Alumni Association will do a roll call and members of the Class of 1967 will be inducted into the Golden Hearts Club. Honored Alumni will be presented with the Andrews University Alumni Association Medallion, recognizing their outstanding service to church and community.

Friday, September 29

8:30–10 a.m.
Women's Scholarship Committee Brunch
Lincoln & Hoosier Rooms, Campus Center—RSVP required
Featuring a presentation by Trevor O'Reggio, professor of church history in the seminary, titled "From Runaway Nun to Wife of Renegade Monk." Trevor will speak on Katarina von Bora, the nun who married Martin Luther. This October will be the 500th anniversary of Luther nailing his 95 theses to the church door at Wittenberg.

8:30 a.m. Shotgun start (7:30 a.m. registration)
Wes Christiansen Memorial Golf Outing
Harbor Shores Golf Club, St. Joseph, Michigan—RSVP required
Entry fee: \$105 regular, \$50 Andrews students
Price includes 18 holes of scramble golf with cart, lunch and prizes. Support the Alumni Scholarship Fund while enjoying a morning of golf—Four Man/Woman Scramble. Course requirements are collared shirts, soft spikes and no denim pants or shorts.

9 a.m.–12 p.m.
Wellness Lounge Open House
Campus Center 168

9–11 a.m.
Horn Archaeological Museum Tour
Horn Archaeological Museum
Take a tour of the Horn Archaeological Museum to hear updates on new renovations and exhibits.

10:30 a.m.
Campus Bus Tour
The bus will load at the Alumni House parking lot at 10 a.m.
Tour guide: Rebecca May (BA '77)
Take a trip down memory lane, while being introduced to several new developments on campus.

12:30 p.m.
Tambunan Leadership Luncheon (Student Programming)
Lincoln Room, Campus Center
By special invitation, RSVP required
This event is hosted for current undergraduate Leadership students and provides an invaluable opportunity to learn and network with alumni professionals. This event is made possible by the generous sponsorship of Andrews alumni Tim (BBA '90) and Ellen (MSMT '80) Tambunan. Co-hosted by the Office of Alumni Services and the Undergraduate Leadership program.

1–4 p.m.
Homecoming Classic Car Show
Andrews Bookstore Parking Lot
Join us for this nostalgic third annual event, sponsored by the Andrews University Bookstore. Please bring your Homecoming name badge for discounts on Andrews gear and more.

1:30–3:30 p.m.
Madaba Plains Project Reunion and Updates
Seminary Chapel
Attend this Madaba Plains Project 50-year celebration event to hear updates on Tall Hisban (LaBianca), Tall al-Umayri (Clark/Herr) and Tall Jalul (Yunker). There will be opportunity for audience participation in questions and answers, and it will be a reunion for former diggers, their families, friends and sponsors.

3:30–4:30 p.m.
Madaba Plains Project Reunion
Seminary Lobby
The Lawrence T. Geraty Community Archaeology Endowment will be presented by Øystein LaBianca at this reception for former diggers and their families, friends and sponsors.

5 p.m.
30th Annual Homecoming Parade
Viewing bleachers curbside, between the Howard & Seminary buildings—Lineup for entries begins at 4:30 p.m. in the Andrews Academy parking lot, and parade ends at the PMC parking lot.

Come out and watch the pageantry of the creative floats, marching bands and fire trucks as they move through campus during this harvest themed parade. Awardees will compete for \$700 in total prize money. Entrants will be judged based on creativity, quality and school spirit. The Sammy Arepas food truck will be on-site with vegetarian Latin food offerings. Don't forget to bring some cash! *Parade awards ceremony directly follows.*

6:30 p.m.
International Flag Raising Ceremony
Flag Mall

Our campus is world-renowned for the way it reflects the international composition of our world church. This annual ceremony provides a beautiful portrayal of our global family. If you have international attire, please wear it proudly! You are also invited to march in the preceding parade. Call 269-471-3345 to sign up.

7:30 p.m.
University Vespers
Pioneer Memorial Church
Speaker: Jose Bourget (BA '03)
 Join us for a special We Care Alumni Vespers featuring the University Singers, Journey Ministries, Deliverance Mass Choir and archaeology faculty. Through word, history and choral music we explore God's care for us. You'll also have an opportunity to give an offering to support disaster relief efforts and operation campus care.

8:45 p.m.
Impact Vespers
University Towers Auditorium

Sabbath, September 30

9 & 11:45 a.m.
The Church at Worship
Pioneer Memorial Church
Speaker: David K. Ferguson
(AS '87, BA '87, MA '90)
Sermon: A Bag of Chips

10 a.m. & 11:45 a.m.
One Place
Newbold Auditorium, Buller Hall

10:30 a.m.
Sabbath School
Pioneer Memorial Church

12 p.m.
BSCF Alumni Worship Service and New Life Church
Howard Performing Arts Center
Speaker: Michael T. Nixon (BS '09)
Theme: Connected Through Story

1 p.m.
50th and 60th Class Reunion Luncheon Buffets
Dining Services, Campus Center
Luncheon pricing: \$9.81 for dine-in; \$10.87 for take-out—Senior citizen pricing: \$9.01 for dine-in
Child (ages 6–12): \$7.53 for dine-in
 Meal cards may be purchased ahead of time at the Dining Services office, or pay with debit/credit card (no cash) as you go through line.

Class of 1957
Badger Room, Campus Center

Class of 1967
Lincoln Room, Campus Center

Class of 1977
Hoosier Room, Campus Center

2 p.m.
Department of Public Health, Nutrition & Wellness International Cuisine Potluck
Third Floor, Marsh Hall
 A potluck luncheon for alumni of the Department of Public Health, Nutrition & Wellness.

3–4 p.m.
Madaba Plains Project Reunion Event
Seminary Chapel
Randall Younker: "The Spade Confirms the Book Revisited"
 followed by a response from Lawrence T. Geraty

3–5 p.m.
Museums and Open Houses
 You are encouraged to explore campus and to check out your former department. Some buildings you may remember and others may be new to you. *Check alumni website for list of locations.*

4–5 p.m.
Madaba Plains Project Reunion Reception
Seminary Commons

4–6 p.m.
Class Reunion Photos
Howard Performing Arts Center

4:00 Golden Hearts Club
 (1967 and earlier)
4:20 Class of 1947
4:30 Class of 1957
4:40 Class of 1967
5:00 Class of 1977
5:20 Class of 1987
5:30 Class of 1992
5:40 Class of 1997
5:50 Class of 2007

5:30–7:30 p.m. (tours will depart every half-hour)
Harvest Tours

The wagon will load at the Alumni House backyard
 Climb on board and join the wagon tour as it meanders around the orchards and farm. We ask that an adult accompany small children. In case of rain, the Harvest Tour will be canceled. *Please note: Outdoor activities of these kinds can be hazardous and carry some risk of injury. I mindfully accept the responsibilities of my participation/that of my child.*

6 p.m.
Harvest Picnic
Alumni House backyard
Parking is available behind the Science Complex, with additional parking at Chan Shun Hall and Howard Performing Arts Center
 Join us for this family favorite Homecoming tradition. Whether it's under the big tent or sitting around the crackling campfire and roasting s'mores, enjoy fellowship, a light haystack supper and music by Uphill Climb.

