

FOCUS

THE ANDREWS UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

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Living in the Summer

Andrea Luxton, *president*

SPRING HAS STRUGGLED TO ARRIVE IN Michigan this year, but nevertheless the winter cannot prevent the cherry blossoms blooming, the sun coming out and the creeping joy of the summer that is irresistibly on its way.

The last two years in higher education have acted in a similar way. The winter that COVID-19 brought to our world, our country and higher education took a long time to pass. We knew it would, and recovery has been slow. But now, the summer has come. That doesn't mean the long winter and delayed spring haven't impacted and changed the environment, maybe forever, but nevertheless we are now in a better place.

The 2022–2023 academic year at Andrews University has been strong. The campus has been vibrant with energy. Creativity and innovation have been evidenced throughout the campus. Mission activities and in-person service projects are back to their central role across the University. As we move into the summer, our students and employees will be scattered throughout the country and world on summer tours and mission trips on multiple continents. And looking toward next year, our applicant pool is strong and growing stronger.

So, are we heading into a long summer for Andrews University? I do hope so, but as I move toward retirement and write my last editorial, I want to identify two areas that need to stay in focus.

Firstly, the last few years have shown us that being too comfortable of the status quo is a risk to the future. Continuing to deepen the University's capacity to be innovative and ensure that flexibility and creativity become part of the DNA of Andrews University will be vital to its future. With the positive impact of our Office of Innovation & Entrepreneurship we are in a great position. But this need will include

new models and ideas in a range of ways. Look out for this in our future.

But just as critically I would suggest there has never been a time when it has been so important to stand together on what is important and focus on building up rather than pulling down. In a national environment that remains politically and ideologically divisive, when social media and personal rhetoric are personally harsh, lifting each other up, personally and corporately, is essential. On a University level, there is so much that is good and positive. What if all of us were committed to looking for that and spreading that good news actively and insistently? Can we buck the national (and church) trends toward criticism and negativity?

As I end my tenure at Andrews University, I want to celebrate with you an amazing University that has first-rate professional and committed employees and engaged and creative students. We are not perfect. And there are challenges of course. But I make a final appeal to all of you who read this magazine: in the words of 1 Thessalonians 5:11, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up." The text finishes, "just as in fact you are doing." May that be prophetic.



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Cover: Dwight K. Nelson's Bible on the Pioneer Memorial Church pulpit after he preached his final sermon there on May 20, 2023.
Photo credit: Lynell De Wind (BBA '87)



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Parkinson Voice Project funds Andrews clinic

Grant is valued at more than \$280,000

THE ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SPEECH-Language & Hearing Clinic was recently awarded a SPEAK OUT! Therapy and Research Center Grant by the Parkinson Voice Project. Valued at more than \$280,000, the award provides extensive training and services offered by the nonprofit Parkinson Voice Project over the next five years, including \$10,000 per year for resources. Andrews is one of 16 universities across the country who have been awarded this newly introduced grant, which enables universities to provide free teletherapy to Parkinson's patients anywhere in the recipient's state.

“Our partnership with Andrews University for SPEAK OUT! training has been described by some of our clients as ‘life-changing.’”

The grant supports research in the School of Communication Sciences & Disorders and enables Andrews University to train students in the SPEAK OUT! program. It also allows the clinic to have a wider reach within the state of Michigan, giving patients access to free teletherapy for voice, speech and swallowing disorders that can accompany Parkinson's disease.

The speech-language pathology and audiology program has partnered with Parkinson Voice Project every year since 2018. Previous supportive grants provided materials, limited funding and free training programs for graduate students. Jenica Joseph, assistant professor of speech-language pathology, notes, “Through grants from Parkinson Voice Project and a partner-

ship we established with the Michigan Parkinson Foundation in 2020, our hope is that everyone in the state of Michigan with Parkinson's will have access to the SPEAK OUT! program. We will conduct and publish research related to the SPEAK OUT! program and our Parkinson's participants and their caregivers. We also hope to continue to build partnerships with local and statewide Parkinson programs.”

Kristin Rossi, CEO of the Michigan Parkinson Foundation, says, “Our partnership with Andrews University for SPEAK OUT! training has been described by some of our clients as ‘life-changing.’ During the pandemic when so many people were isolated and quite literally losing their voices, the team at Andrews answered our call and worked tirelessly to offer programming virtually and have sustained this pivotal partnership for three years. Congratulations to the whole Andrews team on receiving the very well-deserved grant from the Parkinson Voice Project. We are honored to work with you for the betterment of the Parkinson's community.”

“The Andrews University School of Communication Sciences & Disorders and Speech-Language & Hearing Clinic have committed to support our local and statewide Parkinson's community. This commitment is a lifelong commitment that we have made with our clients,” Joseph affirms. “We work in a region where the community is engaged and willing to participate in group activities. With this grant, we can also promote a lot of local events to make the general population more aware of how to identify early Parkinson signs and look for treatment. By developing research we think that we can have more health professionals (and others) advocate for the program.”



Visit Andrews University's YouTube channel to view Week of Prayer, University Chapels, Yearbook interviews, Spring Graduation and more.
andrews.edu/go/youtube

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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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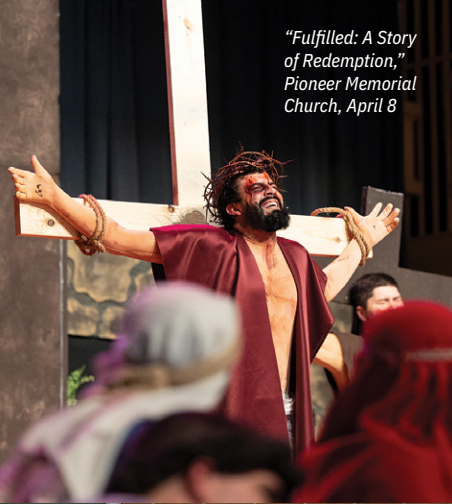
LIFE ON CAMPUS



Students creating pottery projects at "The Burn," April 29



Opening for the new student food pantry, Manna, housed in the lobby of University Towers, April 17



"Fulfilled: A Story of Redemption," Pioneer Memorial Church, April 8



AUSA pep rally in the Andreason Center for Wellness, April 6



Debleaire Snell, speaker for spring Week of Prayer



Dedication and open house for the Shalom House, April 21



"Speaking Up With Women" panel, Newbold Auditorium, April 5



Gymnics Homeshow, held in the Andreason Center for Wellness, April 15



The International Food Fair, Johnson Gym, April 16

Spring graduation

Celebrating the Class of 2023

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY'S SPRING graduation took place May 5–7, 2023. More than 500 students were awarded undergraduate and graduate degrees during the weekend's Commencement services, with about 400 receiving their degrees in person. The weekend's events included a Friday evening Commencement service, Baccalaureate services on Sabbath morning and two Commencement services on Sunday morning. Additional academic and cultural programs took place throughout the weekend.

On Friday, May 5, John V.G. Matthews, emeritus professor of educational foundations and religious education, delivered the Commencement address titled "Broken, We Conquer" for the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and the College of Education & International Services.

Two honorary degree candidates were recognized at this service. Daniel Richard Jackson was posthumously awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity for his service as a pastor, educator and administrator. From 2010–2020, Jackson served as president of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. He was known for his empowering leadership in the face of challenging circumstances.

Juan R. Prestol-Puesán was recognized with an Honorary Doctor of Laws for his service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Prestol-Puesán was the first person of color to assume top financial leadership roles in Adventist church entities worldwide, including as CFO/treasurer of the General Conference. He has managed financial assignments that have impacted a wide spectrum of church organizational issues.

On Saturday, May 6, Garth Gabriel, president of the Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, offered the address "Created for Greatness" for both the graduate and undergraduate Baccalaureate services.



Top: Shandelle Henson addressed graduates from the College of Arts & Sciences **Middle, clockwise from left:** John V.G. Matthews delivered the Commencement address for the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and the College of Education & International Services ■ Two of Daniel Richard Jackson's children received his posthumous honorary Doctor of Divinity ■ Karen Allen was the Commencement speaker for the College of Health & Human Services and College of Professions ■ Juan R. Prestol-Puesán received an honorary Doctor of Laws **Right:** Monte C. Sahlin was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity via a pre-recorded presentation

Two Commencement services took place on Sunday, May 7. Karen Allen, dean and professor of nursing at Valparaiso University College of Nursing and Health Professions, spoke at the 8:30 a.m. service for graduates of the College of Health & Human Services and College of Professions. Her talk was titled, "Are you the one, or should *HE* look for another?" At 11:30 a.m., Shandelle Henson, professor of mathematics and professor of ecology, delivered the address, "Shema," at the service for graduates of the College of Arts & Sciences.



Monte C. Sahlin was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity at the 11:30 a.m. service via a pre-recorded presentation. Sahlin has taken on various directorial and administrative roles in the Church, including Church Ministries director and ADRA director for the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He has served as a pastor and educator and also has dedicated much of his life to social action projects, disaster aid and interfaith research.

Central graduation events are available to view on the Andrews University YouTube channel.

Honoring President Andrea Luxton

Campus says farewell

THIS SPRING THE ANDREWS UNIVERSITY community gathered to honor President Andrea Luxton, who is retiring in July, and her years of service to Andrews.

On Monday, March 6, a surprise event in the lobby of the Campus Center highlighted the unveiling of a seven-piece mural series titled “Stories Set in Stone.” Each of the granite images portrays one of Andrews’ seven core Christian-centered values—compassion, humility, integrity, justice, innovation, wellbeing and trust—that Luxton has promoted during her tenure as president.

Provost Christon Arthur commissioned the artwork and hosted the event, which also included remarks from Artur Stele, Andrews board chair and General Conference vice president; Ted Wilson, General Conference president; Chip Meekma, vice president for Financial Administration; and Darcy de Leon, associate vice president for Human Resources.

Students Grant Steinweg and Jamison Moore, recipients of the Dare to Dream Scholarship, shared cello performances.

Mark Hunt, the artist who created the series, explained that the images portray God’s presence through biblical and modern-day characters. The inclusion of modern characteristics with biblical

perspectives is intended to help viewers see themselves in the installation.

President Luxton shared the significance of the values in her remarks of appreciation: “We felt that as a campus, through the eyes of our belief in who God is, these seven values were the things we needed to be in order to create that environment that would help us be successful and support each other.”

Regarding his choice of granite for the project, Hunt shared, “Being a multimedia artist, I could have chosen any media, but the media chosen is granite. These values are set in stone.”

A plaque next to the display recognizes President Luxton’s legacy of leadership and dedicated service as the first female president of Andrews University.

On Sabbath, April 1, the campus community gathered in the Howard Performing Arts Center for a special “Meditation for the Easter Season: An

“... I could have chosen any media, but the media chosen is granite. These values are set in stone.”

Evensong Honoring Dr. Andrea Luxton’s Gift of Service.”

Faculty, staff and students shared responsive readings, music performances, hymns and selected readings from some of President Luxton’s favorite Bible passages and literature.

The program featured three parts. “Seek” followed the theme of Hebrews 13:14, “For here we have no lasting city, but we are seekers after the city which is to come.” “Affirm” highlighted Hebrews 2:12–13, “I will make your fame known to my brothers; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you;’ and again, ‘I will keep my trust fixed on him ... ” “Change” shared the challenge of Hebrews 10:24, “We ought to see how each of us may best arouse others to love and active goodness.”

The evensong was livestreamed for the extended Andrews community to join virtually. The program was coordinated in part by the Andrews University Departments of English and Music as well as Griggs International Academy (GIA), with the printed program featuring original Andrews University illustrations by De Wilkens, course manager and curriculum specialist for GIA.

Immediately following the program, a reception for President Luxton took place in the Howard Performing Arts Center Lobby. Colleagues and friends shared words of appreciation and those in attendance took opportunities to greet President Luxton.



Far Left: President Andrea Luxton with her nephew John Irvine (left) and Robert LeFevre (right), MICU president, at the evensong reception, April 1. Left: Artur Stele, chair of the Board of Trustees, welcomes attendees to the surprise unveiling of an art installation in the Campus Center on March 6. Bottom: Beverly Matiko, emerita associate professor of communication and English, shares a selected reading at “Meditation for the Easter Season: An Evensong Honoring Dr. Andrea Luxton’s Gift of Service.”

Innovation Week 2023

From March 27–April 1

INNOVATION WEEK 2023 PROMOTED student engagement and entrepreneurship, with programming including breakout sessions, worship, times of fellowship and the second annual Pitch Competition.

