

FOCUS

THE ANDREWS UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2023
Vol 59 No 3

PG 8—New Student Orientation
PG 17—A Legacy of Hope
PG 21—World Travelers and Changers
PG 26—Legacy Family Photos



The Faithful Mission of Andrews University

John Wesley Taylor V, president

EARLIER THIS SUMMER, I HAD THE distinct privilege to return to my alma mater to take on the great and humbling invitation to serve as your new president.

Since I've returned, I have been blessed to find that there are numerous reminders each day that at Andrews University our mission is, and continues to be, embedded in our DNA.

The centrality of our mission has been here from the start at Battle Creek College, the forerunner of Andrews University. As you know, our school opened its doors in August 1874 as the Seventh-day Adventist Church's first higher education institution, an institution with an explicit goal to best prepare students to carry forward the Gospel commission.

And if you know the story of Andrews—the University—you also know that in 1874 our University's namesake, J.N. Andrews, along with his family answered the call to serve as the first sponsored missionaries of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

This nearly 150-year commitment to mission at Andrews University means that tens of thousands of inspired students have graduated from Andrews University and have gone back to hometowns—or traveled throughout the world—to actively engage in God's mission.

With a new school year beginning, I am reminded that, as has been the case with each new school year, Andrews University and its faculty, staff and students move forward together, inspired by this University's legacy of witness and service. We begin this new school year by recommitting ourselves to fulfill God's mission on our campus and around the world.

My new website (andrews.edu/president) was launched earlier this summer, and it includes a "From the Heart" section that sets out different aspects of my vision for, and passionate commitment to, Andrews University.

I would like to close by sharing some thoughts from my "Commitment to Mission" message.

First, I believe that Andrews University's commitment to a global mission begins by fulfilling our institutional mission, which reflects on and exemplifies the Gospel commission. Our mission here at Andrews University states:

Andrews University, a distinctive Seventh-day Adventist Christian institution, transforms its students by educating them to Seek Knowledge and Affirm Faith in order to Change the World.

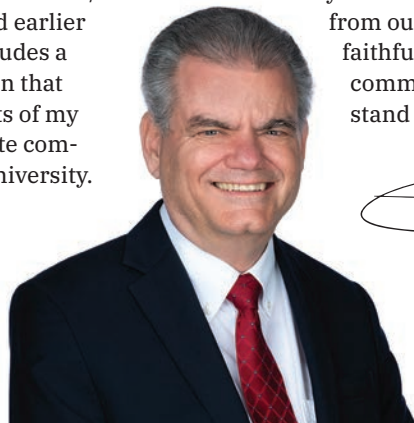
Daily we commit ourselves to fulfill each element of that mission with creativity and excellence.

This means we are consistently and **distinctively Seventh-day Adventist**, Christ-centered and Bible-based, committed to the mission of the Church. We are also committed to **transformation through education**, believing that Andrews University education transforms our understanding, our skills, our priorities—and our entire life.

At Andrews University, we **Seek Knowledge** by viewing God as the ultimate Source of knowledge and wisdom. We must pursue knowledge that is linked to real life, to our relationships and our communities. We **Affirm Faith** by connecting our entire campus as a network of relationships and tools to help effectively build a vibrant community of vivid faith.

Finally, I believe we can and will **Change the World** and make a difference for God by demonstrating and sharing His love to the world in tangible ways.

In a world filled with uncertainty and rapid change, I believe that Andrews University's commitment to our mission must remain unwavering and strong. It is in times of challenge that our faith can shine brightest, as our Andrews University community draws strength from our beliefs and the faithfulness of God, through a community of believers who stand united in mission.



World Changers Made Here.

FOCUS

THE ANDREWS UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

Editor

Gillian Panigot (BA '06, MA '08)
focus@andrews.edu | 269-471-3348

Associate Editor

Patricia Spangler (BS '04)

Contributing Editors

Raelene Brower (att.)
Kieran Taylor (BS '20, MS '22)

Designer

Justin Jeffery (BMus '04)

Photographers

Iago Alonso (current student)
Jeff Boyd (MBA '04, current staff)
Youngbo Chun (current student)
Alistair Clarke (BS '19)
Jessica Condon (BFA '19)
Blaise Datoy (current student)
Darren Heslop (BFA '10, current staff)
Austin Ho (att.)
Dawson Par (current student)
Randy Ramos (current student)
David Sherwin (BFA '82, current faculty)
Peter Tumangday (current student)

Writers

Sara Hamstra (current student)
Isabella Koh (BA '23)

Andrews University

President

John Wesley Taylor V (MA '84, PhD '86)

Provost

Christon Arthur (BA '90, MA '95,
EdS '99, PhD '00)

Vice President for Financial Administration

Glenn "Chip" Meekma (att.)

Special Assistant to the President for University & Public Affairs

Stephen Payne

Vice President for Campus & Student Life

Frances Faehner (BSW '76, PhD '07)

Vice President for Strategy, Marketing & Enrollment/Chief Communication Officer

Tony Yang (MAPM '22)

Vice President for University Advancement

Donald L. Bedney II (MDiv '90, MSA '91)

FOCUS (ISSN 1077-9345) is published quarterly, free of charge, for alumni and friends of Andrews University, an institution owned and operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The magazine's address is FOCUS, Office of University Communication, Andrews University, 8903 US Hwy 31, Berrien Springs MI 49104-1000. Copyright © 2023 by Andrews University. Reproduction in whole or part without permission is prohibited. Printed by Holland Litho Printing Service, Zeeland MI. Periodicals postage paid at Berrien Springs MI, and at additional mailing offices. Please send address changes to FOCUS Magazine, Office of Alumni Services, Andrews University, 8714 E Campus Circle Drive, Berrien Springs MI 49104-0950, email alumni@andrews.edu or call 269-471-3591.



The FSC® trademark indicates that the paper contains fiber from responsibly managed forest in accordance with the rules of the Forest Stewardship Council®.

21

World Travelers



Photo courtesy of Paul Gregor



17

Andrea Luxton's Retirement



Andrews Legacy

26

Features

8 New Student Orientation 2023

Andrews University welcomed new students to campus Aug. 20–27.

17 A Legacy of Hope

by *Jeremy Gray*

Andrea Luxton, president of Andrews University for seven years, is honored for her service.