8 p.m.
Alumni Homecoming Gala
Howard Performing Arts Center
 This is a complimentary concert featuring the Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Claudio Gonzalez, and Wind Symphony, conducted by Byron Graves. We welcome guest pianist Wen-Ting Ong (BMus '11). Wen-Ting now works at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee and the Boston Ballet. A dessert reception will be held after the program.

9 p.m.
Alumni vs. Students Basketball Game
Johnson Gymnasium
 The Cardinal basketball teams will make their debut as they compete against alumni teams. Be sure and come to cheer your team on.


Sunday, October 1

8–9:30 a.m.
School of Education Alumni Breakfast
Rooms 013 and 015, Bell Hall
 Hosted by the Department of Teaching, Learning & Curriculum (TLC) and the Education Club (ELT). Come enjoy a delicious breakfast with fellow graduates.

7:30–11 a.m.
Aviation Annual Fly-In/Drive-In Pancake Breakfast
Andrews University Airpark
Adults \$7 (children ages 10 and under \$3)
Breakfast will be served until 11 a.m.
 The Andrews University Airpark invites pilots and non-pilots alike to come out for this annual event. Come for a hearty pancake breakfast in one of our large hangars. Stay to check out the interesting aircraft or vehicles that show up. Learn about the services available to pilots and their aircraft.

9 a.m.
Harvest Run 10K Run, 5K Run/Walk and 1-Mile Walk
Registration and packet pick-up from 8–8:45 a.m. in the Alumni Tent—On-site/Regular pricing: Adults \$27 (Current AU students and children 12 and under \$17), 1-Mile Walk: \$12
Parking will be available in the Andrews Academy parking lot
 Come enjoy the beautiful views of Andrews University's central campus and (for the 10K) challenging forest trails. Run past iconic scenes such as the J.N. Andrews sculpture, the Entrance Globe and ULC arch.

10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Health and Fitness Expo
Johnson Gymnasium
 Learn about health and fitness information in a fun and interactive way at this free event. We will be offering mini workouts, cooking demos, nutrition information, games, local health service information, hearing screens, rock wall climbing and more. The first 200 participants will receive a reusable shopping bag with goodies from our participating sponsors. All participants who complete a sheet of participation will be eligible to enter a drawing for health and fitness related prizes.



R. Deborah Weithers, dean for Student Life and Title IX deputy coordinator, sat down with **Michael Nixon**, Andrews University's first vice president for Diversity & Inclusion, to talk about his background, what he brings to this new role and his understanding of where we should head as an institution and church.

CONNECTING, EMPO

Tell me about where you grew up.

I was born in upstate New York, where my dad, Timothy Nixon, was pastoring at the time. Then we moved to southern California. That's where my earliest memories begin and where my sister was born. From there we moved to the D.C. area, where we lived until I was in the sixth grade, when my dad was hired to be a chaplain at Andrews University. I attended Ruth Murdoch Elementary School from sixth through eighth grade and then went to Andrews Academy. For my first year of college I went to Antillean University in Puerto Rico, one of our sister institutions. That was followed by the "mandatory" one year at Oakwood University and then I finished the last two years of college here at Andrews.

A photograph of a man with a beard and short dark hair, smiling and looking to his left. He is seated in a chair, wearing a dark blazer over a blue and red plaid shirt. His hands are clasped in his lap. The background is a bright, out-of-focus interior space with large windows. The word "POWERING" is written in large, orange, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the image. The image is framed by dark diagonal bands with thin orange lines.

POWERING

What was your life like in Berrien Springs?

Up to the point when we moved to Berrien Springs, I lived in pretty homogenous communities so this was clearly the most globally diverse kind of setting, at least in the church, that I'd been in. Of course, in D.C. there are people from all over the world, but as far as my church and school experience Andrews University and its community was the most diverse setting I'd been in. It was new and I liked that it presented some interesting opportunities.

What were some of your favorite experiences as a student at Andrews?

Outside of the classroom, I enjoyed being part of the basketball team. That was definitely a growing experience for me. But I think the most impactful thing was the worship experiences on campus. We really do have a unique opportunity for our students worshipping here on this campus and interacting with folks from the global community. I think I tried to take advantage of it, but in retrospect I wish I would have even more because it's not at your fingertips like that when you leave here.

What would you have done differently?

When I was a student I had friends from various backgrounds but it's very easy sometimes for students to get into their friend group, to clique up. I don't think I spent enough time outside of my comfort zone on campus. It was a very familiar environment for me, having lived here for a while, and a lot of my classmates from elementary school and the Academy were at the University so it was just very natural to gravitate toward them. I wish I had tried to broaden my perspective before leaving here. I was definitely able to do that when I left, but I could have done it more here if I was more intentional about it.

In your new role, what are some of your ideas to help students get out of their comfort zones?

If you look at the size of institutions across the country we are probably thought of as a smaller institution, but despite our size, we have so many different organizations and clubs and things that are happening. Despite constant efforts toward increased information sharing on campus, it's easy

I think what my background allows me to do is look at the big picture, but also not forget the effects that big picture has on the individuals that make up that picture.

to miss things or not take advantage of the opportunities. It's really important that we strive to improve communication in the classroom as well. Students are required to be in the classroom while they're here so it's important to create a global environment there, through the curriculum itself or the conversations our faculty are facilitating so the subject matter isn't just words on a page.

Our student body is so globally diverse. As we're talking about different things that have happened and are happening throughout the world, maybe we can key into that and identify a student who comes from there, spend some time hearing from them. I know we have a lot of faculty who are already doing that, thinking outside the box, thinking of ways to engage students. Once you create those intentional opportunities, then outside the classroom people start to think, "Oh wow, how can I connect with such and such that I connected with so well in class?" How can we really maximize that time in a way that students really want to be there and want to interact with each other in that space?

Tell us a little bit about your family.

Absolutely. I love talking about my family. I'm married to Pastor Tacyana Nixon. She's an alumna of Andrews University; with a major in religion and minor in communication. While still an undergraduate, she received a call to serve as the first female pastor in the New Jersey Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Initially she served as

an assistant pastor at a church and then six months later she was assigned to become the senior pastor of the church in Princeton, New Jersey, right down the street from Princeton University. It was an unexpected place to be in our lives, but she served there for three and a half years as the senior pastor and was able to do amazing work. We were able to connect with some of our Adventist students on the Princeton campus so that was really exciting. While we were there our daughter Noa was born. She's 2½ now and she thinks she's like 20 or 30. Can't stop her from talking now and all that good stuff so it's a really good time for us. We're so grateful for her.