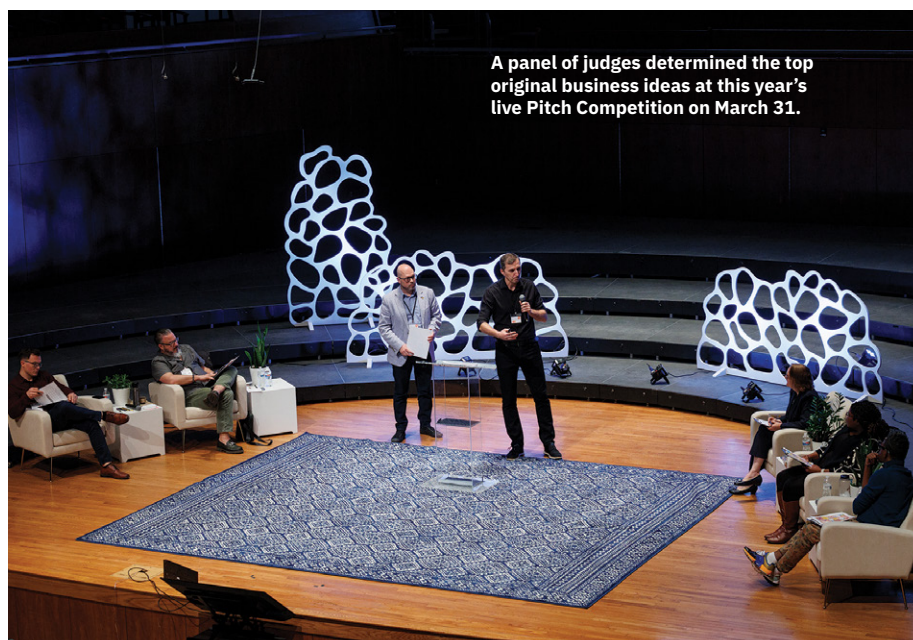
During the Pitch Competition, students presented original business ideas for the chance to win in-kind and cash awards in support of their projects. The top eight teams from the semifinals moved on to the finals, which took place in front of a live audience at the Howard Performing Arts Center. This year, the contest was sponsored by 38 Wall Street, 52 Wall Street, 7th Day Productions, PatentHacks and the MA in leadership—social innovation program.

First-place winner was Josalynn Clark's "Youth Discipleship Mission: Bible Mentorship Program." The second-place prize went to the project titled "My Bible Comics," created by Stanislav Kondrat and Alexander Skibelsky. The project "Ezekiel-Wheels," created by Curtis Johnson, won both third place and a Social Innovation Award. The second Social Innovation Award went to the project "Refill to

Reduce" by biology students Gloria Oh, Ariana Coast and Sarah Wolf. Other winners and competitors included "The Lehaheen Project" by Ha Eun Park, "Moyo Med LLC" by Joseph N. Muhune and Blaise M. Muhune, "Ready Shield" by Staton Westerman and "Badventism" by Nicklas Resager.

Matías Soto, director of the Office of Innovation & Entrepreneurship, looks forward to the continued growth of the program and appreciates the support of the campus community. He hopes to explore further partnerships with other University departments in the future and affirms, "Innovation, through creative thinking and entrepreneurship, provides students with tools to impact the world around them. As we are called to be the salt of the earth, innovation gives us an opportunity to connect with our community in a more tangible manner ... Innovation is needed to change the world."

Innovation Week was sponsored by the Andrews University Graduate Student Association (AUGSA), Center for Faith Engagement, Office of Innovation & Entrepreneurship and School of Leadership.



Teaching & Learning Conference

"Educating Across the Divide: Facilitating the Journey"

THE 20TH ANNUAL ANDREWS UNIVERSITY Teaching & Learning Conference was held Thursday, March 30. The conference serves as an arena where faculty and students from Andrews University, as well as other K–12 schools, colleges and universities, focus on the scholarship of teaching and reflect on research and best practices within the field.

Highlights of the March 30 conference included a keynote address by Heather Thompson Day, associate professor of communication and author; a Reconnect workshop; and a keynote featuring Doug Lemov, author of the international bestseller "Teach Like a Champion" (now in version 3.0) and "The Coach's Guide to Teaching."

The day also included in-person poster presentations in Buller Hall, afternoon breakout sessions via Zoom and book signings with both keynote speakers.

The conference was jointly sponsored by a Diversity, Equity & Inclusion grant from the Council of Independent Colleges, the Office of University Culture & Inclusion, Berrien Springs Public Schools, the Department of Teaching, Learning & Curriculum, the College of Education & International Services, the Office of Research & Creative Scholarship and the Center for Digital Learning & Instructional Technology.

John Wesley Taylor V voted as president-elect

Begins his tenure at Andrews University on July 1, 2023

ON TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023, THE EXECUTIVE session of the Andrews University Board of Trustees elected John Wesley Taylor V to serve as the seventh president of Andrews University.

Taylor will replace Andrea Luxton, who is retiring July 1 after serving for seven years as president of Andrews University and as the University provost for six years before that.

Prior to becoming president-elect, Taylor served as associate director of the Department of Education at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists since 2010 and as executive secretary of the Adventist Accrediting Association. He's also served as a professor and dean of the School of Education & Psychology at Southern Adventist University and a professor, associate dean and director of doctoral programs at the School of Graduate Studies at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies in the Philippines. He also served as a professor and founding dean of the Division of Graduate Studies at Montemorelos University in Mexico.

Taylor holds both PhD and master's degrees from Andrews University, an EdD from the University of Virginia and a master's degree from University of

Tennessee, Knoxville. He has presented at a wide array of conferences and professional development events around the world and has authored, or jointly authored, articles in a number of academic and professional journals.

Taylor's wife, Miriam (Wells), works as a community development coordinator and event planner for Hope Channel, Inc., and holds a master's degree from Salford University.

His daughter Carolyn (Taylor) Clayton holds a master's degree from the University of Colorado Denver and works as a principal software engineer at Oracle. His son, John Wesley Taylor VI, holds a DPT from Andrews University and works for Adventist Health in California.

"I have a vision for Andrews University," says Taylor. "That vision is for our

"By God's grace, I endeavor to lead with empathy and compassion, with a clear sense of purpose, and with moral and ethical integrity."

Andrews University to be mission-focused, to exemplify exceptional excellence in academics and services, be nimble in process and program, and be committed—committed to God and His word, to the philosophy of Adventist education, to our University's heritage and values, to create a warm and supportive setting for faculty and staff, and to serve its students and constituents well."

"By God's grace, I endeavor to lead with empathy and compassion, with a clear sense of purpose, and with moral and ethical integrity. Throughout our University, I will seek to advance the biblical worldview and to promote strategies that nurture faith," adds Taylor.

The selection of Taylor was guided by the work of a Board-appointed Presidential Search Committee. Artur Stele, chairperson of the Presidential Search Committee and chair of the Andrews University Board of Trustees, says, "We believe that Taylor ... reflects an opportunity to continue the visionary, thoughtful and God-centered leadership that President Luxton has offered to Andrews over the last seven years."

Stele adds that "while we have been seriously praying for God's guidance of this search process, we all now need to pray even more for our new president as he seeks God's leading and influence, and especially as he works closely with the Andrews University community—students, employees, graduates and friends around the world—as President-elect Taylor and that community seek to reflect and fulfill God's will for His University."

The newly seated Andrews University Board of Trustees met for the first time on June 1, 2023, and formally registered the election of Dr. Taylor.

"I welcome Dr. Taylor to the presidency of this amazing University," says Andrea Luxton, retiring president of Andrews. "I have confidence that under his leadership the University will thrive both spiritually and academically. I know his unique talents will enrich this campus community both now and in future years."



Andrews University holds Board Corporation meeting

Including Presidential Report

ON MARCH 7, 2023, THE ANDREWS University Board Corporation members met for their delayed quinquennial meeting. Originally scheduled for 2020, the meeting was postponed due to the pandemic and was rescheduled to follow the most recent General Conference session in 2022.

“Even though Corporation meetings don’t happen frequently—it’s been seven years since our last one—they are important moments for our University,” says President Andrea Luxton. “These meetings gave us a chance to review and vote for board membership, and that newly voted board met for the first time on June 1. There are other important things, including confirming bylaw changes, and these meetings give the president a chance to let these important stakeholders, or members, of our Corporation, know about what we’ve done, and what we’re hoping to do, as a University.”

In her Presidential Report, Luxton addressed highlights from the various academic areas on campus, delivered

key updates from the administration and services teams, and gave an additional update about the recent Andrews Bible Commentary published by Andrews University Press. The report emphasized a distinct focus on mission, service and academic success in every area of the University, as well as the integration and development of faith throughout.

The Presidential Report concluded with Luxton speaking to the current 2022–2025 Strategic Plan for the University and its call for greater access, greater flexibility and innovative solutions.

In addition, Luxton noted that broadened revenue streams and deepened University partnerships will be key to forthcoming success. She closed on the affirmation that continued prayer has been and will remain at the heart of the future of Andrews University.

The next Corporation meeting will be held in 2026, in the year following the 2025 General Conference session, and will then return to its quinquennial schedule.



20th annual Music & Worship Conference

Held Feb. 16–18

This year’s Music & Worship Conference was themed “Blessed are the Peacemakers” and included paper presentations, guest speakers, worship services and a special “Blackventist Praise” concert.

Guest speaker Lester Ruth, PhD, research professor of Christian worship at Duke Divinity School (*above*), spoke about the history and impact of contemporary praise and worship.

The conference’s central theme was selected in February 2022, following the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. David A. Williams, professor of worship and sacred music, explains, “We chose ‘Blessed are the Peacemakers’ to speak to a world at war. I had no idea quite how profoundly God would lead in bringing papers on this.” Several academic papers and plenary presentations were especially timely, as was the week’s theme song, selected via a songwriting competition won by Peter Flores, worship pastor at One Place Fellowship.

“We try to make the totality of our worship offerings diverse and speak to a lot of different people’s hearts,” Williams affirms. “The conference helps bridge gaps between groups. As long as I’ve been involved with it, it’s been about diversity—diversity of styles, of people, of language. Trying to bring people together is the focus.”

The next Music & Worship Conference will take place Feb. 22–24, 2024. Visit andrews.edu/icwm for additional information.



Photo: Tamara Karr

Celebrating together

Office of University Culture & Inclusion events

THROUGHOUT SPRING SEMESTER, multiple programs celebrating Andrews' diverse community took place on campus.

The theme "Forward" was selected for Black History Month in February. The Black History Month Planning Committee sought to highlight a shared calling, in the face of tragedy, pain and conflict, toward liberty, justice and forward movement. Special chapels, vespers and church services were planned to invite the campus into a learning journey. Guest speakers included Garrison Hayes, Edsel Cadet and Michael Emerson.

Throughout March, Women's History Month was formally honored. The campus theme "Phenomenal Women" was selected by the Women's Empowerment Association of Andrews University (WEAAU) to recognize significant achievements of women throughout history and the world. WEAAU hosted a Service Sabbath for a local women's shelter, a cocurricular series on the feminist movement and a worship service to honor specific women employees.

In April, the University recognized Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month. WEAAU, the Andrews University Pre-Law Society, the Social Work Club, the Social Justice Club and the Andrews University Title IX office planned a month of powerful activities on the theme #HEALTogether. Events included film screenings, informational sessions, self-defense classes, a storytelling event, a solidarity wall on campus and observation of Denim Day.

April also served as a celebration—one month early so students and employees could participate—of Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities. The Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC) chose the theme "Advancing Leaders Through Oppor-

FROM TOP: Screening of the documentary "Andrews University: The Man in the Mirror—The Walter Douglas Story," April 25 ■ The Solidarity Wall ■ Guest speaker Garrison Hayes, Black History Month Chapel, Feb. 2 ■ SASA Culture Night, April 15 ■ Women's History Month Service Sabbath, March 4

tunity," which the University utilized to celebrate AANHPI leadership and contributions on campus. Multiple events including church services, cultural celebrations, a fundraiser and banquets took place, hosted by over half a dozen campus organizations and local churches.

On Tuesday, April 25, two special events honored Walter B.T. Douglas, the first Black professor hired by the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. In addition to serving in that position for 35 years, he also fulfilled the inaugural role of Chief Diversity Officer for the University and established the Diversity Council. A documentary honoring his legacy, titled "Andrews University: The Man in the Mirror—The Walter Douglas Story," was screened in Newbold Auditorium. Later that day, a panel discussion about the documentary and future community advancement took place.

Michael Nixon, outgoing vice president for University Culture & Inclusion, shared, "We had an amazing month of events. I was so glad to end my time at Andrews on this positive note. Our campus community does such an amazing job of celebrating with one another. The highlight of the month was being able to screen my interview with Walter B.T. Douglas. He has been a mentor and a source of inspiration during my tenure here. My office is in his debt for the trailblazing work he did to ensure that Andrews would more fully embrace its calling to be an equitable and inclusive community."



Photo: Michael Nixon



Photo: Kelli Coffen





First column, top-bottom: Welcome Christmas Concert, Dec. 9 ■ AU Spirit Week Talent Showcase, Jan. 15 ■ Howard Presents ... The Creation Adventure with Rich Aguilera, Jan. 21 ■ Sunday Music Series, pianist Geoffrey Duce, Jan. 22 ■ **Second column, top-bottom:** Wind Symphony Concert, Jan. 28 ■ "Chasing Away the Blues" Choral Concert, Feb. 11 ■ Mary Schweitzer, Kingman Lecture Series, Feb. 21 ■ Sunday Music Series, Eun-Jung Auh, Feb. 26 ■ **Third column, top-bottom:** Wind Symphony Vespers, March 3 ■ Annual Music Festival: Choir & Orchestra, March 4 ■ Sunday Music Series, AU Composers Concert, March 12 ■ Sunday Music Series, Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra, March 19 ■ **Fourth column, top-bottom:** Sunday Music Series, Elena Braslavsky & Carla Trynchuk, April 2 ■ Student conductor Cyril Punay, Easter Tenebrae, April 7 ■ End-of-Year Faculty Celebration, April 10 ■ Andrews Academy Concert, May 11

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Opening doors for others

Alvin Glassford retires after 22 years at Andrews Academy

ALVIN GLASSFORD FELT CALLED to be a pastor from a very young age. While attending Newbold College and the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, though, he saw the life witness of his teachers and began to consider teaching as a place to serve as a pastor, as well.