21 World Travelers and Changers

Over the last several months, Andrews students took unique opportunities to expand their academic and non-academic experiences.

Departments

- 2 President's Desk
- 4 Campus Update
- 11 Howard Happenings
- 12 Faculty & Staff
- 25 Alumni News
- 28 Class Notes
- 29 Life Stories

Cover: New students made their way to the bridge of the Undergraduate Learning Center during a special Matriculation ceremony on Sunday, Aug. 20, 2023. Photo credit: Darren Heslop (BFA '10, current staff)



FOCUS | Spring 2023



Visit Andrews University's YouTube channel to view Summer Graduation, University Convocation and more.

andrews.edu/go/youtube

Follow Andrews on your favorite social media platform

 [andrewsuniversity](https://www.facebook.com/andrewsuniversity)

 [andrews_university](https://www.instagram.com/andrews_university)

 [AndrewsUniv](https://twitter.com/AndrewsUniv)

Don't forget to write

Letters are always welcome.

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

By mail:

FOCUS Editor
Andrews University
Office of University Communication
8903 Old US 31
Berrien Springs MI 49104-1000

By email:

focus@andrews.edu

Campus Update

Andrews University releases landmark publication

On Adventist doctrine

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE BIBLICAL Research Institute (BRI) and Andrews University have partnered to publish a book for general and classroom readers that theologically examines each of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's fundamental beliefs.

Titled "God With Us: An Introduction to Adventist Theology," the book is authored by John C. Peckham, research professor of theology and Christian philosophy at Andrews University and recently appointed associate editor of *Adventist Review/Adventist World*. The book was commissioned and edited by BRI, with its first purpose to be a foundational, accessible and yet scholarly introduction to Adventist belief for undergraduate and graduate students. Published by Andrews University Press, the world church's primary academic publishing house, "God With Us" is also designed and promoted beyond the classroom for the general readership of the Church.

Elias Brasil de Souza, BRI director, who also wrote the foreword to the book, says, "We are very glad to have partnered with

Andrews University to bring this work to the Adventist world and beyond. It is much needed. There have been other textbooks dealing with Adventist doctrine, and other presentations of our fundamental beliefs. Peckham's work stands out because of his thoughtful, highly readable presentation, which is informed by his perspective as one of our church's leading theologians."

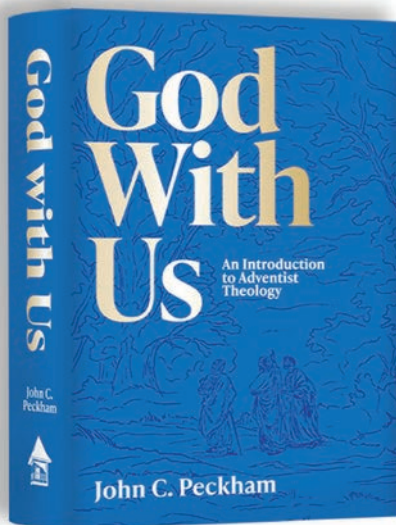
Broad editorial aspects of Peckham's work were supervised by Frank M. Hasel, associate director of the Biblical Research Institute. In his role as theological editor, Hasel arranged for review of Peckham's work by other theologians and worked with Peckham to put the manuscript in its final form for submission to Andrews for publication. "The title of Peckham's book beautifully describes the organizing principle behind his treatment of Adventist doctrine," Hasel says. "Peckham shows that, in the most profound way, every aspect of foundational biblical theology, as understood by Adventists, is framed by God's desire to be with and for His people."

Dwight K. Nelson, former lead pastor of Pioneer Memorial Church at Andrews University, says, "'God With Us' is classic Peckham—carefully reasoned, meticulously shaped, yet winsomely user-friendly for life beyond the academy."

John McVay, president of Walla Walla University, writes, "If you are looking for clear, accessible writing tracing the grandest stories and themes while unpacking gentle, persuasive, reasoned faith, you've found it."

Sung Wook Chung, a well-known evangelical professor of Christian theology at Denver Seminary, endorses the book by saying, "This excellent piece of theological work will lead to John Peckham being regarded as one of the most authoritative voices alive today on Adventist theology. A must-read for anyone interested in the contemporary shape of not only Adventist theology but also broader evangelical theology."

The book will be used in classrooms in Adventist colleges and universities beginning this fall.





Campus beautification on Change It Up Day 2.0, Aug. 8

LIFE ON CAMPUS



The second annual "In a Pickle 5K Race," June 18



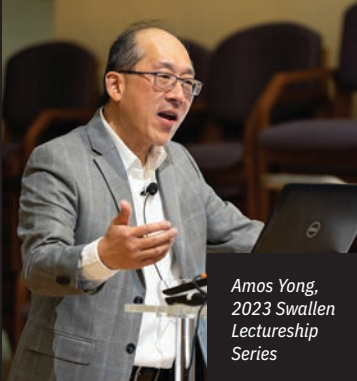
Employee Strawberry Feed, June 8



Danielle Pilgrim, University Convocation, Aug. 31



The first European/North American cohort from the Ellen G. White Certificate Program, Aug. 25 (photo courtesy of Jiri Moskala)



Amos Yong, 2023 Swallen Lectureship Series



Myanmar Youth Convention, July 5-9



Early College Experience, July 30-Aug. 18



Installation of Shane Anderson, lead pastor at Pioneer Memorial Church, July 1

Photo courtesy of Hayley Sanchez

Summer graduation

Services took place Aug. 4–6

DURING ANDREWS UNIVERSITY'S SUMMER graduation, 351 students were awarded undergraduate and graduate degrees during the weekend's Commencement services, with about 216 receiving their degrees in person. The weekend's events included a Friday evening Commencement, a Baccalaureate and vespers on Sabbath and two Commencements on Sunday morning. Additional program-specific ceremonies and events took place throughout the weekend.

On Friday, Aug. 4, Richard Davidson, J.N. Andrews professor of Old Testament interpretation, gave the Commencement address for the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and the College of Education & International Services. His talk was titled "A Strategy for Success." Previously a pastor in the Arizona Conference, Davidson earned his doctorate in Old Testament studies at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, where he was invited to become a professor and has served since 1979. Davidson, a prolific writer and researcher, was the 2011 recipient of the Siegfried H. Horn Excellence in Research & Creative Scholarship Award.