Why did you decide to go into law?

I first got interested in the legal system when we were living in southern California, during the O.J. Simpson trial. That was a big deal across the country of course, but locally everything on TV was around that. They were even cutting into cartoons for the O.J. Simpson trial! I was only 7 or 8 at the time, but it piqued my interest and I said that's what I want to do. Interestingly, as I got older, I became convinced that I couldn't see myself involved in the criminal justice system. That system in many ways isn't functioning as best it could so I decided on a different angle and got really passionate about civil rights and advocacy. I just wasn't sure exactly what it would be; that developed as I was in classes and got different opportunities.

What do you think your legal background and experience bring to the table at Andrews in your new position?

Most of my legal experience has been in the field of fair housing and housing discrimination. When I attended John Marshall Law School in Chicago we had a fair housing legal clinic where students were actually able to try cases, which was really exciting. I started that my second year and it went into my third year, being able to interact with clients and do intake analyses. That gave me a knowledge and framework for just how integral the housing divide in our country has been to many of the individuals I met. Many of the barriers to inclusion start at the housing level. We have a history in regard to racial divisions, but sometimes a lot of people think of that

as a choice people are making, as opposed to a choice that's been made for them. Coming from that framework and then later working at the Fair Housing Justice Center in New York and seeing some of those structural divides still in place, it really helped me understand that as much as it is about people making these decisions, there are also structures that have been set up by governments (local, state and federal) which lead to a certain result.

I think what my background allows me to do is look at the big picture, but also not forget the effects that big picture has on the individuals that make up that picture. As we think about what we do here at Andrews, we do have to be complaint-responsive and listen carefully. But beyond that I think we really need to be proactive, not think that because a problem isn't being reported to us or we haven't heard of a specific scenario in a while that it doesn't exist. That's the piece that's maybe a little bit more challenging, but it may be even more important. What does this new initiative or framework mean for us as we move forward and analyze and assess what we're doing? How do we basically push it into a better future?

How would you respond to someone who doesn't understand the need for this position?

First, I would listen to try and understand why it is they are skeptical or why they may not understand there's a need for it. There are a number of studies and data that talk about how making diversity and inclusion a priority in an institution helps it function better for not just the underrepresented, but for the majority groups, too. Inclusion is about everyone; it's not just about me being the champion of one group or another group. I think the best thing I could do is to try and help that individual understand that I'm actually here for them, as well, and they shouldn't look at me as their opponent but as their advocate. Hopefully that would help them understand why Andrews created this position with not only a vision, but also with clear goals for how they want to move forward in the future.

How would you define diversity and inclusion in a Christian, Seventh-day Adventist context?

As Seventh-day Adventists, we have a very particular and uniquely holistic understanding of the gospel. As a result, I think there should be no other denomination that understands inclusion as well as we do. That's not the practical reality in our church right now, but within that setting we believe in the priesthood of all believers, which is biblical. We believe that the Spirit of God gives us all gifts as the Spirit chooses. We are all given value through the acceptance of the sacrifice of Christ and the blood of Christ gives us all the same, equitable chance at salvation.

Given that understanding of scripture and the gospel, we should be able, in whatever we do, whether in our educational institutions, our churches, our hospitals,

our conference offices, wherever we find ourselves, to simply live out the truth of that gospel as we understand it through our Adventist view of scripture. I think it's really as simple as that. I try to explain to people that the gospel of Jesus Christ that we believe in as Adventists is inclusive and I believe that our understanding of the Sabbath in scripture and the way the Sabbath was built and its original intent was to equalize everything. On that day, your employee is not your employee, I'm not the VP, our president isn't our president, we're all common believers and we take that time to understand and remind ourselves of who our creator is and our need for him, the beauty of what's been created and the value of everyone who has been created.



What's your personal takeaway from the It is Time journey that Andrews University went through this spring?

I'll speak now as a person who came across it before being hired by the institution, because that's when my reactions and my reflections were birthed. Whenever I come across a message, particularly when it comes to social media, I understand that what I'm coming across is potentially going to be "in your face." It's going to feel like it's provocative, just because it's something online. Everyone can see it, and then when you include a video which is shared all across the world, that comes with its own connotations.

After watching the original It is Time video one time and kind of letting those thoughts go through my head, I decided to watch it again and just really try to listen to what was being said. It wasn't necessarily that I agreed with or affirmed every word that was said, but I looked into the eyes of every student and I could feel their conviction, I could feel their passion, I could tell that they cared about what happened next. I thought back to my time and experience as a student, and that allowed me to better resonate with their message—I could see

It wasn't necessarily that I agreed with or affirmed every word that was said, but I looked into the eyes of every student and I could feel their conviction, I could feel their passion, I could tell that they cared about what happened next.

myself. I really saw that from their position they felt it was the best way to communicate this message. Communicating via social media is a reality now. Andrews University itself uses Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Our students are using those things as well, so it's seen by all of us as a viable way to communicate important messages.

I think the way the institution responded was amazing. Having grown up here, knowing how much time it usually takes for things like this to happen, I would expect it to be a year-long process, if not multiple years. For the University to respond in the way it did, five days later, showed humility on the part of leadership. It would have been very easy to release a statement responding to what was said, giving all the reasons why it really wasn't accurate, etc. Instead, the University said, "We're going to communicate in a way that's forward-looking, that gives value to what was said." It's clear that this was something the University was already thinking through, but it definitely accelerated the process. I guess the icing on the cake, personally, is that I'm here!

Talk to me about diversity and inclusion in the curriculum.

This is really important. It will obviously look different depending on the department you're in, but I think that department chairs in collaboration with their faculty should be thinking about how we can take advantage of the opportunity to empower our global community in the classroom. There are a number of ways you can do that. Here's one example: I was a student in the Department of History & Political Science. That department presents a unique opportunity to look at the historical experiences of different cultures and communities in our national and global history. Maybe that department could offer a course each semester to look at one of those things by itself, as opposed to it being wrapped into a larger American history or world history course. Maybe courses could also be offered in Asian American history, or women in history, or African American studies or looking at various kinds of literature from different parts of the world.

Looking at the contributions of different parts of our community in various fields allows students to see themselves in the material. The more we can help students con-

nect their experience to the subject matter they are learning, the more passionate they become about it, the more invested they get and the more they want to stay connected—both as students and alumni.

How can faculty, staff, students and alumni assist you in reaching your goals? What kind of support would you like to see?