Alvin began work in the Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists as a district pastor. He went on to serve as a coordinator of lay involvement in evangelism in Russia, then campus pastor and Bible teacher at Milo Academy before taking the position of director of Internet Ministries for the Oregon Conference.

When a good friend told him Andrews Academy was looking for a Bible teacher, he and his wife considered the option. They both felt Alvin's previous work with young people had been a good fit for Alvin as a pastor and for the Glassfords as a family, so Alvin submitted his application. He went on to spend 22 years at Andrews Academy.

During that time, Alvin especially appreciated the teachable moments: opportunities to share Jesus with a student, helping parents understand their teenagers and to not lose hope, and putting together creative class projects that students enjoyed. As a Bible teacher, he found hope in 2 Corinthians 12:9–14: "... My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness ..." (NKJV).

Alvin also helped Andrews Academy incorporate media and computer technology throughout the school. "My Bible classroom, in fact any classroom, at Andrews Academy is as computerized, media intensive and virtual as the online ministries

I was director of in the Oregon Conference," he says.

He is proud to have played a part in opening doors for others to become successful at the Academy and in the world church, and he is grateful for Academy colleagues who loved God and highly valued a team approach to working with students. "Andrews Academy has a strong enrollment and our students are some of the most gifted and talented found anywhere in Adventism," he says. "Andrews Academy still daily experiences

"Andrews Academy still daily experiences the blessing of God through the commitment that parents have to Christian education."

the blessing of God through the commitment that parents have to Christian education."

Alvin hopes his Academy years made him more humble and patient, and he learned it is the sum of an experience that makes it worth the effort. "There will be moments when certain situations and/or people will make you wonder if you can take it another minute," he says. "But morning comes after night, and I've found in the end I have been treated mercifully. My greatest concern should rather be, 'Am I treating others as I would want to be treated?'"

He also benefited from the academic and spiritual environment provided by Andrews University and Pioneer



Photo: David VanDenburgh

Memorial Church, finding a special blessing in the Seminary Sabbath School and the preaching at PMC.

Alvin has been driven in life by a sense of obligation and duty from knowing Jesus as his Savior and King. He is inspired by the message of Hebrews 10:14 and says, "What a marvel that in Christ we are at the same time perfect in God's eyes and being made more so by Christ's life within us!"

He adds, "I have been deeply enriched by my Christian education and the opportunities for travel and learning given to me while working for the church ... May God bless those who now stand in my place as we wait for Jesus to take us all home."

J.N. Andrews Medallion recipients

Ronald Coffen, Janet Ledesma and Andrea Luxton were honored

TWO FACULTY MEMBERS AND ONE administrator received the prestigious J.N. Andrews Medallion at Commencement services during the spring 2023 graduation weekend. At the College of Education & International Services Commencement on Friday, May 5, Ronald D. Coffen and Janet Ledesma were honored. President Andrea Luxton received recognition at the College of Arts & Sciences Commencement on Sunday, May 7.

Ronald Coffen was recognized for his excellence in research, innovation and deep commitment to teaching and mentorship. He earned his Bachelor of Science in pre-counseling psychology, *summa cum laude*, from Andrews University in 1993 and an MA in clinical psychology in 1996 and a PhD in clinical psychology in 1999 from the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

In 2003, Coffen joined the Andrews University faculty as an associate professor before achieving the rank of professor of counseling and school psychology in 2013. He became the director of the Andrews Community Counseling Center (ACCC) in 2008 and continues to serve in both of these roles in the School of Graduate Psychology & Counseling. Additionally, Coffen owns a small private practice in Buchanan, Michigan, where he provides psychotherapy services to children and adolescents.

Throughout his time at Andrews, Coffen has made a significant impact on his students and school. As a professor and director of the ACCC, he has served as a student advisor and supervised doctoral students in their provision of therapy services. He developed standard policies for the Center, worked to make physical and technological improvements, and expanded its reach both in-person and online. Additionally, Coffen worked with the University to gain APA, NASP and CACREP accreditation for various programs in the School of Graduate Psychology & Counseling. Coffen has also dedicated time to committees and boards, helping to update curricula, hire

“I have benefited from the support of colleagues to model and promote excellence and professionalism in our graduate psychology and counseling students.”

~Ronald Coffen

new faculty and meet program needs. In 2014, he received the Daniel A. Augsburger Excellence in Teaching Award.

Coffen has published multiple peer-reviewed journal articles on topics including school violence, multicultural education and religious identity development. He has also presented at several professional seminars and participated in the creation of a variety of audiovisual productions for instructional use. In addition, Coffen created an interactive computer experience to teach students how to administer a series of tests in their field.

Outside his professional work, Coffen has intentionally contributed to his wider community, including through career fair participation, leadership in Sabbath School and serving as a deacon at his church.

He married Jenni Carrion in 1996 and they have two children: Kelli, a senior elementary education major at Andrews University, and Chris, a sophomore at Andrews Academy.

Janet Ledesma was acknowledged for collaborative and exemplary leadership in progressing the mission of Seventh-day Adventist education at Andrews University and beyond.

Ledesma earned her BS in Elementary Education at Atlantic Union College in 1982. She continued her education at Andrews University, receiving her MA in teaching in 1986 and a PhD in educational administration and leadership in 2011.

Since the beginning of her career, Ledesma has contributed approx-

imately 30 years of service to the Seventh-day Adventist K–12 school system, primarily as a principal. In addition to her roles in education, she has also worked as a grant and proposals specialist for the New Jersey Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Ledesma’s first position at Andrews University was as marketing and mentoring coordinator in educational administration from 2005–2006. She returned in 2011 as Educational Leadership coordinator and a professor in the Department of Leadership.

In 2017, she took on the role of associate dean for the School of Education, where her primary responsibility is to develop partnerships with denominational unions/conferences—through

“I am incredibly blessed and humbled to be the recipient of the J.N. Andrews Medallion, the namesake of our distinguished University.”

~Janet Ledesma

God’s leading these partnerships have grown both the School of Education and the School of Leadership. Ledesma also coordinates accreditation for the College of Education & International Services, which received a clean report in 2020 from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). Ledesma now serves as a reviewer for CAEP, as well.

She has published several peer-reviewed articles and has given numerous professional presentations and consultations. Her scholarship and research have investigated topics such as spiritual and religious leadership, collaborative relationships, and diversity. She coordinated and guest edited an issue of the *Journal of Adventist Education* on

principalship and has served as an editorial consultant for the publication.

Ledesma has also been actively involved in presentations, conventions, webinars, the Lake Union Conference Education Management Team, councils and committees, including serving as a director on the executive board of the Michigan Association of Professors of Educational Leadership. She served as chair of the Andrews University Faculty Senate and has contributed to the Dean's Council, President's Council and Board of Trustees. She is passionate about developing support for a system-wide principal preparation program that conveys the value of their individual contributions and how the Educational Leadership program can support them.

Ledesma has two young adult children, Christian and Ariana, who both completed undergraduate and graduate degrees from Andrews University.

Andrea Luxton, president of Andrews University, was recognized for invaluable moral leadership in the face of crisis; even-handedness in response to vexing difficulties; contributions to Andrews University, global Adventist higher education and the Michigan Collegiate Association; and the countless lives she has enriched along the way.

Luxton received a BA in theology and English from Newbold College, an MA in English from Andrews University, a PhD in English from Catholic University of America and a Postgraduate Diploma in Institutional Management and Change in Higher Education from

“To receive the J.N. Andrews Medallion was a very meaningful end to my time at Andrews University. I can’t think of a better retirement award.”

~Andrea Luxton

the University of Twente, Netherlands.

Her career in the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States has been committed to furthering Adventist education. She has served in secondary, higher education, Union and General Conference positions. In 2010, Luxton moved to Andrews University as provost and then, in 2016, as the sixth—and first woman—president.

During her early months as president, Luxton became acquainted with students and employees through a series of campus tea parties. She became known for her belief in the power of Story, including Bible stories that infused her formal and informal campus presentations.

In that context, Luxton was also known to successfully build on unique opportunities, such as responding to the student-inspired #ItIsTimeAU movement. Her public response in Chapel began with the words “We will be okay,” and her Chapel talk turned to the biblical story of the paralytic lowered through a roof to Jesus as an example of where to place attention in times of

dramatic need. The transformative steps she outlined that day included the creation and hiring of the University’s first Cabinet-level/vice president position dedicated to diversity.

During Luxton’s presidency, the Berrien Springs campus was transformed physically, academically and strategically. Fundraising for and construction of the Andraesen Center for Wellness was completed, the University’s seven major academic units were reduced to five, and the Office of Innovation & Entrepreneurship was introduced.

Beginning in 2020, Luxton’s presidency was influenced by the global COVID-19 pandemic. Alongside Provost Christon Arthur and a COVID-19 management team, she guided Andrews through the rapid transition to online learning, hybrid learning, remote study and work arrangements, and careful monitoring and ongoing adjustment of COVID-19 mitigation protocols once in-person education resumed in Berrien Springs. Her most recent strategic plan responds to the new environment Andrews University operates in amidst the impact of COVID-19 on all higher education.

Luxton has written articles for professional and church publications, often connecting her passions for literature, education and the life of faith. She is an experienced international speaker both for and outside of church audiences. Her hobbies include reading world literature, walking by the ocean and traveling to remote destinations.



Ronald Coffen



Janet Ledesma



Andrea Luxton

When values align

Celebrating Kerry Ferris' service to Andrews

KERRY FERRIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN PASSIONATE about helping others, so when an opportunity came to assist international students at Andrews University, she felt it was a perfect fit.

Prior to Andrews, Kerry worked at Walla Walla University for seven-and-a-half years and, before that, spent ten years at Newbold College, where she oversaw the Admissions Office and interacted with students from around the world. At Newbold, Kerry worked with Andrea Luxton who, during her presidency at Andrews University, believed Kerry's experience could positively impact the Andrews admissions process.

Kerry joined the Andrews staff in March 2017 as international education manager, completing evaluations of academic documents to determine if each international applicant met University admissions requirements. This involved converting credentials from educational systems in over 100 countries to U.S. equivalents while considering the impact of accreditation requirements.

Her broad understanding of international education resulted in establishment of The International Credential Office, providing processes and systems for Andrews to better serve international students. She also developed dynamic credential guides to assist with international admissions and transfers for both undergraduate and graduate programs.

Kerry notes how the ideas of Micah 6:8 and Philippians 2:3 inspired her. "I have always had a strong sense of fairness and justice, and my role at Andrews aligned with these values," she says. "I wanted to make sure there was enough knowledge and good practice in international admissions on campus for every international student to feel treated fairly and with understanding of their background."



"It was particularly rewarding when a staff or faculty member would realize how understanding another educational system really changes the way you look at a student's potential."

She adds, "I have never been driven by one career goal. What has driven me has been to do whatever job I have in a way that makes others smile, brings them hope and helps them fulfill their dreams, big or small."

In addition to helping prospective students, Kerry acted as a resource to employees in many departments. She says, "It was particularly rewarding when a staff or faculty member would realize how understanding another educational system really changes the way you look at a student's potential."

Kerry also appreciated the energy and enthusiasm of the students. She says, "I have had assistants and graduate assistants work for me from India, Indonesia, Korea, etc., and each has brought a unique perspective to their work."

Knowing she made a difference in the students' lives—even the students she may not have interacted with directly—brought purpose and identity for Kerry and made her feel rewarded and fulfilled. She has learned that it is the impact you have on individuals that has the most long-lasting effect and says, "You can change a process and that is great, but then someone can come along after you and change it again. But nobody can change what is done when you positively impact someone's life."

During retirement, Kerry will most miss chatting with her colleagues and friends. She says, "When it came to my retirement party, the great staff in Graduate Enrollment Management (namely Jan Pickett and Jillian Panigot) put together a wonderful party with a cruise ship theme along with food and flags from all the countries I have cruised to, and it really made me realize how dear they were to me and how much I was going to miss them!"

Currently, since her official retirement in March, Kerry has continued at Andrews on a contract basis as the international education specialist, training relevant groups on international education, chairing the International Education Committee and updating international credential webpages.

Kerry plans to continue her travels, too. Later this summer she'll enjoy a trip to Europe, including a European river cruise, and will also visit her sisters and other family who still live in England.

*Agatha Andrews & the
Mystery of the Missing Mace*



2023 Employee Awards

This year's event was livestreamed via Zoom on March 5, with hosts Carole Woolford-Hunt, chair of the School of Graduate Psychology & Counseling, and "Agatha Andrews" (Andrea Luxton). "Agatha Andrews & the Mystery of the Missing Mace" is available on the Andrews University YouTube channel.

A total of 90 people were recognized for a combined 1,230 years of service at Andrews University, in addition to nine more individuals for their excellence in teaching, faith engagement, research & creative scholarship, and service.