The Baccalaureate service took place on Saturday, Aug. 5. Maurice R. Valentine II, a general vice president for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, delivered "The Second Salute." Valentine started his career as a pastor, then began administrative work. He led the Lake Union as president for several years and also served as vice chair of the Andrews University Board of Trustees.



In 2021, he became vice president for media ministries for the North American Division and was elected to his current position in 2022.

Two Commencement services took place on Sunday, Aug. 6. Jochebed Ade-Oshifogun, adjunct professor of nursing, gave an address titled "God's Purpose" at the service for graduates of the College of Health & Human Services. Ade-Oshifogun obtained her PhD in nursing from the University of Illinois and arrived at Andrews University as chair of the Department of Nursing in 2015. She later became AdventHealth endowed chair in 2020, where she served until her retirement in 2023.

Øystein LaBianca, senior research professor of anthropology and associate director of the Institute of Archaeology, delivered the Commencement address, titled "Creation Care Lifts All Boats," for graduates of the College of Arts & Sciences and College of Professions. LaBianca received a PhD in anthropology from Brandeis

Top, Clockwise From Left: Øystein LaBianca addressed graduates from the College of Arts & Sciences and College of Professions ■ Jochebed Ade-Oshifogun spoke for the College of Health & Human Services Commencement ■ Graduates and faculty celebrated outside the Howard Performing Arts Center ■ Richard Davidson shared with graduates of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and the College of Education & International Services ■ Families posed for photos over graduation weekend ■ Maurice R. Valentine II gave the talk for Sabbath's Baccalaureate

University. He became a professor in the School of Social & Behavioral Sciences in 1980 and served as chair from 1982–1990. After his retirement from teaching in 2020, LaBianca continues to be involved with the University through creative scholarship and research pursuits.

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

Leadership hosts orientation, conference and roundtable

Welcomes new students

OVER 40 NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS WERE WELCOMED TO THE School of Leadership during its 2023 Virtual Orientation Week, held July 17–21. Students were also invited to attend the annual Leadership Conference and Roundtable. After three virtual annual conferences, participants were enthusiastic to meet with friends and colleagues in person. A significant number of participants also attended online.

Held on July 24, the Conference was themed “Inclusive Leadership.” Pardon Mwansa, associate professor of educational leadership and administration, delivered the address “Inclusive Leadership—A Must for Effective Leadership.” The presentation was followed by an animated conversation with the audience and several breakout sessions.

Leadership Roundtable then took place from July 24–26 and featured alumnus John F. Cosgrove, who presented his new book “Negotiating Turbulence: Purpose Based, Values Driven Leadership.”

“All this was done to give each student a strong start in the program and to develop a community of scholar-practitioners who transform the power of knowledge into global service,” says Bordes Henry Saturné, chair of the School of Leadership. “The programs are individualized to grow the participants’ skills and talents. From certificates to post doctorate, Leadership offers a variety of degrees to best suit participants’ lifestyle and career.”

Participants on the first day of the School of Leadership Orientation Week, following a devotional by President John Wesley Taylor V



Andrews and Buckner International sign agreement

Focusing on leadership development

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY HAS SIGNED A MEMORANDUM of Understanding with nonprofit Buckner International, a ministry dedicated to the transformation and restoration of the lives they serve. The collaboration, which formally launched in September 2023, will offer professional development as well as graduate study and degree options for Buckner International’s professional staff.

It will also offer Andrews University students the opportunity to learn and serve in the context of Buckner International’s mission-driven outreach “to follow the example of Jesus by serving vulnerable children, families and seniors.”

This joint venture has the purpose of developing leaders according to the “Leading with a Servant Heart in a team environment” model articulated by Buckner International. It will be based on the unique philosophy of the Andrews University School of Leadership, which is biographically anchored, service-driven, individualized and competency-based, providing participants the opportunity to reflect on their practices from a Christian perspective.

Bordes Henry Saturné, chair of the School of Leadership, notes that the start of this new collaboration coincides with the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Andrews University Leadership program, whose alumni serve with distinction around the world.

The collaboration between Buckner and Andrews University was formalized in May 2023 and signed by Andrews University representatives Christon Arthur, provost, Alayne Thorpe, dean of the College of Education & International Services (which houses the School of Leadership), and Albert Reyes, the sixth president and CEO of Buckner International.

Reyes, who earned his PhD in leadership at Andrews University in 2009, said he is “so excited to launch this program” and “looking forward to great things via Andrews University.”



PHOTO: Ramiro Quero



NEW STUDENT OR



Top, Clockwise From Left:
 Andy the Cardinal with a student at First Stop ■ Parents and students welcomed to First Stop ■ First Stop in the Howard Performing Arts Center Lobby ■ Convocation for new students and families in Pioneer Memorial Church ■ A New Student Assembly ■ Residence hall move-in ■ Office of Alumni Services Lend-a-Hand





Top, Clockwise From Left:
Class of 2027 on the International Flag Mall ■ Graduate Resource Fair for new graduate students ■ New students meeting their Family Group leaders ■ A New Student Assembly in the Howard Performing Arts Center ■ New students getting acquainted with their Family Groups

IENTATION 2023





NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION 2023

continued

Top, Clockwise From Left:
Pre-professional Rally ■ New graduate student Consecration Program and Andrews University Bible Ceremony ■ New Seminary students outside the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary ■ The new Andy's Eats food truck on Saturday evening ■ Andreasen Center for Wellness Fun & Fitness Night ■ Students on Sabbath morning ■ Afterglow Experience following Friday evening's Proximity Vespers ■ Pioneer Memorial Church Welcome Potluck ■ Pioneer Collegiate Sabbath School



Celebrating 20 Years **The 2023–2024 Season**

The Howard Performing Arts Center is your home for an **exceptional concert experience!** The Howard Center features world-class musicians in a variety of genres and serves as a performance venue for Andrews University music ensembles, community-based music groups and young musicians.



Heritage Singers
OCTOBER 14 @ 8 P.M.



Take 6
OCTOBER 29 @ 7 P.M.



Canadian Brass
JANUARY 28 @ 7 P.M.



**Welcome Christmas:
Peace on Earth**
DECEMBER 9 @ 8 P.M.



Steve Green
FEBRUARY 4 @ 7 P.M.