The biggest form of support right now is input. I'll try to sit in on classes, but I can only really get the student experience from it being explained to me by students. The same goes for faculty, staff and alumni. What are ways you want to be included? What has worked well? We want to accentuate the positives. What are things we can be doing better? Maybe you felt excluded. How can I be most effective in creating a more inclusive environment for you? I really need to hear from everyone and figure out how we can come together with the various teams that are already on campus and empower everyone to move forward. My Andrews University email is michaeln@andrews.edu. I hope to hear from you!

How do you see the work of diversity and inclusion forwarding the mission of Andrews University?

Ultimately, if the goal is to change the world, we have to think about how best to create world-changers. In order to change the world, you have to be engaged in what's happening in the world and engaged with the experiences of the global community. The better we are able to create opportunities for folks to learn that in classrooms, co-curricular activities and worship settings, then wherever they go in the world they will be equipped to bring that message with them into their organization, their local church community or wherever they end up and truly start to impact the world.

What are your thoughts on capitalizing on our representational diversity to increase enrollment?

When it comes to representational diversity that's one of the things Andrews has always done well. There are people here from everywhere and that will probably be the case going forward. One way we could cap-



italize on that in the sphere of enrollment is maybe empowering our students with this new experience we're trying to create for them so when they go home for a break they tell their friends, "Hey, you've got to come. This is amazing. This is impactful. This experience is unique. You have to come with me."

I decided to spend my first year in Puerto Rico because a friend of mine was actually from there and had a really great experience there with his family. I and a couple mutual friends thought about it and decided to go and join him. We had a great time. It was really the peer connection that was a big thing for me in my decision. Nowadays, especially when students are thinking about where to go for college, they are thinking about who is going with them, who is already there, and whether they already feel like they're a part of it. Even when students come here for visits, creating that kind of experience for them and connecting them with peers who are already here allows them to build those meaningful communities. I know there are a couple of initiatives that are already working toward this, like Early College Experience, which I think is a great idea.

How can Andrews University take leadership in this arena both in higher education and the Adventist church?

There are eyes on what is happening here. What's our response to that? We can start to get big ideas about impacting things in the church at large before we really look at the issues we have going on here, but I think if we move too quickly into that

phase we could easily skip steps we need to take here. We need to think of how we can model a good format as opposed to just presenting a good format. As folks from sister institutions or those who are in church leadership come on our campus they should start to get a feel for some of the changes that are happening. They should see there's a different dynamic here and maybe that will pique their interest. As we continue to grow and develop, we will inevitably impact some real change denomination-wide.

What's your BHAG (Big, Hairy, Audacious Goal)? If you had a magic wand and could make anything happen, what would that look like?

The goal I'd like our institution commit to reaching—and I believe we can do it—is that in everything we do on campus we really model and live out the gospel of Jesus Christ. That would be my dream. We have a vision for creating an inclusive environment where the gospel has become real to us and it has affected and changed everything about what we do: Our value system, our ethics, every policy, every program, every document that's created is bathed in that foundation. My BHAG would be to see that done in our church globally as well. That's probably a much bigger project/vision.

A friend of mine, Ty Gibson, and I have started an initiative called "Against the Wall" where we're looking at some of these divisions in the Adventist church globally. I see so much of what we're trying to achieve as a spiritual battle

more than anything, particularly in our context. We need the spirit of God to truly transform this campus, but it starts with us being available to the spirit and being willing to proactively do things, not have things done for us or through osmosis where we just kind of sit back and things just magically change. It's going to take a real commitment from all of us collaboratively to achieve those goals and, if we stay committed to it, I believe we'll do it.

What is it you want people reading this to know from your heart? Something that will help people know you better.

I'd like people to know that I'm a very accessible person, very available and conversational. I know stories are an institutional initiative, but even before coming here I've always been very passionate about hearing people's stories. I think there is something transformative in just sitting down with someone and listening. That's a part of dialogue that sometimes isn't practiced and appreciated enough. Regardless of who they are or where they're from, or how they've come in contact with our institution or our church, really hearing from them what their experience has been can better inform how you can operate and move things forward.

We can get caught up in procedures, policies, programs or politics, and those things are important and have their place, but then very quickly forget about the people who are impacted by those things. I'm much more interested in connecting with and empowering those people. There may be a lot of ideas out there about who I am or what I'm trying to do or what agenda I may have. To be as clear as I can possibly be, my agenda is to connect with and empower people. I'm here to be a supportive voice wherever I can be—an empowering voice, so that folks feel like we're not just saying to them they are valued, but we're showing them how we value them.

If folks are interested in reaching out to me, please do. I look forward to collaborating with our whole community: Faculty, staff, students, alumni, administrators, church members and interested parties that may have just come across this article. Feel free to reach out.

I want to hear your story. ■

The Next Chapter

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY 2017–2022 Strategic Plan

by Andrea Luxton



As we turn to our next chapter, we have chosen several lenses (core strengths) with which to approach and communicate our overarching theme (mission). The lens of Explore Intentionally identifies our commitment to finding new and relevant ways to live out our mission and to encourage students to do the same. Live Wholly portrays actively our historic commitment to holistic education (Body, Mind, Spirit) and our commitment to reinvigorating that in the lives of our current community whether through initiatives in physical, emotional or spiritual wellness. The lens of Learn Deeply is the lens of depth and quality: what we are known for and how we can continue high impact practices for our students. And our final lens of Engage Globally is part of our story DNA: it is the way of the past and the way of the future, albeit through adjusted storylines.

And so we move to those new storylines, strategies that we believe will both ensure the continuity of the rich Andrews story, as well as deepen and strengthen the story as it moves into the next chapter. Each storyline will be rooted in our overarching theme(s) and through our chosen lenses, but will in turn introduce new and engaging plots that will add color and texture to our future. These will be the central thrust of this chapter of the Andrews' story.

STORYLINE ONE: To live, work or study at Andrews University will mean active engagement in a community that is passionate about being a caring, inclusive, healthy community of faith.

As I write this article I reflect on what an amazing community we already have at Andrews University, a community that in many ways is already the caring, inclusive healthy community of faith that our first strategic plan storyline seeks to ensure.

For example, I recently heard that Wandile Mthiyane, graduate student in the School of Architecture & Interior Design, just won two more awards for his leadership in creating hope through housing and community development in the shantytown environment in South Africa. A couple of weeks ago I heard that the senior project for Nina Vallado in our documentary film program has been winning awards this summer and has now been shortlisted for the Student Academy Awards. That project was about her personal journey with her autistic sister. Once again this year we were identified as a Gold Level Campus by the "Exercise-is-Medicine On Campus" advisory of the American College of Sports Medicine. We have just appointed our first vice president for Diversity & Inclusion. Before this is printed I will have awarded our first four heart@andrews awards to four staff and faculty who have shown exemplary care in responding to students, peers or community. Our students and graduates

consistently attest to the lives of faith that are strengthened while students at Andrews, such as the testimony of Alexandria Edge in the last edition of FOCUS.