Faith Engagement Award (Faculty)

Tom Goodwin, *Professor of Biology, Department of Biology*

Faith Engagement Award (Staff)

Corey Johnson, *Assistant Dean for Residential Community Standards, Residence Life*

Siegfried H. Horn Excellence in Research & Creative Scholarship Award

Oliver Glanz, *Associate Professor of Old Testament, Department of Old Testament*

Daniel Gonzalez, *Professor of Biology, Department of Biology*

Daniel A. Augsburg Excellence in Teaching Award

Carla Trynchuk, *Professor of Music, Department of Music*

Staff Excellence in Service Award

Monica Cervantes, *Administrative Assistant, School of Graduate Psychology & Counseling*

Kerry Ferris, *International Education Manager, Marketing & Enrollment Management/CEIS*

Kevin Wiley, *Assistant Registrar for Publications & Communication, Office of Academic Records*

J.N. Andrews Service Award

Cynthia Swanson, *Manager, Andrews University Bookstore*

Six individuals were recognized for 25 years of service:

Marsha Beal, *Compliance Lieutenant, Office of Campus Safety*

Ivan Davis, *Professor of English, Department of English*

Deborah Everhart, *Editor, Andrews University Press*

Esther Lonto, *Senior Accountant, Office of Financial Records*

Alfredo Ruiz, *Director, University Apartments, Residence Life*

Lynelle Weldon, *Chair/Associate Professor of Mathematics, Department of Mathematics*

The following three employees have served for 30 years:

Steve Atkins, *Supervising Science Instructor, Andrews Academy*

Dennis Grzybowski, *Motor Pool Foreman, Office of Transportation*

Steve Nash, *Assistant Vice President, Facilities Management*

Three employees have devoted most of their professional careers to Andrews University. They have each spent 35 years serving this institution:

Elynda Bedney, *Assistant Vice President, Office of Student Financial Services*

Herbert Helm Jr., *Professor of Psychology, School of Social & Behavioral Sciences*

Dorothy Show, *Executive Assistant to the Seminary Dean, Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary*

Forty years of service is a major commitment to the life of Andrews University. These two individuals have both achieved this distinction:

Carlene Johnson, *Administrative Assistant, Farm and Vineyard, Financial Administration*

Meredith Jones Gray, *Professor of English, Department of English*

Photos and individual tributes may be viewed online at andrews.edu/services/hr/employeeawards



Jeff Boyd, director for the Office of University Communication, sat down with **Dwight Nelson**, lead pastor of Pioneer Memorial Church for the last 40 years, to hear his personal reflections about his decades of ministry at Andrews University.

A photograph of Dwight Nelson, an older man with white hair and glasses, wearing a dark blue suit and a patterned tie. He is smiling and looking to his left while standing behind a clear acrylic podium. A small bouquet of white flowers is pinned to his lapel. The background is dark and out of focus.

The Best is Yet to Come

FOCUS: *These first few questions will take us back a little down memory lane. 1983. I believe you were 30 when the call came through, right?*

DKN: A call came through on April Fools. We're saying, wait a minute! But yeah, I turned 31 two-and-a-half weeks later.

FOCUS: *You were in Salem, Oregon, at the time. So what drew you to Andrews? What about a university environment appealed to you?*

DKN: The big deal was, this is Andrews University! This is my alma mater. And I have loved this University from the get go, even before coming here. The persona of Andrews University really had a marked impact on my heart, my thinking.

The back story is that I met Jesus when I was in the Seminary. The lectures of Dr. Hans LaRondelle led me to a spiritual crisis. That ended up with me going to talk to him and saying, "Man, I'm overwhelmed with guilt." And he said to me, "Go read 'Steps to Christ.'" That title became a self-fulfilling prophecy for me. I'd grown up thoroughly ensconced in formal Adventism. This became an opportunity that God needed for me to really personalize this and get one-on-one with Jesus in the heart.

FOCUS: *Let's talk about your early years at PMC. What was your pastoral team like when you came on board?*

DKN: We had a pastor, Anthony Castelbuono, the youth pastor. They called him Pastor Tony. He'd been here a while. He took us under his wing and went the extra mile to make us feel welcome. The team also included two chaplains for the University. They were the youngest, in their late 40s, early 50s. They took us in, they knew they were working with a kid.

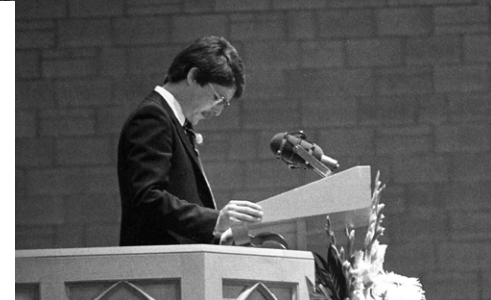
People ask, "How could you actually last 40 years in a church?"



And my go-to answer immediately is because the Pioneer family is a very tolerant, patient and compassionate family. God intended, obviously, for Karen and me to experience the growing up that a congregation like this could provide. That first team, back to your question, was a team of seasoned ministers and pastors, and it really was a privilege to work with them.

Also on the team was a volunteer chaplain, a retired Army chaplain named Glenn Bowen, and his wife June. We had met them at the tail end of our MDiv here in 1976. Glenn and June said, "Do you remember when you were a little boy? You wouldn't remember it well, but do you remember falling into the lake?" Do I remember? I grew up with that story! It was at the mountainside lake in Japan called Lake Nojirii. Mother had said, "Dwight, now don't go out on that pier, understand?" Well, you know, three years old, someone says don't, you give it a go. So I went out. And unbeknown to anybody, I fell in the water.

However, a military chaplain and his wife were out with one of



TOP: Michigan Conference President Charles Keymer and Anthony Castelbuono welcome Karen, Dwight and their son Kirk at their inaugural Sabbath at Pioneer Memorial Church.

ABOVE: Dwight's first sermon at Pioneer Memorial Church on May 14, 1983

the physicians in his motorboat touring the lake when the wife suddenly said, "You know, we got to go back." So the missionary turned the boat around and as they're coming back, she sees me facedown in the water. I'm not clear whether June jumped in or Glenn, but between the two of them they pluck this little missionary kid out of the water. So we find that out and now I have this profound gratitude to them.

So when you say what was it like coming to this staff, there were



LEFT: An early photo of Dwight in front of his new church home

BELOW: The building expansion project to add two wings to Pioneer Memorial Church began in 1996. The addition provided space for all the children's Sabbath Schools and a Commons area under one roof.

BOTTOM: The NeXt Millennium Seminar (Net '98), a global satellite series, cemented Pioneer Memorial Church's leadership role in media ministry.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Children's stories were an integral part of Dwight's ministry.

two people on the staff who were very precious to me, even though I hardly knew them. That heightened the honor of being on this team.

FOCUS: *That's incredible. How did Andrews students interact with PMC when you arrived?*

DKN: Well, because the kids had kind of quit coming to Pioneer in previous school years the chaplains started a worship service over in Lamson Hall Chapel. And people came and said, "You know, you need to get rid of that." But the Lord, and I'm very grateful, gave me enough common sense to say, "Let's not do that now. Let's see how the landscape turns out, and how it changes." By the end of that fall quarter, the chaplains said, "Dwight, there's no point in us even having this anymore because the kids voted with their feet, 'We're going to the University church.'"

And so that made the transition. Eventually, we went from two to three services because of the student response. We put a taskforce together, chaired by faculty Bill Garber. It spent nine months helping the congregation think through its mission. By January 1985,

we did a worship service where the congregation moved into small groups, guided by Bill and his team up front, to work through "Why are we here?" Out of it came a rather lengthy mission statement. But that was the transition we needed to officially declare, as a congregation, we're here for the students and here's what we're going to do. So God was moving that way.

1992 is when we put every other pew reserved for students because they weren't being able to get in, and then we went to the praise team up front. We began that journey to modify worship in the second service. And as they say, the rest is history. Lilianne Doukhan, musicologist with the music department who taught in the Seminary and undergrad, chaired our worship commission. We ended up calling it the blended service ... the choirs could sing their Latin, we'd still have a praise band up front, and you coexisted with the two styles. That worked for Pioneer and set a model for other universities and colleges.

FOCUS: *So interesting. Looking through, still kind of with an eye to those early*

years, what was the most rewarding? And what did you find to be challenges?

DKN: I will say the most rewarding for me was to live through that transition, to see the demographics begin to shift as the students came to Pioneer, the campus church. My first fall here, I wanted to get on a flag football team, to hang around with the guys. I'd go up and eat lunch, two or three times a week, in the cafeteria. I wanted the word to go out that the new pastor is "user-friendly" for students. I praise God, that's the message that got out. And then Sabbath reflected that. So God is good.

The biggest challenge was when we switched to every other pew. The same board voted to bring a couple of young Seminarians over, with a guitar and sing not just from the hymnals ... it became controversial. But that's why we had to bring Lilianne in. That time of careful study turned out to be an important transition for us that padded and secured the transition and quieted the opposition.

At the same time, we wanted to build these wings, expand this building proj-



ect, to bring the children's Sabbath Schools back under the same roof of Pioneer. There was open opposition. But we quietly went about raising four-and-a-half million dollars. The church voted in business sessions to do this. In the end, during that decade, we made the transition. We didn't start building, putting shovels in the ground, until 1996. It was the progress we had to have.

FOCUS: *What became your top priority in ministering to Andrews students?*

DKN: Our top priority as a congregation and as a pastoral team was to point the new generation to Jesus. God's not somebody to be afraid of, He's somebody to be a friend of. And so the pulpit began to reflect that kind of relational focus to the place that Net '98 came in. That message became the global theme for this satellite series. So our mission was to these kids ... to cast a vision of the character of God and have them buy that vision

because we need them to stay in Adventism.

In the beginning, I preached like a young preacher, all kinds of stunts in the pulpit and get-up-and-go and, you know, different garbs and shock.

FOCUS: *I've got some questions around that. Attention-getting.*

DKN: This is again before social media, this is before we had screens, everything had to happen visually wherever you went. Title of the sermon is "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." So it's the first spring and I come out with a baseball cap and dark glasses. I got my mitt and a ball, as I walk into the pulpit and start talking baseball.

Another time "The Kingdom of Heaven is Like Unto Gatorade." Michael Jordan [the tall, Black basketball star] was selling Gatorade at the time. Karen, as school nurse, met a kid coming through named Michael Jordan. So I opened that sermon, "You know what? This is really unbelievable. But I met Michael Jordan just this last week! And I am so

excited. Ladies, gentlemen, I want you to give him a warm welcome." And Michael Jordan [a short, white student] comes walking through the door with a big grin.

Only a young preacher does crazy things like that. I tell my guys now when I teach preaching at the Seminary, you can overdo it. You can't do that every week, you're gonna have to decide when is the right time.

FOCUS: *Under your leadership Pioneer Memorial Church has collaborated with Andrews employees and students in outreach, thinking of local things like Benton Harbor Street Ministries and globally like Net '98. How did these initiatives influence the direction of the congregation?*

DKN: I'm going to reverse your question to answer that the *congregation* led into these changes. In a sermon series in fall 1996, I got a line from a guest speaker named Robert Logan: "We must come to the place where what breaks the heart of God breaks our hearts too." So I did a series on the tears of God [for lost people]. A couple of college students were sitting in Pioneer that morning, and they said, "We've got to do something about it." And they became the seed or the nexus for God launching a street ministry in Benton Harbor. And that resulted in Harbor of Hope today. A beautiful church up there, we call it Pioneer's inner-city campus. But that was started by students.

So Net '98. Because we'd been doing evangelism here, the church was getting used to doing outreach. School of Education faculty member, Roy Naden, I knew of his interest in television. We got WHME, a big Pentecostal religious

"Our top priority as a congregation and as a pastoral team was to point the new generation to Jesus. God's not somebody to be afraid of, He's somebody to be a friend of."

station down in South Bend, to come up here, and we put the television cameras in and we shot a pilot show. We got an initial reaction, which was "We don't like having television lights in this church," particularly from the church board. So we produced a 30-minute studio program instead. Anyway, long story short, Nielsen ratings come out after this program is released, and we were the number one program on WHME. This is back in 1988 and 1989. God is telling us something by those ratings.

Then in 1994 the National Council of Churches came to the Adventist Church and said, "We want you to do our national Christmas Eve program." Pioneer was asked to be the host location. I went to the leadership team here and the board, and they all said, "Yep, let's do it." We're going to shoot the program, spend three weeks editing it and then ABC would carry it coast to coast. It was incredible. The electricity around here. People were lined up. You had to have tickets to get in. It was just one of those divine moments and God said, "Pioneer,



I'm the one that has a vision for you. And you're going to be a media church. And I want to make sure it works."

In 1996, the North American Division president and the union presidents called me, "Dwight, we want Pioneer and you to do Net '98 in two years."

Net '98 was 100 nations, 40 languages, 39 translators downstairs, we had little partitions put up in the Commons. Translators had little TV sets and headphones. And they're listening to this young American upstairs preaching fast English. I never got down there to hear it, obviously, but they said it sounded like Pentecost, languages all over the room.

God was leading us from one event to another. Gordon Engen started ILS, International Learning Systems, over in the School of Education building. They started putting cameras in there. We brought a little tiny video camera out in the beginning, and we were shooting the sermon from two or three angles. It was humble as humble can be. But the Lord said, "You're gonna have to learn how to do this." That led to our full-blown television ministry. It's good for me to review the stories because it just reminds me this isn't about Dwight, this is God who has had His fingerprints over this whole thing from the beginning.