Wintley Phipps
APRIL 7 @ 7 P.M.

HOWARD
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
ON THE CAMPUS OF ANDREWS UNIVERSITY



*For tickets, information
and a complete listing of
performances, call the box
office or visit us on the web.*

888-467-6442



Purchase your tickets online today!
howard.andrews.edu

 howardcenter  howardcenter



Back Row (L–R): Donald Bedney, Eriston Eloi, Sheila Penrod, Dennis Hollingsead, Ellainna Hart, Kieran Taylor, Heidi Magesa ■ Front Row (L–R): Kaitlyn Del Valle, Raelene Brower, Tari Popp, Carmen Carrillo-Brown, Cindy Hill, Lynnetta Hamstra

CENTRAL OFFICE

Heidi Magesa has worked for Andrews University since 2011, beginning her current role as executive assistant to the vice president for University Advancement in December 2022. She is responsible for managing executive requests, scheduling meetings, taking calls, project management, helping to plan events, and many other varied office duties. Heidi previously held positions as a graphic designer, webmaster, project and event manager, and social media manager. She has worked for a local non-profit missions organization and owned and operated her own business. Heidi says, “I am honored to be an integral part of such an auspicious team that is moving the University forward in new and exciting ways.”

DEVELOPMENT

Dennis Hollingsead was named interim director of Development in July of 2023. He holds a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in music education, as well as a Master of Library Science, and has served Andrews University for over 20 years. Dennis began working for Andrews in 2002, serving as administrative assistant to Patricia Mutch, vice president for academic administration, and, later, Heather Knight, provost. In 2008, he transitioned to University Advancement in the role of prospect management officer. Now, Dennis helps donors provide financial support for students in need, supporting the educational journeys of the Andrews community.

Kaitlyn Del Valle has spent her career engaging with and caring for the student population of Andrews. She graduated with a liberal arts degree and leadership certification from Andrews, then began working for the University as an enrollment counselor and recruiter. Four years later, Kaitlyn felt called by God to begin working in the Office of Development as major gifts officer for the Midwest. “As an alumnus, I want my fellow alumni to feel connected to the institution that they graduated from and know that they can also call this place their home,” she says.

New team members join University Advancement

Continuing connections with the extended Andrews University community

The University Advancement team has welcomed new employees in five areas: Office of Alumni Services, the Advancement central office, Office of Development, Howard Performing Arts Center, and Office of Planned Giving & Trust Services.

ALUMNI SERVICES

Raelene Brower, who has been hired as the new director of Alumni Services, will be responsible for overseeing all aspects of the University’s relationships with alumni. Beginning in the late 1980s, Raelene dedicated 15 years of service to Andrews. She went on to work at other Seventh-day Adventist educational institutions in enrollment, alumni and development before retiring in 2019. After experiencing the isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic, she realized that she missed her engagement with Adventist higher education and decided to return. “It has always seemed like my

‘mission field’ is to serve families and help them feel connected to the Andrews community,” she affirms. “For me, it’s all about relationships.”

Kieran Taylor’s first experience with the Andrews alumni network was as a student employee for Homecoming weekend in 2017. Over the next several years, he went on to acquire bachelor’s and master’s degrees in biology while continually contributing to the alumni experience. In August of 2022, Kieran was hired as alumni relations coordinator, responsible for promoting alumni engagement and managing day-to-day operations at the Alumni House. In his role, he works to expand the online Andrews Network, increase the participation of STEM students and alumni, and coordinate alumni events. “I am excited for the new initiatives we have planned,” he expresses.

Eriston Eloi was an involved Andrews community member long before his new appointment as coordinator of annual campaigns. A former resident of New York, he came to Andrews to complete his Master of Divinity. With a degree in business, economics and management as well as a variety of past work experience, he has learned to provide excellent customer service and engage with diverse groups of people. These skills aid him as he implements fundraising campaigns and helps donors broaden their philanthropic involvement with the University. "I hope to help instill a love for Christ and a culture of philanthropy among our students," Eriston says.

Ellainna Hart, as gift records associate, is responsible for processing all charitable donations to the University and maintaining the Development database. Ellainna holds a bachelor's degree in theology, master's degree in biblical languages and is currently pursuing a PhD in Bible exposition. Previously, she worked at a local ministry in Berrien Springs, where she gained a wealth of administrative and leadership experience. Her dedication to learning and growth led her to Andrews. "I have a passion for improving processes and procedures so Andrews University can provide a better experience for our donors and supporters," she says.

Sheila Penrod's goal as major gifts officer for the East Coast is to form connections, listen to people's stories and share the message of Adventist education. She brings a variety of life experiences to her new role, having received a Bachelor of Technology in graphic imaging from Andrews University and her nursing license from Southwestern Michigan College. Sheila is invested in meeting new people, building relationships and promoting the University, affirming, "I want to share in the good times and memories, and if there are hurt feelings or bad experiences, I want to be the bridge to restoration."

HOWARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
Carmen Carrillo-Brown has dedicated her career to connecting and communicating with people of all ages. Born in Puerto Rico, she received both her bachelor's degree and master's degree in social work from Andrews and completed a post-graduate fellowship at the Yale Child Study Center. For over two decades, she worked as a mental health therapist, building her interpersonal abilities. While networking with acquaintances, Carmen learned about an open assistant manager position at the Howard Performing Arts Center and decided to explore a new path. "I hope to be of support to students and to be a part of their positive academic experience," she affirms.

Carmen joins Lynnetta Hamstra, who has served as manager of the Howard Center since 2016.

PLANNED GIVING & TRUST SERVICES

Cindy Hill feels that God opened the doors to her new role as assistant director for Trust Administration. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, she has a dual bachelor's degree in accounting and management and has worked in financial services, corporate finance, and estate planning. Her new position draws from these strengths, as she assists donors in establishing and managing legacy gifts for the University through their estate plans and trusts. She looks forward to developing deep relationships with the Andrews community. "It is a true blessing to work with donors who have a passion for Adventist education," she says.

Cindy joins Tari Popp, who has served as director of Planned Giving & Trust Services since 2005.

"I am excited about both our new and continuing Advancement team members! Each one of them brings unique gifts to the donor and alumni engagement process," says Donald Bedney, vice president for University Advancement. "I look forward to God's richest blessings on the future labors of this team of talented and dedicated individuals!"