Why then do we highlight this storyline as the first of our focused strategic initiatives for this five-year period? First of all, these great examples of who we are and what we can be confirm our commitments and provide evidence that we are on a journey, but of course they do not show we have arrived.

Seeking to create a story where care, gentleness and mutual respect thrive, despite the seeming callous disregard of others that often appears to be the prevailing culture around us, requires an ongoing and intentional focus. Confirming the value of wellness despite the pressures that seem to absorb every minute of our days (and sometimes nights) means identified plans. Living a story of faith, through the eyes of a Seventh-day Adventist believer, irrespective of the discouragements and the push of individualism that decry the values of organized religion, demands our attention.

Let me share with you some of the plans we have to deepen these commitments.

The appointment over this summer of Michael Nixon, our first vice president for

Diversity & Inclusion is one of the steps we have already taken to seek to create a story where care, gentleness and mutual respect thrive. He shares some of his vision for this new position in his interview in this edition of FOCUS. As a faith-based campus community we have the opportunity to frame how we see the balance between freedom of speech and responsibility to each other. So, with the help of our new vice president, we will seek in increasingly clear and meaningful ways to ensure that individual and group voices are heard on campus, doing so within the framework of respect for all individuals and their dignity and value under God. We cannot ignore important issues on our campus and in our world, but we can engage in those in civil and appropriate ways. I also look forward to increased opportunities to understand and embrace the uniqueness and talents of our amazingly diverse national and international community. As we, as a University, deepen our cultural competence, we prepare our students to be more effective in an increasing global and diverse workplace.

As a University we have an amazing opportunity to model what it means to live the gospel in our relationships and interactions: we take that opportunity seriously. To do this we will of course need to ensure we maximize the engagement of our employees in modeling care and service to each other, our students and the wider community. That will also require care and value to our employees. Our plan seeks to also deepen that administrative commitment. As a start, we are giving four heart@andrews awards to employees every month this year where exemplary service to others is recognized.

When it comes to passion about health and wellness we have no better champion on our campus than our director of University Health & Wellness, Dominique Gummelt. Only this week she and I talked about our progress and plans in this area. At the end of last year, the Jackie film debuted, telling the transformation story of one of our students to better health and wellness though the combined resources of those on our campus tasked with emotional, nutritional, physical and spiritual health. This film not only tells the



ued refocusing of our energy. As a University we want to ensure our invitations to our students to seek deepened faith and commitment are relevant, effective and winsome. This means creating initiatives that connect to the lives of today's students such as the PROXIMITY app, a smartphone/tablet app that allows students to log in every day for a scripture, a short podcast devotional and some encouragements to action for the day.

We are also excited to be engaging in a new survey this

success of one student, it also indicates the University's intent to be known for its stellar programming in and commitment to health and wellness. To help achieve that goal, we will be increasing our advice to our freshmen based on their individual metrics; we will increase the number of our health ambassadors on campus; and working within different departments, we will start awarding departments with healthy department awards to encourage campus-wide engagement.

Of course, we will also continue toward completing our plans for the new Wellness Center, with plans to break ground in the spring of 2018. Meanwhile on the academic side, our health professions programs continue to see growth and are targeted for further growth in the next five years. A health professions building to house some of the significant needs in those programs is slated to be central to our next large fund-raising project. It is very important to us that the health professions and our drive for increased focus on health and wellness on the campus is not an end in itself. Even more so, it is deeply connected to our view as Seventh-day Adventists that education needs to be concerned about the total person; it is also evidence of our belief that we are created and valued beings. As such we have a spiritual responsibility to care for our bodies.

Finally, in our first storyline we focus on our responsibilities and plans as a community of faith.

That responsibility is not something new. Neither is it separate from our other plans. Here our plans are not a change of emphasis but a commitment for a contin-

ued refocusing of our energy. As a University we want to ensure our invitations to our students to seek deepened faith and commitment are relevant, effective and winsome. This means creating initiatives that connect to the lives of today's students such as the PROXIMITY app, a smartphone/tablet app that allows students to log in every day for a scripture, a short podcast devotional and some encouragements to action for the day.

fall that will help us understand better our success in encouraging our students to live a life of commitment, where our greatest success lies and where we can do better. We continue to have a vibrant mix of opportunities for students to think deeply about their faith commitment and share that with others through our chapel and residence hall programs, through our co- and extra-curricular activities, as well as through classes and department events. Mission and service opportunities will also continue to grow as faith engages in practice. And this year the church will partner with chaplaincy in exploring Adventist doctrine—making sure we know what makes Seventh-day Adventist beliefs unique and how they deepen faith and mission.

It is hard to provide a fixed list of what we will do as we rollout Storyline One. I have shared here only a few of our thoughts and plans. As alumni and friends of Andrews University we want you to know as leadership that we are indeed “passionate about being a caring, inclusive, healthy community of faith.”

We are convinced that this focus on our culture, on the values that drive us, is essential for the other plans within our overall Strategic Plan that focus more on our teaching and learning environment and on our campus development to be successful. As we indicate in one of our later storylines, we want the experience of living and working at Andrews University to be “irresistible.” We believe that is possible if we truly create that caring inclusive healthy community of faith. ■

FOCUS will feature articles on the additional storylines in the next four issues. The strategic plan can be accessed at andrews.edu/president/strategicplan.

1. Transform the Campus Culture through focus on faith development, wellness, diversity and inclusion.

STORYLINE: *To live, work or study at Andrews University will mean active engagement in a community that is passionate about being a caring, inclusive, healthy community of faith.*

2. Define the Andrews University footprint beyond the Berrien Springs campus through collaboration with church, community and higher education institutions.

STORYLINE: *Andrews University, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, partner institutions and the communities they serve will be richer because of the intentional engagement and influence of the University beyond its immediate campus.*

3. Position the University as a leader in teaching and learning.

STORYLINE: *In a competitive environment Andrews University must be able to provide a flexible, engaging, learning environment through faculty committed to the redemptive work of education. They will use both innovative and time-honored teaching methods, using the lens of “the teacher” in advancing research and engaging with service. The result will be a transformational education experience.*

4. Increase the quality and depth of the student learning experience.

STORYLINE: *As students have multiple options for their education, Andrews University must provide a student environment that makes the Andrews University choice irresistible.*

5. Engage in campus renewal and development to meet expectations of a campus for 2025.

STORYLINE: *Students and campus guests will experience an environmentally friendly campus that expresses its values through its physical campus spaces and provides state-of-the-art facilities for education, especially where professional spaces and equipment are required.*

Alumni calendar of events

For up-to-date information visit us online at alumni.andrews.edu or contact the Office of Alumni Services at 269-471-3591 or alumni@andrews.edu.