FOCUS: *So you begin to teach at the Seminary and influence the next generation of pastors. What have you observed in your interactions with those students? What has that been like?*

DKN: As a returned Seminarian, to be able to now sit down with these guys and explore the whole idea of communication and how essential it is for the gospel, and to cast that vision and develop a theology

of preaching. It was a very satisfying experience for me.

The reward comes when you meet these kids down the line and they're all over the world. That's the joy a teacher reaps, realizing, "Look what God has done in that life, that young life." And some of those lives you weren't sure how they were going to turn out, right? But lo and behold, God impacts lives for eternity.

FOCUS: *Any other events, mission trips or movements over these 40 years that have been the most memorable or meaningful to you?*

DKN: Oh, without a doubt, the most impactful was the pandemic but also Sept. 11, 2001. "9/11." That was a global moment that shook this campus to the core. Because [the tragedy] happened on a Tuesday morning at nine o'clock, Chapel was going to take place at 11:30. We ran a 24/7 news feed to the big screen in the youth chapel so people would come in there just to watch the unfolding story. The human race was changed. Nothing has ever been the same.

The second event is the pandemic. The faculty convened at five o'clock Wednesday evening. So that was March 11. At this meeting, it is decided and announced, "We're pulling the plug on the school year. Going distance, folks." So afterward we pastors and chaplains all met downstairs—Pioneer, Campus Ministries and One Place leadership and staff. And we looked at each other and I said, "Well, we'll close too." Of course, by the next day it was a no brainer. We were all going to be closed. I was in that Chapel the morning it was announced to the students. In



TOP: *The Hope Trending series broadcast from the Howard Performing Arts Center in 2015*

ABOVE: *Dwight and the runner's calendar page that says, "If your dreams don't scare you they aren't big enough"*

RIGHT: *Dwight adds his final signature to those of incoming Andrews students in fall 2017. These pieces are added to the walls of the sanctuary as a reminder of the students' commitment to Christ.*

BELOW: *Live responses to an online poll at the Nelsons' official campus farewell on April 22, 2023*

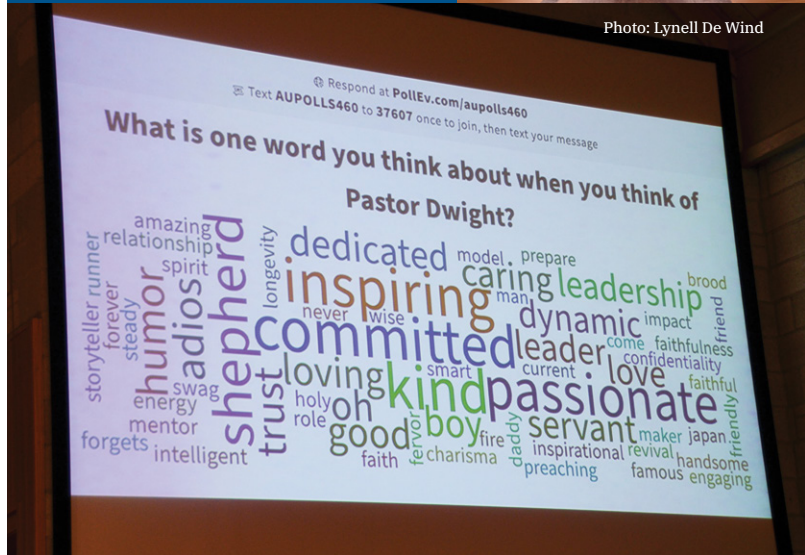


Photo: Lynell De Wind

a few days church was coming from my living room, and it stayed there for six or eight weeks.

These were two global moments where this global University, proudly I can say, stepped up to the plate and immediately took the initiative. Talk about legacy of leadership. Andrews has shown that time and time again. I think we need to not be so hard on ourselves as a campus. There are reasons for us to hold our head high, not because we are somebody special but because we've been asked by Someone special to do a mission for Him. Andrews University rightfully needs to be the institution that steps forward first, that sets the way.

The University right now is going through a time of twin changes. In terms of leadership, a new president is stepping in and a new pastor

as God continues to guide us into this uncharted future.

FOCUS: *Your children's stories have always been memorable. Do you think this is a valuable part of the service?*

DKN: I do. I grew up in a church where the college pastor told children's stories. I realized that the children's story was really a non-subtle effort to communicate with the parents of the children. But under the auspices of the children, you just hide that point. I love children. I can see why Jesus was so enamored with them, because they represent the purity, the innocence and the sweetness of youth. Do your kids a favor, give them a corner.

FOCUS: *How have Andrew students or employees ministered to you?*

about stuff that matters to Gen Zers. That's been the reward of this campus church, because I love young adults.

FOCUS: *Let's wrap up with what's next for you.*

DKN: I don't know. But I trust the next chapter, because I know the author. And I'm frightened by the length of the honey-do list that is waiting for me. But I say that tongue-in-cheek, because I've been looking forward to having some time with Karen. We're the same age, 33 days apart, so we've experienced life in tandem. She's the greatest thing that's ever happened to me. And she's really been the secret to what God has done here. Because she brings the verve and the uniqueness of her personality, her winsome ways. She's a nurse and worked in the

when you're done there, come help us." So we have some of that in the back of our minds. I know that a preacher never retires. I want to start preaching to [lost] people who live out there. And God is going to open up some ways for me to do that. I'm not quite sure yet on all those ways. Maybe a podcast, maybe a series of public lectures, maybe something on television, I don't know. But I still have a responsibility to the Gospel Commission.

I have a runner's calendar that my daughter-in-law gave to me, and I tear off a page every day for more motivation. The other day I tore this off: "If your dreams don't scare you they aren't big enough."

This legacy of leadership isn't about small dreaming, it's about big dreaming. That's the Andrews legacy—leadership. So once an Andrews alum, once a faculty member, once a pastor at Andrews, once a person belongs to the Andrews family, we live with that legacy of leadership.

How do we lead? We dream. We dream what isn't yet. It's time for us to dream big dreams for the Kingdom of Heaven. Every Andrews alum has been positioned on this planet in every sector of human existence to be a leader, a spiritual leader, a dreamer saying, "We could do better than this. We could do it another way. We can actually build bridges for Jesus right here doing *this* and I never thought of that before." That's the Andrews mind, that's the Andrews heart. That's the legacy. And that's the leadership Jesus is calling you and me to. So the best is yet to come. That's why I keep saying, you haven't seen the dreams yet that God has for you and He has for me. ■

“This legacy of leadership isn't about small dreaming, it's about big dreaming. That's the Andrews legacy—leadership.”

is stepping in at the same time. But this legacy of leadership will never change. That will be God's assignment, for this University and for Pioneer, to lead the world church in what must be next. God will keep changing the script to adjust to a world that's in constant flux now. But I'm telling everybody, and this is my punchline. I believe for leadership, *the best is yet to come*. It's a reminder, for all of us, that *hope* is still our unique legacy from God. The best means hope, and keep hoping

DKN: The year before the pandemic, I started meeting with a group of students every other week. All undergrad, 10 kids, and I called them the Collegiate Council. I'm sitting there with those 20-some-things, they're all Gen Zers, just listening to them talk. That was huge for me.

They ministered to me by informing me and sharing with me and letting me observe what this cultural moment really is like, with flesh and blood on. They're talking

University Medical Clinic so she got to know everybody as a nurse. To share the adventure ahead is going to be a delight.

All kidding aside, but like I tell her, you can only weed the lawn so many times. So I say, "Lord, I'm not going to be gardening the rest of my life, am I?" He says, "No, Dwight, you're not." And recently He's been saying, "I have some plans for you." And there have been some people who have reached out and said, "Hey,



In March 2005, a hunter stumbled across a small human skull in a New Jersey forest. The body had been set on fire, destroying evidence and leaving few identifying clues. With little to go on, police were left baffled, and the case went cold. That's when **Paul Kovalski**, a New Jersey native, stepped in.

For over two decades, Kovalski assisted the Monmouth County medical examiner's office with identifying human remains—sometimes based on just one tooth.

“Police are under a lot of pressure to resolve high-profile cases,” explains Kovalski. “But when I’m called to help, I’m not there to regurgitate or blindly confirm what police or other experts say. I approach each person’s remains with humility and my own careful procedure. *That’s a lesson I learned from Andrews.*”

TWENTY-SIX YEARS BEFORE THIS SKULL WAS found, Kovalski earned his biology degree in 1979 from Andrews. His favorite professor, Richard Ritland, motivated Kovalski to reach his potential and inspired a lifelong love for bones, fossils and the secrets they hold.

“He looked me straight in the eyes and reminded me that I was smart, had a good head on my shoulders, and had a knack for fossils I shouldn’t ignore,” Kovalski remembers. “He inspired me to take my energy and focus it.”

And focus he did. Three years after graduation, Kovalski went to school for dentistry. By day, he worked at the New Jersey Department of Human Services as a dentist specializing in the treatment of patients with mental illness and special needs. But by night, Kovalski

skull size, Kovalski disagreed. He assessed that the child was closer to 8 or 9 years old.

“Professor Ritland repeatedly emphasized honest, careful and efficient scientific study,” Kovalski remembers. “I focus on making an assessment that considers all the factors at play. Walsh appreciated those insights.”

When the hit TV show “America’s Most Wanted” featured the Baby Bones case, host John Walsh noted Kovalski’s report and asked him to appear in the episode to explain his findings as the forensic dentist on file.

Ten years later, a break in the previously unsolved case led to the identification of Jon-Niece Jones as the deceased child. Jones had a difficult, abusive home life and was malnourished, leading to a smaller skull size. However,

A Greater Reward

by Danni Thaw

LEFT: Paul Kovalski and his son Paul III took a trip to Alaska in 2015. They are holding a moose antler in Kobuk Valley National Park, north of the Arctic Circle.

All photos courtesy of Paul Kovalski

channeled his love for bones into a career in forensic dentistry—completing more than 75 identifications for cases with law enforcement.

This case with the small skull found in the woods rose to national prominence and became widely known as the “Baby Bones” case.

After analyzing the evidence, Kovalski determined that the young girl may have grown up in a populous city with fluoridated water since her teeth had no fillings and little sign of decay. But Kovalski was careful to note that this didn’t mean the child was from a family with access to dental care. For example, New York water is fluoridated for both richer and poorer communities, and that can protect against decay in the absence of proper dental care.

Although other case experts placed the child’s age around 5 to 6 based on the small

her age was finally confirmed at 8-and-a-half-years-old—right in the range Kovalski concluded. She also was from New York.

“That’s a lesson I gained from Andrews,” recalls Kovalski. “You don’t have to be someone that’s just given information and immediately believes it. No. Ask questions, make your own assessment and form your own conclusions.”

Over the years, Kovalski has given more than 20 presentations to police, dental and other organizations about his work as a forensic dentist. He’s returned to Andrews and presented numerous times. In 2019, Kovalski spoke at the Alumni Homecoming weekend and delivered his “Presentation on Forensic Odontology: CSI & Body Identification” to eager students in the fully-packed biology department amphitheater.

“I’m always happy to speak at Andrews,” says Kovalski. “The importance of giving back is part of what I learned from my parents growing up and while at Andrews as a student. I emphasize that in my talks. Give back, not for monetary reward—but give back because it’s the right thing to do. It’s part of developing your character and becoming a respected professional in your community.”

SERVING AS A NEW JERSEY COUNCILMAN DURING 9/11

DENTISTRY AND CRIME FIGHTING AREN’T his only endeavors. When Kovalski served as a New Jersey councilman and council president for a few years between 2000 and 2004, the lessons learned from his parents and Andrews about serving your community and giving back were particularly relevant.

In the wake of the September 11 terrorist attack on New York City in 2001, Kovalski wanted to find a way to honor the 14 people from his town who lost their lives. He envisioned a place for victims’ families to remember lost loved ones and set out to build a 9/11 memorial for the town of Marlboro. The goal was to design and build a place where people could sit, surrounded by nature, to reflect and never forget.

“Innocent people were attacked and lost their lives,” Kovalski remembers. “It was and still is a deeply emotional situation. I wanted to create a space where family members could visit year-round and remember lost loved ones in a dignified way.”

Kovalski was deeply inspired by his biology studies and an art class with Greg Constantine, now emeritus research professor of art and artist-in-residence at Andrews University, and the 2014 recipient of the Siegfried H. Horn Award for Excellence in Research & Creative Scholarship.

To design the memorial, Kovalski partnered with an artist friend who helped visualize his concept. He drew on inspiration about the healing nature of water and biblical concepts from Psalm 23, “... He leadeth me beside the still waters, He restoreth my soul ...” (KJV).

Kovalski pictured a water table made of polished black granite to reflect the blackened skies on that dark day. The ta-



ble’s tapered shape would allow water to flow off like a fountain. And when you placed a hand on the water, the impression would last for a moment. Kovalski, a biologist and student of botany at heart, also flanked the fountain with 14 of New Jersey’s official State Memorial Tree—the dogwood, representing the 14 lives lost.

Dogwoods are flowering, deciduous trees with graceful branches that bloom in the spring with large, usually greenish-white, sometimes pink or yellow flowers. In the fall, dogwoods develop crimson berries and their leaves turn a complementary deep red. When winter comes, the bark’s stark, textured, deep color steals the show before the leaves turn green once more for the summer.