Darius Bridges to lead student activities

Including the AUSA

DARIUS BRIDGES HAS JOINED THE Andrews University Division of Campus & Student Life as assistant dean for Student Involvement, Leadership & Activities (SILA). He will serve as the lead sponsor of the Andrews University Student Association (AUSA) and will provide training for various student leadership positions.

Bridges is an alumnus of Andrews University and holds a BBA in marketing with a minor in architecture. As a student, he was involved in many aspects of campus life and leadership, including serving as president

of the Andrews University Black Student Christian Forum and being active in music leadership and vespers programs. "I've always been very passionate about the student experience," Bridges explains.

One of his goals as he oversees campus clubs and organizations is to provide basic leadership training to student



leaders. Bridges also hopes to encourage education on diversity in a variety of ways and would like to improve the student experience by helping students feel they belong at Andrews and are appreciated.

Previously, Bridges worked in the Division of Marketing & Enrollment Management as an enrollment counselor and recruiter for freshman students. In this position Bridges developed AUnited, a weekend-long program designed to showcase the diversity of the Andrews experience, both culturally and academically.

Looking ahead, Bridges shares, "With this new year on the horizon, I am excited to see Andrews continue to change and evolve. We want to truly embody the mantra World Changers Made Here!"

New communication professors join Andrews

Starting fall 2023



Tamara Watson



Kaara Harris



Alyx Halsey

THE DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL ART, COMMUNICATION & DESIGN (VACD) welcomes two new faculty members and celebrates a significant role change. Tamara Watson joins as assistant professor of public relations and communication, Kaara Harris serves as assistant professor of journalism and communication, and Alyx Halsey transitions from contract faculty to full-time assistant professor of fine art.

“I’m excited to have professors Halsey, Harris and Watson join the Department of Visual Art, Communication & Design,” says Daniel Weber, chair of VACD. “Collectively they bring a broad level of professional experiences that our students will benefit from immensely.”

Tamara Watson holds a bachelor’s degree in communication with an emphasis in public relations, as well as a master’s degree in leadership. She spent many years working in the public relations and marketing field before she began teaching communication at Southwestern Adventist University in 2021. “I have worked in healthcare, higher education, construction and the Adventist church. I feel each position has equipped me to be a better professor because I have a lot of hands-on experience,” she relates.

Watson found herself drawn back to Andrews through friends in the department and family in the area. She is excited to become acquainted with her new students and serve alongside her colleagues. “I hope to bring training in PR/communication that will prepare students for the real world of marketing and public relations. To me, these two always need to work together,” she reflects.

Kaara Harris earned a bachelor’s in psychology from Stanford University and a master’s in journalism from the Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at The City University of New York. She served in nonprofit organizations before her transition to a journalism career, beginning

with an internship at the Cape Cod Times. After graduate school, she worked as a copy editor at Newsday on Long Island for several years. Outside of work, she utilized her skills as a communication leader at her church, serving the Greater New York Conference and writing for the Atlantic Union Gleaner.

“Even though my route to journalism and editing was a bit circuitous, I truly believe every position, freelance job and volunteer opportunity prepared me for my next step and my current role,” she says. “I love reading, writing and good storytelling and hope to encourage those skills in our students.”

Alyx Halsey’s new role as assistant professor of fine art is enriched by her unique and diverse career path. She received a bachelor’s degree in painting from Andrews University, as well as a master’s degree in fine art from Central Michigan University (CMU). After graduating, she went on to further her education in holistic health and spent over 15 years as a mind-body therapist. In spring 2022, Halsey began contract teaching at Andrews, helping revive the ceramics program and guiding on-campus and community students through ceramics and sculpture classes.

Halsey discovered her love for instructing and managing studio spaces during a teaching assistantship at CMU. “I encourage students to be motivated through curiosity when encountering various ‘dilemmas’ that present themselves,” she says. “If I can inspire students to exchange judgment for curiosity, that’s a win.”

Weber says, “Our department offers a highly competitive educational program that prepares students to go out and be successful in academia, as artists and as professional communicators. ... This is only possible because of the dedicated faculty in our department.”



Called to serve

Judith Fisher retires after almost 22 years at Andrews

AS THE FIRSTBORN CHILD OF missionary parents, Judith Fisher grew up in an environment of service. She observed her father, a minister and educator, and her mother, a nurse, model a nurturing, people-focused lifestyle and became fascinated with the study of human behavior. She decided to combine her love for psychology and talent for languages in her academic pursuits.

After earning her master's degree in linguistics, Judith spent a decade teaching and mentoring students at the secondary and college levels in a variety of subjects. She became an academy principal, enjoying the process of motivating and inspiring young professionals. Eventually, however, she decided she was ready for a change. "I felt God calling me to an even more specific task," she

explains, "that of attending to the mental health of generations of individuals who would benefit from an integration of psychology training within a spiritual orientation."

The doctoral program in counseling psychology at Andrews University was the perfect fit for this new goal. While completing her studies, Judith worked as a professional consultant for those contemplating career changes, therapist at the Counseling & Testing Center, and therapist in the

"The robust community representative of the world has been a favorite flavor of my life at Andrews."

behavioral unit of a major hospital. Following her graduation, she accepted a fellowship and position at the University of Notre Dame, and shortly after, she was invited back to Andrews to work as a psychologist. In 2003, she became director of the Andrews University Counseling & Testing Center and, for her last two years of service, also held the role of assistant vice president for Student Development.

Judith felt right at home in Southwest Michigan, enjoying the multicultural campus and the opportunities to learn through worship services, vespers and food fairs. Her most precious memories are of connections to students and collaborations with faculty, staff and administrators. "I appreciated the many layers of connections and the richness of those relationship opportunities on and off campus," she expresses. "The robust community representative of the world has been a favorite flavor of my life at Andrews."

Central to Judith's almost 22 years of service at Andrews has been a partnership with God. She affirms, "I have engraved in my heart a gallery of precious memories ... watching God use me and my team as He worked on healing minds, nurturing hearts, reinstilling hope and transforming lives." As a Christian psychologist, she invested in helping individuals discover their strengths and acquire the tools to live fulfilled lives. "Our minds serve as our central operating system and connect us to the divine. Consequently, our mental health is critical to our relationship with God and to living abundant and fulfilled lives within His will," she says.