SEPTEMBER

- 28 2017 Homecoming Weekend**
Andrews University Campus
 For more information, see pages 16–17 and visit alumni.andrews.edu/homecoming.

OCTOBER

- 29 Maryland Area Regional Event**
11 a.m.
Sheraton Columbia Town Center Hotel
10207 Wincopin Circle
Columbia MD 21044
 Please register at:
alumni.andrews.edu/rsvp
- 31 New York City Area Regional Event**
6 p.m.
Nick's Pizza
1814 2nd Ave, New York NY 10128
 Please register at:
alumni.andrews.edu/rsvp

JANUARY

- 7 Orlando Area Regional Event**
11 a.m.
Highland Manor
604 E Main Street, Apopka, Florida
 Please register at:
alumni.andrews.edu/rsvp

- 28 Dallas/Fort Worth Area Regional Event**
11 a.m.
Location to be determined

- 29 Phoenix Area Regional Event**
6 p.m.
Location to be determined

FEBRUARY

- 11 Los Angeles Area Regional Event**
11 a.m.
Location to be determined

- 11 Loma Linda Area Regional Event**
6 p.m.
Location to be determined

- 13 Roseville/Sacramento Area Regional Event**
6 p.m.
Location to be determined

- 14 Napa/Saint Helena Area Regional Event**
6 p.m.
Location to be determined

- 15 Portland, Oregon Regional Event**
6 p.m.
Location to be determined

- 17 Walla Walla Area Regional Event**
6 p.m.
Location to be determined

- 18 Seattle Regional Event**
6 p.m.
Location to be determined

Please visit alumni.andrews.edu/rsvp for up-to-date information on these and other events in your area.

Who are alumni?

If you've graduated, attended, worked or taught at Andrews University we consider you alumni! And if you're a parent or a potential student considering Andrews, you're invited to be our honored guest.

Front row, L–R: Myra Thuesdee DeMills (BS '75, MA '84), Wanda Cantrell (BA '73, AS '85, MAT '93), Karen Drew Pierson (BSD '85)

Back row, L–R: Alvin David (CERT '79), Thurman (TD) DeMills (BA '76), Gregg Dunn (BS '85), Trevor O'Reggio (MDiv '85)





Andrews Legacy

Roughly one-third of new students coming through FIRST STOP during New Student Orientation identified themselves as Legacy students—students with a sibling, parent and/or grandparent who attended Andrews. The Alumni Association celebrated this legacy connection by taking photos of the students and/or families.

August 20, 2017





New student orientation



Lend-a-Hand

Sunday, August 20, 2017

Over 50 community volunteers, alumni, faculty and staff joined the Office of Alumni Services in welcoming new students to campus by helping them to move into the dorms. This event has been one of the best received volunteer events on campus both by the volunteers and the thankful parents and incoming students. Thank you to everyone that showed support by coming out and making this community a welcoming place to our new students as they begin a new chapter in their story with Andrews University.



Alumni Barbecue & Mentoring

Friday, August 25, 2017

25 local alumni served as mentors during this annual event. Alums were as recent as August graduates, chosen to inspire new students as they begin their college journey. They ate with their mentor group, joined icebreaker activities, and shared thoughts on how to be successful in college. It was a win-win experience for all involved. This is one of several mentorship events planned by Alumni Services to take place in the coming school year. *Above top: Bryan von Dorpowski* (BBA '88) and *Above: Alisa Williams* (BS '06).



Regional event

Houston/ASI Conference

Thursday, August 3, 2017

Over 70 local alums as well as those attending the ASI convention in Houston, Texas, came out to hear the story of Andrews, speak with University administrators and meet our new president, Andrea Luxton. Alumni Director Andriy Kharkovyy shared some updates and pictures from Andrews and President Luxton spoke with several prospective students also in attendance about various opportunities that Andrews can provide for them and their education.

1970s

Albert Dittes (BD '70) wrote for FOCUS magazine during the 1968–69 school year and has been writing ever since. He served 12½ years in pastoral ministry, earned a second master's degree in journalism and did some teaching and newspaper reporting. Semi-retired, he plays the piano and organ for church, has become an historian of old Madison College and written five books of local history.

Alex Shand Currie (MA '75, EdD '77) retired as assistant to the president of the South Pacific Division of Seventh-day Adventists in 2001. He managed Adventist counseling services in Sydney, Australia, as well as pastoring a 450-member church. From 2014 to 2017 he was manager of spiritual care services for Sydney Adventist Hospital. He recently became CEO for International Children's Care Australia which assists refugees in Cambodia, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Philippines. His wife Beverley retired from elementary school teaching last December. They have 12 grandchildren from four sons. Alex writes, "I was the first to graduate with the religious education doctorate. Beverley and I have a Bed and Breakfast in Cooranbong just to keep us active in our late 70s."

Erick W. (Bill) Lindeman Jr. (MA '77) served as a teacher and administrator for 16 years in Adventist schools in the Indiana, Wisconsin and Oregon Conferences. He transitioned to the pastoral ministry in 1987 and pastored in multiple states, including Indiana, Montana, New Jersey, Michigan and Texas. He is currently at the Laurel Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church in San Antonio, Texas with his wife Cheryl. They have a son Erick III and daughter Tami Ordas, who are both married, and two grandchildren.

Stephen Gillham (MDiv '79) retired in 2015 after 40 years in pastoral ministry. He currently serves as director/president of La Vida Missions, Inc. He lives with his wife Carol in Farmington, New Mexico.

1980s



Derek Morris (MDiv '80, DMin '87) currently serves as president of Hope Channel. He is married to **Bodil Chen** (BS '79), a family nurse practitioner. They spent the first two years of their marriage on the Andrews University campus and just celebrated 40 years of marriage on June 26, 2017.

Sharon Aka (BS '84) is the associate director of the Adventist Learning Community operated by the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. She is also pursuing a PhD in leadership at Andrews. Her husband, **Tim** (BS '85), is an investment fund director for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. They have three children, Maxwell, currently an MDiv student in the seminary, **Danielle** (BHS '15), a registered nurse in the Kettering Health Network, and **Rachel** (BFA '16), a media intern for Hope TV in Japan. There are three generations of Andrews graduates on both sides of their family.

Learie Luke (BA '89) was appointed provost at South Carolina State University in July 2017. Since 2008, Luke has held numerous senior administrative roles in the Division of Academic Affairs. Luke has published numerous works, including a book, and has served as principal investigator of various funded projects. He earned graduate degrees in history from Morgan State University and Howard University and serves as a commissioner for the South Carolina Department of Archives. He and his wife, Sharon, have a teenage daughter, Sharlene.



1990s

Josie Borchardt (BS '93) graduated with her MSN from Wright State University in 2002. She has been a pediatric nurse practitioner for 15 years and says, "There is no way I could have done it without the help I received from Andrews University and God!"