Dogwoods remind me of the human life cycle,” says Kovalski. “Over the years, we go from youth to old age,

FROM TOP: Volunteering in his community is a passion for Paul Kovalski ■ Kovalski and John Walsh, host of “America’s Most Wanted” ■ A tributary was named after Kovalski for his preservation and conservation efforts
TOP RIGHT: Kovalski was recognized as a “National Treasure” in the township of Marlboro

and we have that hope for the spring season coming back every year. Dogwoods are stunning and unique in each season. I wanted this memorial to be a place people could enjoy in each season, all year round.”

The victims’ families saw Kovalski’s idea and were moved by it. And because of the dogwood trees in his design, Kovalski secured a grant from the Department of Agriculture to make it a reality. The memorial still stands on Wyncrest Road in Marlboro, New Jersey, though it’s changed over the last 20 years.

KOVALSKI DISCOVERS THE LARGEST WILLOW TREE IN THE ENTIRE STATE

BEFORE HIS ANDREWS UNIVERSITY BOTANY courses inspired a memorial, in 1997, Kovalski identified what became known as the largest willow tree in Marlboro and all of New Jersey. Germinated before the Civil War, the black willow tree was calculated to be around 150 years old and stands 76 feet tall, more than 19 feet in circumference.

The discovery was significant, as builders were set to cut it down to develop the land. But Kovalski’s testimonies at town meetings helped to halt plans and protect the tree. The town has since made special efforts to preserve the tree for future generations.

“The importance of giving back is part of what I learned from my parents growing up and while at Andrews as a student,” shares Paul Kovalski, Andrews University alumnus. “Give back, not for monetary reward—but because it’s the right thing to do. It’s part of developing your character and becoming a respected professional in your community.”



Kovalski’s discovery was honored at Marlboro’s 1998 sesquicentennial—the 150th anniversary. For his discovery and efforts to protect and preserve the tree, Kovalski earned the Green Community Achievement Award in 1999 for his contributions to urban and community forestry. Because of its size and age, the New Jersey Forest Service also certified it as a “State Champion.”

“This became a real source of pride for the people of Marlboro,” says Kovalski. “This helped raise public awareness about trees, local plant life, and the importance of preserving it. Learning about the genus and species of different plant life at Andrews played a role in helping me identify this great tree.”

Notably, the Marlboro Tree also stands on land that holds historical significance for periods well into the town’s past. This area around the black willow tree is one of the state’s top sites for discovering dinosaur fossils. Kovalski himself is no stranger to fossil discovery and celebration—in fact, in Marlboro, he’s known as Dr. Dinosaur.

BECOMING DR. DINOSAUR AND INSPIRING THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN

ONE DAY, AFTER KOVALSKI LACED UP HIS trail boots for a routine winter hike alongside a now-famous Marlboro tributary, he spotted something tucked away in the gravel bed.

“I had a feeling I found something extraordinary,” he recalls. “I didn’t want to get too excited, but I took it to the state museum, and I remember the curator

beaming at me and saying, ‘Dr. Kovalski, you have a dinosaur bone.’”

The town later named the tributary after Kovalski for his preservation and conservation efforts. A nearby trail leads to a site where people can go and hunt for more fossils or meditate in the beautiful wetland area in the middle of Marlboro Township.

Long fascinated by the secrets that bones and teeth can reveal, Kovalski has worked for decades to inspire students and parents alike with his love for nature and bones—both ancient and modern.

To generate excitement about Earth Day, Kovalski put his spin on its celebration, deeming it “Dinosaur Day.” Kovalski’s annual community event drew from 700–1,000 attendees for two decades.

Accompanied by parents, children of all ages flock to the yearly community event, calling him “Dr. Dinosaur.” One of the event’s highlights is a hike through the brooks that held a fossil Kovalski himself discovered. His collection of fossils includes over 1,000 specimens.

“Earth Day on its own isn’t that exciting to kids,” explains Kovalski. “But when we call it Dinosaur Day, they come out in droves, and they’re so excited about potentially making discoveries of their own. Inspiring the next generation in scientific study, preservation and conservation is really what it’s all about.”

Kovalski’s effort with Earth Day is no surprise—he’s traveled to every national park in the United States, a total of 423. He’s volunteered at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreational Area and was honored as Volunteer of the Year in 2016, which was the National Park Service’s centennial year.

Now, after more than 40 years of community service, crime-solving, nature preservation and efforts to inspire the next generation, Kovalski has countless stories and lessons to share.

“I was taught to change things if you want things to be better. It’s up to you,” he advises. “That’s what I focus on. Along the way, you learn that giving back to your community and helping others is the reward—there’s nothing better than that.” ■

Danni Thaw (BA ’17) is a freelance writer living in New Jersey.

REGIONAL



Loma Linda, California |
Sunday, March 26, 2023

Over 100 alumni and friends of Andrews University attended the regional event in Riverside, California. The event was held in the spacious Old Spaghetti Factory, where attendees enjoyed pasta, fellowship and updates about Andrews. Scenic photographs of campus were shown during the meal, then the director of Alumni Services, **Laura Malcolm** (BBA '11), spoke about what's been happening at Andrews in the past year. President **Andrea Luxton** (MA '78) followed with an engaging talk that elaborated further on these updates, as well as sharing future plans for Andrews. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions which President Luxton answered, and then **Donald Bedney** (MDiv '90, MSA '91), vice president for University Advancement, invited alumni to stay in touch. We enjoyed our evening in Riverside with you!



Roseville, California |
Thursday, March 23, 2023

Andrews University alumni, friends and representatives met at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Roseville, California. The 30 attendees networked and reminisced over an Italian-themed meal of spaghetti, salad and spumoni before hearing updates and viewing pictures about Andrews presented by the Alumni director. President Luxton spoke at length, sharing further about what the University has faced and accomplished over the past year and how Andrews is looking toward the future. Attendees then had the opportunity to ask President Luxton questions. Thank you to Roseville alumni for giving us a friendly welcome on a rainy evening!



Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas |
Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2023

Around 85 attendees filled the Grand Room at the Blue Mesa Grill-Ft. Worth. The restaurant served a tasty Mexican-themed buffet with different kinds of enchiladas, and attendees enjoyed networking with each other during dinner. Laura Malcolm presented updates and pictures from Andrews and the Alumni Association, and President Luxton spoke further about changes and future plans at the University. Closing prayer was given by **Eugene Kitney** (MAPM '14). At the end of the evening, attendees sampled fresh, hot churros with dipping sauce before heading home. It was great to be back in Texas for warm, friendly greetings by alumni at this first event there since the pandemic!

St. Helena, California |
Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Approximately 30 alumni and friends of Andrews University gathered at Pizzeria Tra Vigne for the Napa Valley regional event. Donald Bedney opened the event. Attendees enjoyed delicious European-style vegetarian pizza, salad and sparkling



water while they conversed and exchanged stories. Laura Malcolm gave a slideshow presentation sharing updates about Andrews before President Andrea Luxton spoke further about her retirement plans, innovation at Andrews, and the University's strategic plan. One unique distinction about this particular event was that the new University president-elect, John Wesley Taylor V, was spoken about in the slideshow presentation, while the current president Andrea Luxton was co-leading the event, and president emeritus Niels-Erik Andreasen was in the crowd as an attendee! The evening ended with a Q&A session with President Luxton. It was great to reconnect with alumni in Napa after a three-year absence!



Asheville, North Carolina | *Monday, Feb. 6, 2023*

Asheville-area alumni gathered at a new venue, the Hilton Garden Inn Asheville Downtown, after a previous favorite, the Asiana Grand Buffet, closed permanently. The Town Mountain Room provided a bright atmosphere with its tall windows and round tables, and attendees were served catered salads and a vegetarian lasagna dinner. Around 50 alums were in attendance, filling the room. After conversing and visiting over dinner, alumni listened to a visual presentation by Laura Malcolm, followed by several additional updates including details about the new Office of Innovation & Entrepreneurship given by Donald Bedney. Alumni had the opportunity to ask questions about Andrews, which were answered by Laura Malcolm, Donald Bedney and **Darius Bridges** (BBA '21), a recruiter from Marketing & Enrollment Management.

EVENTS

SPRING
2023

Alumni News



Chattanooga, Tennessee | Sunday, Feb. 5, 2023
It was a packed crowd at a snazzy venue at the first Chattanooga-area regional event in four years. The Car Barn, with its converted garage exterior and colorful interior showcasing vintage-style storefronts and decor, provided a unique setting for this Sunday brunch. About 120 attendees filled up the space as they exchanged stories about Andrews, caught up with old friends, and made new acquaintances. Laura Malcolm shared photos and a presentation discussing big updates and transitions at Andrews before President Luxton spoke in-depth about Andrews' plans. The president also facilitated a Q&A session with the crowd, answering a range of questions about the University. **Greg Hudson** (MDiv '98, DMin '17), Collegedale Community Church pastor, closed out the event with prayer.



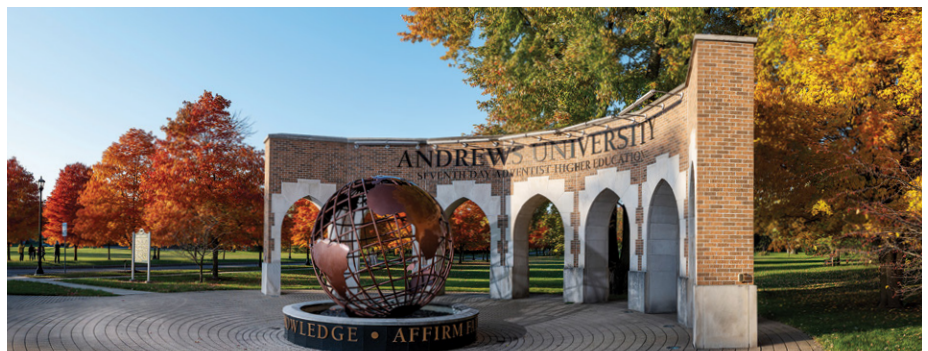
Atlanta, Georgia | Thursday, Feb. 2, 2023
Cold rain, wind and Atlanta traffic didn't keep nearly 50 alums from attending this regional event at the Doubletree by Hilton Atlanta-Marietta in Georgia. The Pinot Noir Ballroom provided a spacious yet friendly atmosphere, and the Italian-themed dinner buffet complete with tiramisu for dessert was delicious. Attendees networked with each other over dinner before looking at campus pictures and listening to updates about Andrews University by Laura Malcolm and President Andrea Luxton. Luxton also hosted an engaging Q&A session at the end of the evening before **Sylvan Lashley** (MA '74, EdD '81, MBA '95) gave closing prayer.



Huntsville, Alabama | Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023
Approximately 40 alumni and friends of Andrews University came to the first regional event held in Alabama since 2019. The event was hosted in the Saturn Ballroom at the Hilton Garden Inn Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville. Donald Bedney gave a warm welcome and opening prayer before alumni lined up for the included pasta dinner buffet. Laura Malcolm shared updates from the Alumni Association and Andrews before President Luxton spoke further about the University. Attendees had the chance to ask the president questions about her retirement plans and the University before retired pastor **Gabe Taylor** (BD '68) gave the closing prayer.



Orlando, Florida | Sunday, Jan. 22, 2023
Andrews University representatives were excited to return to the warmth of Florida weather and hospitality at the second regional event held in Orlando since the pandemic. Around 100 alumni and friends of Andrews were in attendance and had the opportunity to visit with each other over mini quiches and stuffed portobello mushrooms. The Highland Manor in Apopka provided attendees with a scrumptious brunch buffet. Laura Malcolm shared a visual presentation with updates about Andrews over the past year, and President Luxton expanded on these updates and discussed Andrews' future plans before answering questions from the audience.



HOMECOMING 2023

Mark Your Calendars Now
Sept. 28–Oct. 1, 2023

For more information, visit our website:
alumni.andrews.edu

Honor Classes
**1953, 1963,
1973, 1983,
1993, 1998,
2003, 2013,
2018, 2023**

1950s

Hugh Norton Duhaney (BA '58), was born in Jamaica, West Indies. Since graduating from Andrews, he earned a DDS from Howard University and an MScD from Boston University. He retired after teaching dentistry in D.C. at Howard University and Boston University at the turn of the century. Hugh is 90 years old and his activities are curbed to his apartment. He modifies his exercising, raising one foot at a time 100 times and pulling springs apart—east to west.

1970s

Gary J. Herr (BA '70) served as a student missionary in Japan. He also taught, pastored and worked as a counselor. He completed two master's degrees and a PhD. He is now retired. He is married to **Irene (Dennison)** (BMus '70). Son-in-law **Jeremy Jacko** (MDiv '06) graduated from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary.



Karen Mang Spruill (BA '74, MA '95), former FOCUS editor, and **Timothy Spruill** (BS '73, former faculty), celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a train tour of Switzerland. A January 1971 blind date was arranged

by Andrews college roommates, resulting in their June 10, 1973, wedding. Both are retired and active in their church. Karen's latest book is "For the Love of God; Healing Hearts and Mending Divides," published by AdventSource in May. The Spruills have enjoyed 25 years in Orlando, Florida, with their adult children and grandchildren nearby.