Judith and her team worked hard to increase mental health support for students, assembling a friendly group of professionals, fostering community collaborations, and prioritizing a strong prevention approach to student care. Judith notes, "Our nationally accredited counseling center has served a unique role on our campus in carrying out our God-inspired mission to the world, and I am grateful for having contributed in meaningful ways to our ministry of service."

In retirement, Judith plans to stay in the Michigan area. She continues to serve as faculty in the School of Graduate Psychology & Counseling and is excited for the future, stating, "I remain hopeful and trusting that our ministry of care at Andrews University will continue to transform the lives of students for generations to come—and that God will continue to bless with energy those who will carry on the torch."

A passion for nursing

Honoring Jochebed Ade-Oshifogun's service to Andrews

WHEN JOCHEBED ADE-OSHIFOGUN WAS young, her dad introduced her to Proverbs 3:5–6. Since then, her life has been guided by trust in God and His plan for her. “My one goal is to live according to God’s will and allow God’s glory to shine through me,” she says.

Although Jochebed knew early on she wanted to be an educator, she also discovered a passion for nursing. She received her bachelor’s in nursing as well as master’s degrees in nutrition and nursing. Later, she earned her doctorate in nursing science at the University of Illinois in Chicago and went on to acquire her advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) certificate.

She began serving in the U.S. Army as a nurse in 2002, earning service ribbons and numerous army achievement medals. Fifteen years later, she retired from military service as an army major. During this time, she also worked as a clinical director, staff nurse, healthcare services surveyor, clinical nurse educator and nursing informatics/bar code medication administration director at various healthcare institutions.

Jochebed’s first role in higher education was at Babcock University, Nigeria, in 1983. Several years later, she was hired by Chicago State University as an assistant professor of nursing. Her excellent work on assessment and accreditation, course instruction and online module development resulted in a Teacher of the Year award in 2011.

In 2015, Jochebed encountered a job posting for chair of the School of Nursing at Andrews University. “I prayed about it and felt the Lord wanted me to be there to fulfill His will for me and the institution,” she recalls. She was hired later that year and quickly grew to appreciate the loving

and Christian environment, the opportunities to meet students from different cultures and countries, and the wholesome food on campus. One of her favorite parts of the job was the atmosphere of safety and serenity. “I believe the campus is surrounded by the host of heaven watching over God’s children,” she says.

“I continue focusing on living a Godly life and establishing strong positive relationships,” she expresses. “Careers will come and go, but relationships will last.”



During her time as chair, Jochebed and her team established an accredited Doctor of Nursing program and developed an accredited, online undergraduate nursing program. Jochebed also designed and taught several online courses and recruited six faculty members to the School of Nursing. With the help of God and her colleagues, she established new relationships with outside organizations and increased graduation rates by 27 percent, National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) pass rates by 20 percent and nursing enrollment by 100 percent. “The faculty, staff and administration worked very hard and helped accomplish these goals,” she affirms. “The impact of their Christian love and work ethic on the students and me is memorable.”

Jochebed transitioned roles in 2020, becoming the AdventHealth Endowed Chair in the School of Nursing. In this position she was responsible for research funding and collaboration, student and faculty mentorship, and instruction for graduate students. “Working at Andrews has helped me make positive changes that will benefit not only myself but other people in my sphere of influence,” she reflects.

Jochebed officially retired Jan. 1, 2023, and has moved to Las Cruces, New Mexico, where she spends time with family and teaches online courses at New Mexico State University. She jokes that while she misses Michigan’s “cold, snowstorms and ice,” she can’t help but love the warm weather and the new opportunities for connection in New Mexico. “I continue focusing on living a Godly life and establishing strong positive relationships,” she expresses. “Careers will come and go, but relationships will last.”

... only add
Deeds to thy knowledge answerable; add faith,
Add virtue, patience, temperance; add love,
By name to come called charity, the soul
Of all the rest: then wilt thou not be loth
To leave this Paradise, but shalt possess
A Paradise within thee, happier far.

—John Milton, “Paradise Lost”



A Legacy of Hope

In 1986, Andrea Luxton submitted the dissertation that would earn her a PhD in English and make her Dr. Andrea Luxton. Its focus was “Paradise Lost,” the masterpiece of the English poet John Milton which retells the beginning of Genesis. What interested the soon-to-be Dr. Luxton was not only how Milton interprets the Bible but how his characters live out the biblical message. “The importance of living your beliefs or living the Bible,” she emphasizes, “it’s

not just about what it says but it’s about how that happens in life. At the end of the day, are you true to what the Bible is asking you to do or be?”

After seven years as president of Andrews University, and six as its provost, Andrea has retired. But her beliefs—in the importance of higher education, the power of story and the biblical message of love and hope—have left an indelible mark on the story of Andrews.

Celebrating the service of Andrea Luxton

by Jeremy Gray

For Andrea, the creative aspects of the job, telling the story of Andrews, where it has been, but also where it will go, have been particularly rewarding.

Andrea's study of English, her own academic journey, has offered an important lens through which she sees her work, shaping her service to the University and how she has lived out what she believes the Bible has asked of her. Finding her voice through the power of narrative, however, did not come right away. It was a process of discovery.

As a student she first modeled her preaching style on her professors in theology, all of whom were male and shared a fairly traditional style. "I realized I could do it, and I was okay at it. But it wasn't me." Around the same time she also developed a keen interest in literature, and as she began to study it more she started to seek out her own style. "I soon discovered that my own voice when I spoke, even when I spoke on theological issues, was best from the point of view of narrative and story." It was an unconventional approach, and she remembers how people reacted. "At the time people said to me, 'How can you study literature and theology at the same time? They don't work together.' But to me, they absolutely do," she says.

For Andrea, a narrative perspective has given her more creative ways to approach her work as an administrator. Story, she says, "to me is a very helpful way of seeing things because it sees an organization as organic, and everyone who is part of that institution at a particular time is part of that story." For Andrea, the creative aspects of the job, telling the story of Andrews, where it has been, but also where it will go, have been particularly rewarding. "This is why I like administration," she says. "It's actually very creative. ... It's creating positive pathways and futures out of what you have in front of you."

Andrea's unique ability to do exactly that has been essential in the face of several challenges that emerged during her presidential tenure.