2000s

Stephanie Stewart-Belz (BSELED '06) has worked for the Canadian and Texas Conferences as a teacher. She is married to Dr. Glenn Belz and they have two sons, Carsten Robert and Caden Rolf. She currently lives with her family in Spring, Texas and is completing her master's degree.



Dan Serns (MAPM '09) is the evangelism coordinator for the Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, mobilizing the 57,000 Adventists in the Texas Conference to take the Adventist message to the 24 million people in their territory. His wife Lois is the assistant evangelism coordinator.

2010s

Aimee-Joy Cork (BA/BS '15) graduated from Andrews with a Bachelor of Science in animal science, Bachelor of Arts in French studies and minor in chemistry. Immediately after graduation, she did an internship with ADRA in Madagascar, assisting as a live-stock specialist for the food security project they operate there. In August 2016, she began pursuing a master's (non-thesis) in veterinary public health and epidemiology at Texas A&M University. She will be getting married to **Joseph Alexander Hearn** (BT '16) in 2018.



Gunter Koch (BS '01) died July 8, 2017 in Stevensville, Michigan.

He was born Nov. 25, 1924, in Tokyo, Japan, and lived there with his missionary parents, Pastor and Mrs. Alfred Koch, until the age of 15. He was fluent in the Japanese and German languages. Gunter lived in the United States and supported himself after age 15. He graduated in 1943 and 1945 from high school and junior college at what is now Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee.

In 1945 he registered in dental school, at what is now Emory University School of Dentistry in Atlanta, Georgia, graduating in 1949 as a Doctor of Dental Surgery. Before starting his senior year at Emory University, he entered the U.S. military and served for three years during the Korean War.

He married **Erna Mae Kyle** (BA '46) in 1948. Beginning in 1952, they built a successful dental practice in Bangor, Michigan. The couple shared business acumen, a love of music, their church and their family. The couple had two children, **Ruth Koch** (BA '77) (died 2015) and **Gerald Koch** (died 2013). Erna Mae passed to her rest in 2006.

After 40 years of dental practice, Gunter retired in 1992. Upon retirement he developed an interest in photography, and earned a Bachelor of Science in photography at Andrews University, which gave

him a renewed zest for travel and life in general. A self-proclaimed workaholic, Gunter also remained active with gardening, boating, skiing, tennis, golf, playing the violin and photography, until he suffered a stroke in 2015.

In October 2009 Gunter married Dorothy Johnson, a widow from California. The Kochs and the Johnsons had been family and professional friends as young professionals in Michigan. Gunter and Dottie kept a home in Berrien Springs and wintered in California.

Gunter leaves behind his beloved wife, Dottie; his son's former wife, Karen; two grandchildren, Carey Koch and Casey Koch; and four great-grandchildren, CJ, Matthew, Sâmya and Karen; a sister, Hildegard Landschoot of Pebble Beach, California; nieces and nephews; and a host of lifelong friends. He was predeceased by his sister Gudrun.



Henry Herzog (former staff), 87, of Berrien Springs, Michigan, died July 4, 2017.

He was born Jan. 2, 1930, in Whitemouth, Manitoba, Canada, the son of Rudolph and Ida (Schmidt) Herzog. Henry had lived in Berrien Springs for 45 years, coming from Chattanooga, Tennessee. He worked at the Andrews University print shop in lithograph and photo setup, and in his later years, he did handyman jobs around the community.

Henry helped establish the Pathfinder Club in British Columbia, Canada. He worked as a leader at the Chattanooga Pathfinder Club, and helped with the PMC Pathfinder Club. He loved to go camping, and he helped teach his oldest daughter to play the piano.

Survivors include his wife, Pearl (Quering) Herzog; daughters, Barbara Jean (Bill) McMaster and Darlene Louise (Stephen Paul) Grooms; four grandchildren: Crystal Gaither, Matthew Grooms, Lindsay Delong, and Marc Grooms; 10 great-grandchildren; and a brother, Eddie Herzog.



Tony Romeo (Hon DFA), 69, passed away on June 23, 2017, in New York City, after suffering from a form of non-smoker's lung cancer for the past several years.

A native of New York City from an Italian-American immigrant family, Romeo led a colorful and talented life. Growing up in the Bronx, in a mixed Adventist/Catholic home, he embraced the Adventist faith. He had two passions as a child and young man. One was art and design, with a specific goal to enter the advertising industry often called "Madison Avenue," where all the big agencies were located in Manhattan. That path took him to the public High School of Art and Design, college at the New York School of Visual Arts and finally to Atlantic Union



W. Richard Lesher (MA '64), president of Andrews University from 1984–1994, died August 19, 2017 in Loma Linda, California.

Memorial services will be held at the following locations:

October 7, California:

Azure Hills SDA Church
Grand Terrace, California
4 p.m.

October 21, Berrien Springs

Pioneer Memorial Church
3 p.m. Visitation
4 p.m. Service
Dwight K. Nelson will deliver the homily
This service will be livestreamed by Andrews University.

Note: Richard Lesher's life sketch will be published in the next issue of FOCUS.

College (AUC), the Adventist institution in Massachusetts, where he earned a degree in religion in the late 1960s.

As a college student, he developed his second great passion: he wanted to serve in the ministry. He would do so as a layman, on and off, all through his advertising career, and finally as a full-time pastor and counselor after his retirement from advertising at age 60. He was ordained by the denomination's Greater New York Conference.

After graduation from AUC Tony got a job in the art department at the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Washington, D.C. He spent only eight months there, in the early 1970s, and then moved on to the world of New York ad agencies. First, he toiled in the bullpen at Grey Advertising (now the Grey Global Group), then moving to Scali McCaffrey Sloan (SMS), another large New York agency known for their account with Swedish automaker Volvo. Finally, he spent years at Doyle Dane Bernbach Advertising (now DDB Worldwide), moving into the creative side and management. In all, Tony spent about 35 years working in the ad field.

At the same time, he often performed volunteer work for the Adventist church as a lay preacher. He was invited to go to Kenya and preach an evangelism campaign. Other opportunities to speak, write and counsel others were precious to him.

In 2008, Romeo became more active as a guest speaker in churches and at meetings, and decided he wanted to move into the ministry for the rest of his career. He served as the pastor of the Historic Manhattan Seventh-day Adventist Church on 11th Street in Greenwich Village since 2011.

He added the name "Historic" to the church's title because

the building was erected in 1888 with a donation from a famous American family and has been a fixture of Village life for nearly 130 years.

Romeo was the consummate missionary to Manhattan. He worked hard to be inclusive in his ministry. This often led to criticism from conservative members of his congregation, even to the point of one person labeling him a "secret Jesuit" for working with a local Catholic group in the Village to serve the homeless.