Sylvan A. Lashley (MA '74, EdD '81, MBA '95) is married to **Rosita** (BS '81, MA '93). He is a four-time Seventh-day Adventist college president: Northern Caribbean University (1985–1990), University of the Southern Caribbean (1990–1996), Atlantic Union College (1997–2003), University of the Southern Caribbean (2016). He holds law degrees and is now a retired educator and pastor since June 2022.

He is a leadership development consultant, president and CEO of a new company, Strategic Advent Leadership Christian Academy.

Clinton Valley (MA '77) is working as program director of the MA Leadership and professor of leadership at University of the Virgin Islands. He has been president of University of the Southern Caribbean in Trinidad, dean at La Sierra University, and associate academic vice president at Walla Walla University. His wife, **Martha** (BS '85, MA '87), is a retired special educator.

1980s

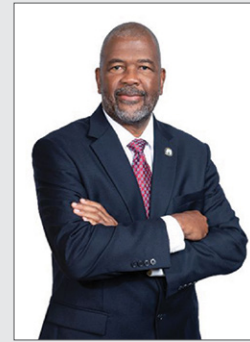
Mary Anne Valenti (BMus '80) recently started a new position with the engineering group at General Motors as a software product owner. There is a friendly rivalry at their house now, as her husband **Bill** (CERT '78) works as a contract instructor for Ford.

Tomas R. Bennett (MA '81) has taught history for 33 years at all levels of education. He currently serves as an adjunct professor of history at AdventHealth University in Orlando, Florida.

Lori Tyler (BA '86) was included in Marquis Who's Who in January 2023 for excellence in education and entrepreneurship. After earning a Bachelor of Arts in English and communication at Andrews University, she obtained an MS in project management at Denver Technical College. After more than two decades in higher education as a professor, department chair and academic dean, she started her company Lori Tyler & Associates in 2000. Her company focuses on creating educational products such as online and hybrid course content, multimedia materials, textbooks and more. She is also a collaborative partner at Malcak, Tyler & Associates (MTA) since 2017. Tyler frequently participates in Alzheimer's and ALS walks.

1990s

Haldane Davies (MA '92, PhD '94) became the president of the University of the Commonwealth Caribbean (UCC) on Sept. 15, 2022. UCC is the largest private non-affiliated higher educational institution in Jamaica with over 7,000 students locally. Previously, Davies was vice president for business development



at University of the Virgin Islands (UVI). He is a business strategic planner, certified mediator and PULSE practitioner, trainer, accreditation evaluator, competency assessor, and former

member of the Baldrige Board of Examiners and holds certifications in related areas from Harvard, Cornell, the University of the West Indies and Yale.

Garry James (BBA '93) owns a technology consulting firm. He is married, and both children are in college.

Dale Hardy (BS '97) is an associate professor at Morehouse School of Medicine with specialized research in nutrigenomics and health disparities in cancer.

Ulrick A. Graham (BArch '98) and his wife **Kimberly** (BS '95, MS '98) have two boys, David and Matthew. Kimberly has obtained a DNP since leaving Andrews University. Ulrick is a board member/officer of an outpost center, Fairhaven Outpost Ministry, focusing on whole-person gospel medical missionary evangelism. Ulrick is also heavily involved in their local Adventist church in Ellijay, Georgia.

Ray McAllister (MDiv '99, PhD '10) recently published two books. The first is a novel, "Wingless," that explores disabilities and the second is a book of poems that presents all the Hebrew acrostics in English paraphrase, rhymed, with meter, singable, and as English acrostics. In 2010, Ray became the first totally blind person to earn a doctorate in Hebrew Bible.

Maritza (McKenzie) McKinney (att.) is married to James and has two children, Olivia and Genevieve. Maritza did pre-physical therapy at Andrews from 1997–1999. She and James own a farmstead business, Parable Gardens & Orchard, where they grow vegetables and fruits on 19 acres. Since dating, they have had a dream to open a lifestyle center for health/wellness retreats and day events. They broke ground in November 2022 and are aiming for completion in May/June 2023.

2000s

Wales Wealth Management Group, led by **Dana Wales** (att., board member), CFP®, was named to the list of “Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams” published by Forbes. The team includes **Keri Suarez** (BA '01), director of client experience. The extended team has served in southwest Michigan since the practice was established in 1987.



Tim Peters (MDiv '09) has been a chaplain with Vitas Hospice for the past nine years. Six years ago he married his beautiful wife, Amy. They have three children: Duncan, Amira and Leo.

Albert L. Reyes (PhD '09) is president and CEO of Buckner International. He was recently honored with a United Nations Global Leadership Award. In 2022 he was awarded for leadership excellence in the category of mega nonprofit at the D CEO Magazine's Nonprofit and Corporate Citizenship Awards in Dallas. He was also selected by the same magazine as one of the Most Influential Business Leaders in North Texas in 2023.

2010s

Unique (Bolden) Castelle (BS '10) obtained her MS in clinical psychology. She became a licensed clinical professional counselor and opened a private practice aimed at serving people with lifestyle issues. She married a Jamaican man named Bryan in 2020 and gained a daughter named Ruth.



Justin Insun Kim (DPT '12) writes, “With the Lord’s leading, we decided to move our family to Kendu Bay, Kenya, to help at Kendu Adventist Hospital this year! We are helping with the needs of the rehabilitation

department at the hospital to facilitate its growth and development. It has been a blessing thus far and we cannot wait to continue to see God’s blessings in the upcoming year.”



Stacy (Horner) Young (PhD '13) was recently appointed for a two-year term to the Michigan Education Trust Board of Directors by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. She will represent presidents of community colleges.

Young joined Montcalm Community College in Greenville, Michigan, on Jan. 1, 2020, as the college’s sixth president and the first female to serve in the top leadership position.

Young received her BS in accounting from Manchester University, MBA from Bethel University, and PhD in leadership with an emphasis in higher education administration from Andrews. She is a peer reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission and enjoys speaking in the community and serving others. Her hobbies include running and spending time with family.

Jewel Gingerich Longenecker (PhD '14) was appointed co-director of the new Doctor of Ministry in Leadership program at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminaries (AMBS) on Sept. 19, 2022. She is continuing in her existing role as dean of Lifelong Learning at AMBS. She resides in South Bend, Indiana, and is part of Kern Road Mennonite Church.

Dana Austin (GRCIND '14) is a health ambassador with the Center for Global Health Innovation and host of Transformational Writers Conference & 90 Days to Manuscript Masterclass. She hopes to do a collective of stories.



Cleigha S. Millin (BS '15) was married Sept. 4, 2022.

After graduation, **Carlos Griffith** (BBA '18) spent nine months trying to find a full-time job in IT. Eventually, he started working for AdventHealth at

Central Texas Medical Center and moved back to DFW in October of 2020 to work at Texas Health Hospital Mansfield.

Raiza de los Rios Fernandez (MAPM '18) moved to Florida and is now teaching at Orlando Junior Academy.

Kaitlyn Del Valle (BS '19) is currently a major gift officer for the Andrews University Office of Development. After graduating, she began working for Marketing & Enrollment Management as a recruiter and then senior transfer enrollment counselor. She continued with her education and received a Leadership Certificate. She loves working for Andrews, where multiple generations of her family have served. Her mother, **Shelly Bolin** (BS '94), works in Student Financial Services and both her grandparents, **Dixie** (BS '01) and **Richard Scott** (BS '67), retired from Andrews. Kaitlyn married her high school sweetheart, **Derrick Del Valle** (AA '20).

Alwayne Channing Allen (MDiv '19) is a worship pastor, chaplain and musical artist



who lives in the D.C. metro area. He was recently interviewed by Shout-outHTX, where he affirmed the growth he experienced while serving with the New Life Fellowship team at Andrews University.

2020s

Dana Wilson (BMus '20) works at an integrated financial group in operations. She continued work in diversity, equity and inclusion for Boston University. Dana also opened a violin studio and leads teen/youth classes.



Lem Garcia Millan (MDiv '21) is now serving as associate pastor at the Pacific Union College Church. He has worked in the Northern California Conference for many years.

Earl Collier Pate (BS '66) passed away on Oct. 12, 2022.

He was born March 9, 1941, in Baltimore, Maryland, to Thelma Collier Pate and John Paul Pate.

In his early years he received his education in Maryland, Pennsylvania at Blue Mountain Academy where he worked in the dairy, Michigan at Andrews University and also in Illinois at Hinsdale Sanitarium, then later Colorado at The University of Colorado-Denver to finish his master's degree. Earl was a Captain in the United States Army Nurse Corp. and served in a MASH unit in Korea during the Vietnam War. He served in many roles as a nurse and health care administrator and project manager helping to build Littleton Hospital in Colorado, having spent many years and raising his family in Denver, Colorado.

He and his bride of 59 years Nancy Pate had spent the last 27 years in the Lincoln, Nebraska, area. While there he taught in the PA program at Union College and worked at Homestead and Tabitha. He was an avid reader and bird watcher and had many interests, especially teaching survival skills. In retirement he was a member of the Railroad Club, was a HAM radio operator and volunteered for the Red Cross in Lincoln. He also loved beekeeping and enjoyed teaching at the fair.

Earl is survived by his wife and two daughters, Teresa Hoskinson and Melissa Walters.

Frederick Norman Pottle (att.) passed away on Sept. 28, 2022, in St. Joseph, Michigan.

He was born on Dec. 16, 1936, in Detroit, Michigan.

Norman grew up in Detroit and went to Andrews University in 1954, where he met **Beverly Campbell** (BS '58, former staff). They were married

in 1958. He received a BA and a BS from Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, in 1960.

They moved to Mt. Vernon, Ohio, to work in the treasury department at the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Soon after, they had two children named Ted and Kim. In 1966, they sailed to Kenya, East Africa, as missionaries. Eleven years later, they transferred to Lebanon and then Cyprus, working as treasurer or auditor.

The family returned to the U.S. in 1980, where Norman audited in the states of Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan as a CPA with the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists until retiring in 2004. He also audited in Brazil, Ivory Coast, Tanzania, Uganda, Egypt and Iran.

Norman was a member of Pioneer Memorial Church where he served for many years as an associate head deacon. He volunteered at various places in the community. His hobbies included genealogy, gardening, amateur radio, and birding. Together, he and his family traveled the world. He climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania twice and Mt. Kenya. He and Beverly also drove to Alaska and the NW Territories.

Norman is survived by his wife Beverly (married 62 years), brother Stuart, son **Ted** (CERT '81, AS '83, BS '85), daughter Kimberly, and grandchildren Stephanie, Stephen and Ashley.

Helen (Przewoznik) Anderson (DIP2YR '51) died Sept. 21, 2022.

She was born on Sept. 28, 1930, in Thorp, Wisconsin, and was married to **Marvin B. Anderson** (BS '51). They served for 36 years of their married life at Platte Valley Academy in

Shelton, Nebraska. Marvin was assistant farm manager and a teacher, and Helen taught elementary school and worked for the county superintendent of education in Kearney, Nebraska. They retired in Gentry, Arkansas, in 1987.

Helen is survived by four daughters: Nadine Finley (David), Gwyann Anderson (Richard), **Melody** (BA '82) and her husband **Beaman III Senecal** (MBA '81), **LaQuita Anderson** (BBA '87), eight grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Harold Boyd Smith III (BS '08) died Sept. 10, 2022, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, of complications from a kidney infection.

Harold was born in Nome, Alaska, on Sept. 13, 1982. He was born with a rare condition called Caudal Regression Syndrome and did not have the use of his legs. With a strong upper body and a bright mind, he rolled cheerfully through life. Everywhere he went he quickly made friends. In elementary school, teachers frequently forgot he had a disability.

He studied social work in graduate school but stopped before graduating to pursue work in business. He was the chief operating officer of Lifecoach Psychology and Associated Professional Billing.

Harold is survived by his younger sister, Charlotte, and her husband John; and by his parents, **Harold Smith** (former staff) and **Jeannie Pedersen-Smith** (MMus '02).

E. Arthur "Art" Robertson (MA '67), 78, of Berrien Springs, Michigan, passed away Sept. 9, 2022, at Spectrum Health Lakeland Hospital.

Art was born July 13, 1944, in Queens, New York. After graduating in 1966 with his BA in religion and English from Columbia Union College, he

earned an MA in New Testament at Andrews University in 1967 and MD from Loma Linda University in 1972.

On Aug. 17, 1967, he married the former Nilda Krieghoff in Washington, D.C. Art worked at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, for ten years before moving to Berrien Springs when he became Chief of Laboratory at Memorial Hospital in St. Joseph. Art was a partner pathologist with Pathology Associates and also served as a Berrien County Medical Examiner from 1982 until his retirement in 2012. In May 1986, Nilda was tragically killed in a car accident. On Jan. 4, 1987, he married the former Debra Harris in Eau Claire.

In retirement, Art enjoyed family and tending to his 40 acres, where he furthered his astrophotography hobby using the observatory he had built.

Art was a Pioneer Memorial Church member, Michiana Adventist Forum past-president and served on the Institutional Review Board for Andrews University. He was serving on the Berrien County Mental Health Board at the time of his death. Most recently, he had taken up droning. Art cherished time spent with family and friends and looked forward to Wednesday Morning Breakfast Club.

Art is survived by his wife **Debi** (MA '85); five sons, **Elmer Arthur III** (att.), **John** (BT '95), **William** (BS '98), **James** (BS/BA '00) and **Richard** (BS '00); and 12 grandchildren.