Most obviously, the COVID-19 pandemic

presented an ever-changing challenge through which Andrea had to lead the University. Ben Panigot, assistant vice president for Campus Safety, worked closely with Andrea, helping her stay apprised of the continually evolving situation. He describes periods of nonstop 16-hour days as "the most challenging experience of my career." But reflecting on those periods, what he remembers about Andrea's leadership was the balance she brought to all the difficult situations and decisions the pandemic presented.

Ben points out, "As president, she had the authority to provide direction and let the team carry it out." Instead, she made a real point of listening to others and taking into consideration various concerns, priorities and frustrations. "We routinely wrestled with the concepts of how to protect our campus while also respecting the need for personal choice," Ben says. "She chose to balance her authority with her humanity." Andrea navigated between very different opinions on how best to approach the University's response to the pandemic—"from individuals who thought we weren't doing enough to those who thought we were doing more than enough," says Ben.

"When you're creating a narrative," she says, "you have a responsibility to try and ensure you are really incorporating as much of the elements of truth as you possibly can."

But Andrea also found balance in other ways. Ben remembers that "in the midst of surges in transmission or major changes to best practices," when the team was, as he describes it, "in the trenches," Andrea never forgot to remind her team of the need to "find a semblance of balance in our personal lives." She wanted to ensure that people weren't neglecting to take care of themselves and, as much as possible, that everyone on the team shared the load equally.

Despite the impact of the pandemic, Ben is certain that it could have been sig-

nificantly worse. "We obviously have our faith, coworkers and students to thank for that," he says, "but it's also evident to me that Dr. Luxton's leadership was instrumental in bringing our campus together and keeping us safe."

The pandemic has also overshadowed several other challenges that Andrea's administration had to navigate. In the midst of ever-growing financial constraints, Andrea and her team oversaw a series of changes to the academic offerings at Andrews. This included a reshuffling of colleges, which involved closing the College of Technology and opening the College of Health Professions. Programs have been added, too, including the International Center for Trauma Education & Care and the Office of Innovation & Entrepreneurship. Graduate programs have been added. And now, the number of graduate students equals that of undergraduates.

In the face of financial burdens, Andrea and her team managed to go beyond simple budget-cutting and found creative ways to invest in the growth and future of the campus. These changes have altered the nature and identity of the University in significant ways. But most importantly for Andrea, this process has also involved "growth in the depth of community."

Central to a stronger, more resilient community has been Andrea's ability to find common ground among a variety of perspectives. The key, as she describes it, is to listen to multiple voices, find where they share common ground and then figure out how to move forward together.

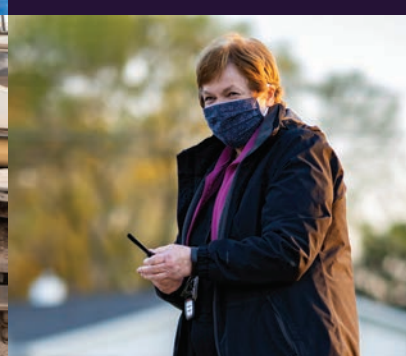
As the country's national conversation about race and diversity arrived on campus, Andrea led the University's response as she knew best—with story. "When you're creating a narrative," she says, "you have a responsibility to try and ensure you are really incorporating as much of the elements of truth as you possibly can."

Christon Arthur, provost, believes this philosophy gives her "a natural capacity to think in terms of diversity" and that when you pay attention to diversity, "you hear the narrative of the voices that have been silent."

Andrea did not hesitate to listen to these voices, remembers Michael Nixon, former vice president for University Culture & Inclusion, and she never shied away from those difficult conversations about what more the University could do.



FROM TOP, L-R: *New Student Orientation 2022* ■ *Second graders visit the president, 2018* ■ *Buller Hall Ribbon Cutting, 2011* ■ *New Life Fellowship, Alumni Homecoming 2015* ■ *World Cup Soccer Presidential Inauguration event, 2016* ■ *Pop-up Tea Party, 2016* ■ *#ItsTimeAU Chapel, 2017* ■ *Presidential Inauguration, 2016* ■ *Andreasen Center for Wellness Ribbon Cutting, 2019* ■ *Tree Planting Presidential Inauguration event, 2016* ■ *Board Briefing and Annual Strawberry Feed, 2017* ■ *Annual Alumni Homecoming Parade, 2022* ■ *Andreasen Center for Wellness Groundbreaking, 2018* ■ *Luminary event at the Andrews University entrance during the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020* ■ *A visit with the ambassador of Kenya, 2022* ■ *United Way Skid Steer Rodeo, 2018* ■ *Bookstore Ribbon Cutting, 2014* ■ *Spring Graduation 2023*



It was a moment in which, as Christon describes it, “She sifted through the noise ... she listened to where [people] are coming from, and why they’re saying this.”

In so doing, Andrea added more than just her own voice to the story of Andrews. “If in time you realize something is missing,” she says, “you have an ethical responsibility, in my mind, to go back and try to integrate that into [the narrative].”

This is what Christon calls her “moral leadership”—the ability to see, as he puts it, “what’s right for the institution, what’s right for a person, what’s right for this moment.” Christon mentions, for example, how Andrea and her team provided greater personal care and resources for students who are members of the LGBTQ+ community. Providing a sense of belonging to “make our students from different, diverse backgrounds feel that Andrews is home,” Christon believes, is something that exemplifies “the things we stand for as a university.”

Of course, leading a campus through issues that have divided the nation inevitably brings criticism and scrutiny. “It is so easy to lead when the tides are in your favor,” Christon says. “It is not as easy to lead when you are bucking the tide.”

As a result, Andrea also had to shield the community from harsh external criticism. Drawing on life back home on the islands, Christon likens her moral leadership to a barrier reef. “You enjoy the beauty of the beach,” he says, but on the other, deeper side, “where the mess happens ... you don’t want to go there. Andrea is like that barrier reef. We enjoy the calm, peaceful beach, but beyond that there’s turmoil and chaos.”

Perhaps Andrea’s ability to address important issues of diversity springs from her own experience as a female leader in higher education. She may be the first woman to hold the role of president at Andrews University, but she admits that she’s gotten used to breaking this barrier by now. She has already been the first woman to lead Canadian University College (now Burman University), Newbold College and Stanborough School, the secondary school in Watford, England, where she got her first taste of educational administration.