A major outreach legacy Romeo created, several years ago, is Reach NYC. The ministry is separately incorporated as a 501(c)3 organization. They sponsor cultural programs, drawing audiences of as many as 300 to classical and religious concerts, as fundraisers for many charities in Greenwich Village.

Romeo is survived by his wife, **Marlene** (BA/BA '74), daughter **Jennifer** (BBA '99) and son **A.J.** (BT '03).



Melvin Stanley England (att.) died June 7, 2017, in Ohio.

He was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on March 29, 1933, to missionary parents. He lived in many other places with them and his two brothers, Ronald and Eldon—the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Panama and Colombia, before returning to Berrien to Berrien Springs, Michigan, where he graduated from Andrews Acad-

emy in three years as president of his class. He attended Andrews University and after his junior year, he was accepted to the second class of Loma Linda School of Dentistry. In 1958, he graduated at the age of 25. Since the dental school was still being completed, he was able to use his skills as a finish cabinetmaker.

Mel married Nancy May Goodman on August 8, 1954, and they began their lives together in Loma Linda. They were blessed with four children, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Mel practiced dentistry for 49½ years, owning his own practice. He was a life member of the Dayton Dental Society, National Association of Seventh-day Adventist Dentists, Loma Linda School of Dentistry Alumni and Century Club.

His love of flying began at an early age, and he loved putting together model airplanes. Mel received his private pilot's license when he was 16 years old. He belonged to the Dayton Pilots' Club for many years, as well as AOPA and Experimental Aircraft Organization. He enjoyed taking people, especially children, on their first flights in a small aircraft. Some of them became pilots themselves. Mel and Nancy moved near Spring Valley Academy in 1970 for their children's education. He was a founding member of the Centerville Church where he served in numerous roles.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy, of 62 years, and four children, Debra Gustin and her husband John, Randall England and his wife Silvia, **Jeffrey England** (BS '83) and his wife Lori, **Jennifer Karasek** (BS '93, MSPT '94) and her husband Michael, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



James Edward Carr (BA '58), 83, was born in Akron, Ohio. After a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease he died on Dec. 22, 2016.

James graduated from Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University). During his studies of the French language, he became very close to Daniel Augsburg. In 1964 he earned his master's degree from Kent State University in Kent, Ohio. While at Kent State he was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study at the University of Caen in Normandy, France.

In 1967 James began teaching in the Foreign Language Department at Otterbein University located in Westerville, Ohio. He taught there until he retired in 2000.

James is survived by Janet, his wife of 62 years, two sons, Marc, who graduated from Walla Walla University, married to **Linda Kennedy** (BSELED '89), and **Timothy** (BArch '89), married to **Gretchen Gerhardt** (BS '88). Jim and Janet have four grandchildren.

Adam Fenner, director, Adventist Learning Community

“WHY ARE YOU A SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST?”

I’m asked this question at least once a week, sometimes more, by people close to me and by new acquaintances alike. This question and its many variations have become regular elements of my interactions with Adventists and those outside the Church. I can understand why those unfamiliar with Adventism ask the question, but honestly, I’m shocked Adventists and former Adventists even need to ask the question. The answer seems obvious to me.

My answer is not one that involves a dramatic testimony of hitting the proverbial rock bottom, or the “coming to Jesus moment” when my entire life changed in an instant. The reason I am a Seventh-day Adventist is because I’ve seen what the world has to offer, and I’m not interested. Simply put, the community Adventism has provided my family and me is more fulfilling than anything I’ve seen or experienced outside of it. I attribute most of who I am to my Seventh-day Adventist community in Berrien Springs, Michigan, and to the existence of Andrews University. Allow me to explain.

I’m as much a product of Seventh-day Adventism as one can reasonably be, particularly of the Andrews University variety. I attended Ruth Murdoch Elementary School and Andrews Academy, and I graduated with a BA in history from Andrews. My worldview was molded by approximately 16 years of Christ-based education that was and continues to be the ministry of Andrews.

Almost all of the important relationships I’ve had and currently enjoy are somehow rooted in Adventism. This isn’t because I’m uncomfortable with non-Adventists, or unable to make friends outside my worldview, it’s because I appreciate the values and behaviors of my Adventist community. Without Andrews University’s ongoing mission of serving the local community and the world Church, it is unlikely my family, friends and I would be Adventists, and I would have missed out on an incredible blessing.

Attending an Adventist institution as edifying as Andrews University, allowed me



to question my beliefs in a healthy environment. I’ve always had a rebellious streak. However, during my formative college years, I was rarely told I was simply wrong when I shared my thoughts about the world and theology with my professors or broader Adventist community. Being as independently minded as I am (I prefer not to be called stubborn), if I was told I was overtly wrong I would have chafed and undoubtedly refused to listen.


Instead, I had professors like Øystein LaBianca, who rather than condemn my youthful intellectual combativeness, usually simply asked me a question, “have you ever thought about this...?” Sometimes, he would direct me to an article explaining why my thinking was erroneous, and at other times he would tell me his own perspective on the issue. Whatever the case, throughout my Adventist educational experience, I had teachers and professors

“Attending an Adventist institution as edifying as Andrews University, allowed me to question my beliefs in a healthy environment.”

who took the time to listen, invested their resources in my spiritual and academic growth, and genuinely cared about my overall personal development. This more than anything else, laid the foundation of values and beliefs that made me hold onto my faith when nothing else did.

After graduating from Andrews, I left the Church for almost a decade. I was simply unable to see the benefits of the faith and the community. I was focused on myself, and had priorities that centered on growing wealth, satisfying my ego and instant gratification. During this time, I attended several of the world’s foremost graduate schools including Stanford and American Universities, and studied alongside minds that dwarfed my own meager intellect. I learned from some wonderful people, including an openly active Communist professor who despised God. By most metrics the world has to offer, I was on the path to success, but I was miserable. My relationship with God was deeply troubled, and I questioned His existence. I knew something wasn’t right, and that people I once called my community had something more than I did that filled them with an inner peace and palpable joy. With this in mind, I changed course, and dedicated my life to Christ.

“Why am I a Seventh-day Adventist?” Because everything about me, and all that I love and cherish in this life is either directly the result of my Seventh-day Adventist beliefs or the community Andrews University has fostered. Mine was, and largely still is, a logical approach to life. After leaving the Church and community I grew up in, I reflected on who I wanted to be, how I wanted to raise my children, and the best way I could live out my values and beliefs. All of my conclusions indicated embracing an Adventist community like the one at Andrews was the best way of fulfilling my goals in this life and the next. What brought me back to my faith and community, again, wasn’t a single life-changing experience or lack of earthly success, but rather the knowledge there was a better way to live. ■



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*New students gathered on the flag mall for a group photo after New Student Convocation on Monday, August 21.
Photo credit: Darren Heslop, IMC staff photographer*