Carol Deborah Mullins-Frezza (MS '83, former faculty), 65, died of cancer on Sept. 9, 2022, in Aspin, Tennessee.

Carol was born Aug. 16, 1957, in LaPaz, Bolivia, to Nathan and Phyllis Merkel. She graduated from Southwestern Adventist University with a BA in medical technology and

earned an MS from Andrews. She was employed in the allied health department at Andrews University for a time.

She married Dan Mullins and from this union two daughters were born. After her husband passed away, she married Greg Frezza.

Carol worked in the medical field the rest of her life as a monitor of clinical trials. During that time she and her husband were very active in community service as members of the Bowman Hills Seventh-day Adventist Church.

She is survived by her husband Greg Frezza, her two daughters, Shannon Mullins and Cheri Jackson, three grandchildren, her mother Phyllis Merkel, her brother Clifford Merkel and several nieces and nephews.



Shirley Ann (Martinborough) McGarrell (BA '83, MA '85, PhD '00), 83, of Apopka, Florida, died Sept. 4, 2022, in Orlando. Hospitalized after a fall, she succumbed to pneumonia.

Shirley was born July 4, 1939, in Vreed en Hoop, Guyana. She married Roy McGarrell on June 25, 1962, and André Roy Fenton, Fern Althea and Faith-Ann Abiola were born into this union.

In 1961, Shirley earned an AA in secretarial science from Caribbean Union College, now University of the Southern Caribbean (USC). She then earned

a BA in English, MA in English literature and PhD in curriculum and instruction with an advanced cognate in English at Andrews University.

She taught at all levels, from small schools in Guyana to working as a writing tutor and instructor at Andrews and an English professor at USC.

She also served as dean of women at CUCC (1970–1972) and an administrative assistant for the Guyana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (1972–1980) and the English department at Andrews University (1984–1988). In 1988, she returned to Caribbean Union College as chairperson for the English department until 1994. She subsequently held several administrative roles of which she was the first woman to do so: dean of the faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (1995); vice president for Academic Administration (1998); president (interim), leading the transition from college to university (2002); vice president for Academic Administration (2003); and vice president for General Administration (2005), a position she held until her retirement in 2011.

Shirley published eight books, and her ninth will be published posthumously. She also received awards for outstanding service, including being selected as Andrews University's 100 Women of the Century (2002).

She is survived by her husband, **Roy McGarrell** (MA '81, PhD '90); sister, Dolly Martinborough-Teixeira (Clement); daughters, **Fern McGarrell-Hudson** (BS '87) (Carl) and **Faith-Ann McGarrell** (AS '91, BA '93, MA '95, PhD '07); daughter-in-law, Grace McGarrell (André); and four grandchildren.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents; two

brothers, Gordon and Patrick; and son, **André McGarrell** (BSMT '84).



May-Ellen Marian Netten Colón (MA '75, PhD '04) passed away on Aug. 3, 2022.

Born on June 14, 1949, May-Ellen attended the Hartford Seventh-day Adventist church school for all eight grades, then graduated from Pioneer Valley Academy and Atlantic Union College.

In fall 1969, May-Ellen met Gaspar Colón at Atlantic Union College, where she earned a BS in elementary education. They married on June 4, 1972.

May-Ellen began her employment as 5th and 6th grade teacher at the Jackson Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church School in New York City. She completed her MA in elementary curriculum and instruction with emphasis in reading at Andrews University, then taught or served as principal at various Adventist schools.

She served as adjunct professor for religious education at Columbia Union College and DMin advisor for the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. In December 2003, she completed her PhD in religious education at Andrews.

May-Ellen served as organist, minister of music and choir director in Adventist, Methodist, Congregational and Lutheran churches. She also

founded the Noteworthy Music School in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa, and directed the "Messengers of Hope" Choir at the Africa-Indian Ocean Division headquarters.

May-Ellen worked in various capacities for the Africa-Indian Ocean Division. This was followed by four years as founding director of the Family Ministries Department of the newly formed Euro-Asia Division. On July 18, 2009, May-Ellen was honored with the Family Ministries Distinguished Service Award by the North American Division, all under the auspices of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In 1999, after settling back in the U.S., May-Ellen was appointed to serve as assistant director, Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department, as well as assistant editor of Sabbath School/Personal Ministries Publications, at the General Conference. In 2015 her role was expanded to include serving as director of Adventist Community Services International and Special Liaison for Community Services to the Adventist Development & Relief Agency (ADRA) International. She was concurrently appointed by ADRA International to serve as special liaison to the General Conference and director of Church & Community Engagement.

In 2008, May-Ellen published a book with Pacific Press. She also co-authored the 3rd Quarter 2016 Adult Bible Study Guide and its companion book and has presented scholarly papers.

May-Ellen retired in April 2021 after moving to Kaneohe, Hawaii, with Gaspar.

She is survived by her husband Gaspar; son Ivan and his wife Crystal, and their three daughters; her daughter Sara-May; her brother Victor Netten and his wife and children.

Christine Alice Scavella (BS '84) passed away after a long illness on Oct. 16, 2019.

Christine was born in Nassau, Bahamas, on Feb. 11, 1963.

She attended Bahamas Academy, West Indies College Elementary School and Preston Albury High School.

After graduating from high school, Christine returned to Mandeville, Jamaica, to attend West Indies College where she

studied office administration, earning an associate degree. She continued her studies at Andrews University where she earned a bachelor's degree in medical office administration.

When Christine returned to Nassau, she initially worked at The Lyford Cay Medical Center for two years but, desiring a career change, worked for a local law firm before enrolling at Buckingham University in England in 1988. After obtain-

ing her LLB, Christine stayed in London and worked at the Bahamas High Commission before joining the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) there. In recognition of her commitment and hard work, Christine was promoted to registrar in 2001, transferring a year later to head the BMA's New York office. While in New York, Christine was promoted to deputy director of the BMA and given diplomatic status by

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Christine valiantly battled cancer, never complaining or feeling sorry for herself. She trusted God and held fast to His promises.

Christine is survived by two sisters, **F. Renee White** (BS '84) and husband **Malcolm** (MA '94), and Tanya Hanna (Valentino); one brother, Audwyn; three nieces and three nephews.

Edward Ashley Streeter (MA '62, former faculty) passed away peacefully on Jan. 6, 2022. His wife of almost 74 years, **Verna Lillian (Green) Streeter** (former staff) quietly went to rest on April 9, 2022.

Ed was born in Mussoorie, India, on Aug. 25, 1923. After finishing high school, he went to Avondale College in Australia, where he graduated from business and the ministerial program. He worked as a colporteur, then in evangelism and youth ministry.

Verna was born in Victoria, Australia, on Jan. 5, 1929. She attended Avondale for one year, majoring in nursing. However, when Ed noticed her at the Adventist youth camp, where he led out, plans changed. Marriage and mission work became priority. They married on Feb. 25, 1948. In early 1949 they were called to Vincent Hill, Mussoorie, where Ed worked as business manager and PE teacher. Verna taught grades 3 and 4.

In 1955 Ed became principal of Raymond Memorial Training School, Falakata, West Bengal. He was ordained to the ministry in early 1960. Verna taught high school English, supervised the cafeteria and girls' dorm, ran the dispensary and played the piano for church in addition to raising their four children. The family went on furlough to Andrews University from 1961–1962, and Ed received an MA in educational administration.

As part of his coursework, he designed the renovation plans for Roorkee School where he would carry them out and serve as principal from 1962–1966. Verna helped in similar roles to what she had done in Falakata. In August 1966, Ed was appointed president of the Northwestern



India Union in Delhi. Verna worked as his secretary and guest coordinator and homeschooled the children. He designed and supervised the building of the new Union Headquarters. In 1969, after 20 years in India, the Streeters returned permanently to the U.S.

Ed accepted a position as accountant at Andrews University so all four children could go to school on the same campus. Verna was asked to be secretary in the Department of Education and then to five successive graduate deans over the years. In 1973, President Hammill told Ed the University needed him to teach. So he went to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, graduated with a Doctor of Education in June 1975, and joined the teaching faculty at Andrews.

He was chair of the Educational Administration and Supervision department from 1980 until he retired in 1993 at the age of 70. Verna retired in 1992. Ed continued to teach on a contract basis until 2000. He also chaired 49 doctoral

dissertations. Among his publications he wrote "Minimum Guidelines for Elementary and Secondary Schools" for the General Conference. He visited and developed educational specifications for over 40 Adventist schools around the world. He developed a Master Plan for the Andrews University campus, including the Academy, the School of Business, and modernizing the Administration Building, Nethery Hall and Seminary. He also helped plan the extension of Pioneer Memorial Church. In 1993, he received the J.N. Andrews Medallion. He served the Adventist Church for over 50 years.

All four children graduated from Andrews University: **Jennifer** (BS '73) in nursing, **Yvonne** (AS '76, BS '89) in secretarial science, **Stephen** (BS '79) in accounting and **Elizabeth** (BS '82) in nutrition. Three granddaughters are also alums: **Patricia** (BS/BA '98, MA '08) in elementary education, music and education, **Sara** (BS '11) in animal science and **Jodi** (BS '11) in elementary education.

Ed and Verna enjoyed gardening. In their retirement, they created a display garden covering almost an acre in Baroda, where as many as 500 people went through in an afternoon to see their specialty, hostas. The tours continued until 2007 when Ed and Verna moved to Arizona. Before leaving Michigan, they donated several different varieties of hostas to Andrews University for the Streeter Family Garden.

They spent nine years in Arizona, then moved to Ooltewah, Tennessee, in 2013, to be near family.

Ed and Verna are survived by their four children, 11 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Pandemic Im-Possibilities Become Possible

by *Timetta Pipkins Wilson*

IN JANUARY 2020, AS THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC BEGAN, I was serving as a health care chaplain at Spectrum Health Lakeland. Our team put in many extra hours as we became the patients' link between family and friends. I remember thinking that I needed to prepare myself mentally, physically and spiritually.

I wrote out Scripture and began to memorize chapters. I exercised more, increasing my walking from one mile to two within several weeks. I also set a goal to complete my essay writing for chaplain board certification by May 2020 and worked on verbatims and professional ethics essays after work. These goals helped me stay hopeful and motivated.

I began to tire from the rigor of the pandemic, and around May 2020 I was slowed down by the discovery of having ovarian cancer. After many tests and MRI and PET scans, a definite mapped out plan for surgery was given. The time was set for Sept. 10, 2020.

Meanwhile, I made the request of my chaplain mentor to have my board certification interview before my surgery. Anna Galeniece, professor of chaplaincy and director of the Seminary Chaplaincy Study Center at Andrews University, made it happen. I presented before a six-member panel of professionals via Zoom, successfully completed the rigorous interview and became board certified through the Adventist Chaplaincy Institute on Aug. 30, 2020.

My oldest son Granville flew in to be with me for three days and was at the hospital for my surgery, which was a success. My dear friends and fellow alums, Russell and Marji Bates, walked me through doctor's appointments and recovery for months.

Then there was the challenge of chemotherapy, starting in early December. The process is draining, and by the third day after it feels as if someone has crushed every bone. However, God would send gentle whispers and signs to let me know I was not forgotten. Friends would come by with food, help with laundry, and help to clean my apartment. A long-time family friend called regularly to share funny anecdotes and stories about his childhood, which I turned into a children's book published in 2022.

On Dec. 17, 2020, I was nominated Chaplain of the Year by the Berrien County Sheriff's Department, where I work as a volunteer with the deputies. I was very surprised that the Berrien County Chaplain Corps had chosen me for that honor.

After finishing chemotherapy in April 2021, I gained a lot of weight due to steroids in the "chemo-cocktail." I could not walk more than one block and tired easily. I prayed and asked God to help me recover my vitali-



Photo courtesy of Timetta Pipkins Wilson

“By the end of May, after follow-up visits with the surgeon and local oncologist, right before my birthday I was pronounced cancer free!”

ty. I went to the YMCA Live Strong program for cancer survivors. This helped me deal with the sadness and depression. By the end of May, after follow-up visits with the surgeon and local oncologist, right before my birthday I was pronounced cancer free! I was also blessed to be sponsored to go to Lifeline Wellness Institute where I learned to use their corrective diet.

As of August 2022 I had lost 30 lbs and could walk two miles and work out at the Andraesen Center for Wellness. As of 2023, I continue to be under doctor's care for up to five years. The oncologist has pronounced me as cancer free! I am currently back at work as a palliative health care chaplain with Corewell Health (Lakeland).

God is really restoring my health—mind, body, soul, spirit. I can rejoice in the Lord and share my testimony as I progress. I will continue to mentor, love, serve and minister.

In Luke 18:27, Jesus says: “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.” I am His miracle. When things may look impossible to me, God continues to do the possible.

Timetta Pipkins Wilson (MA '05, MSA '14), board certified chaplain, gives God praise for His love and sustaining power as He has opened unique opportunities for her to minister. She can relate to patients and empathize more with those who have to go through the cancer journey. As Revelation 3:8 states (paraphrased): He will open doors that no man can shut. He knows that we have but a little strength. Yet He will sustain us.



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World Changers Made Here.

*A group of spring 2023 graduates celebrates together on the international flag mall.
Photo credit: Dawson Par, University Communication student photographer*