She still remembers her early days in her new role at Stanborough when a parent called the school to speak with the head-

teacher. “I picked up the phone after it got passed through to me by my assistant and I said, ‘Yes, hello, can I help you?’ and he went silent and said, ‘Well, I’d like to speak to Dr. Luxton.’ And I said, ‘Yeah, that’s me.’ And he said, ‘But you’re a woman!’”


Shandelle Henson, herself a pioneer in a traditionally male-dominated field as professor of mathematics and the chair of her department during Andrea’s time as provost, notes the importance of having female leadership in the community. “As a young person, I had some important role models for leadership, but they were all male,” she remembers. But now, with leaders like Andrea, the young women in the community will have a different experience. “They will consider it totally normal to have a woman leading an important university,” Shandelle says. “They will easily envision themselves in the same kinds of roles.”

And although being the first woman to lead several different institutions has maybe lost its novelty for Andrea, she shares that since announcing her retirement, many people, particularly female students, have indeed reached out to tell her exactly that. They describe how important, how meaningful, it has been to have a female leader to look up to and to inspire them to take on leadership roles themselves.

For Andrea, encouraging others on a more personal level is the most rewarding and enjoyable aspect of her work. Her favorite moments are those days, she says, “where you have a student walk through the door and say, ‘I’ve got an idea!’” Knowing that someone feels comfortable enough to share their passion and excitement, working with them to improve it and make it happen, “It’s those moments that make it all worthwhile.”

Michael describes how Andrea was always open to ideas, whether from him, a student or another fellow employee. “She’s the best boss and leader, supporter, that I’ve ever been around,” he says. “There’s just so much richness in the journey that I’ve had with her ... it’s left a lifelong impact on me.”

Of course, Andrea says, there are always the important aspects of the job that make the University function, the paperwork and the meetings. “But at the end of the day,” she says, “it’s about those individual people, successes, the way they come to get a greater sense of vision.”



But now, with leaders like Andrea, the young women in the community will have a different experience. “They will consider it totally normal to have a woman leading an important university.”

Although Andrea’s chapter as president is now over, the story of Andrews is not, and the impact that Andrea’s character has left on that story will continue to be felt. She has added not only her own voice but the voices of many others who will continue to tell the story of Andrews. “That sense,” Christon says, “that when we are at the table, we are valued. ... The table is set. That’s Andrea’s legacy.”

She has also radiated an ever present, radical hope—a thorough-going belief that every story is full of possibility. This optimism is “her superpower,” according to Michael. “She gets that reservoir of hope from her faith,” he explains. Even if there’s only a drop of water in the glass, she’ll find a way to see it as half full. Her ability to “craft and deliver a hopeful message,” Michael says, is what made her a constant “calming and hopeful presence.”

“Everything to me is part of a narrative,” Andrea explains. “An institution also has a narrative ... it’s part of a story that is perceived where we are and will go on past us.” For Andrea, the power of the stories we tell ourselves allows us first to imagine, and then live, a more hopeful future. “I look to the positives,” she says, “to the things that can trigger a positive future.” Of course, there will always be challenges, but Andrea asks that we “see the positives and say, ‘How does that drive us forward? What might this possible future look like?’” That, she offers, “That’s what you create.” ■

Jeremy Gray is a native of Berrien Springs and a graduate of Andrews Academy ('11). Jeremy’s grandfather, Harold T. Jones, taught mathematics at Andrews University for nearly 40 years and his mother, Meredith Jones Gray, is a professor of English.



World Travelers and Changers

Off-campus activities, both academic and non-academic, play an important role in a student's total educational experience. Over the spring and summer semesters, many students had the opportunity to enrich their Andrews journey through tours and trips around the world. From choir performances in Iceland to archaeological digs in Sicily, here is a sampling of the opportunities that opened the door to lasting friendships, knowledge and memories.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PEDRO NAVIA



Ecuador

Photo courtesy of Herbert Helm

The School of Social & Behavioral Sciences took a group of students to Ecuador in May. The tour was designed for students to have a theoretical and practical basis for understanding the relationship which exists between psychology and culture, as well as religious diversity as it relates to Ecuador. The geographical nature of Ecuador allows for a large diversity of how people adapt to their environment. On one side is the Amazon, on the other the Pacific Ocean, and between lies the Andes. Students were able to experience all three of these areas as well as the chocolate for which Ecuador is known.
—Herbert Helm, professor of psychology, School of Social & Behavioral Sciences



Italy

Photo courtesy of Randall Younker

This past summer Andrews University completed its 10th season excavating the ruins of the earliest Christian church in Sicily—San Miceli in western Sicily. Three Andrews doctoral students, Jared Wilson, Kirsten Nixdorf and Layra Jesus, along with local archaeologists, students and volunteer migrants from Africa helped Randall Younker and Elisabeth Lesnes, research associate in the archaeology of Sicily for the Andrews University Institute of Archaeology, uncover the remains of the mosaic-paved

ancient church including its necropolis, baptistry and an inn used by weary travelers during the 4th–7th centuries AD. The team also celebrated its major publication of the site this summer—“San Miceli: A Rural Paleo-Christian Settlement in Western Sicily.” —Randall Younker, professor of archaeology and history of antiquity, director, PhD (Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology) Program; director, Institute of Archaeology, Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary

Jordan

Photo courtesy of Paul Gregor

The Institute of Archaeology carried out their annual archaeological excavation and tour from June 1 through July 5. A global team came together at Khirbat Safra, a site in Jordan, where they excavated, analyzed and recorded various artifacts. Workdays started as early as 4:30 a.m. and lasted into the late afternoon, spanning from Sunday through Thursday. The team was a unique blend of cultures and religious beliefs, from postgraduate students in

the Seminary at Andrews to local Bedouin workers. Despite their differences, the team enjoyed combined worship services and shared archaeological endeavors, piecing together the cultural heritage of the site together. —Paul Ray, associate professor of Old Testament and biblical archaeology, Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary; director, Archaeological Publications, associate curator, Horn Archaeological Museum





Colombia

Photo courtesy of Alima Baltazar

A group of faculty and students from the School of Social Work and the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary went to Cartagena, Colombia, from Aug. 10–18. They gave multiple presentations to pastors, teachers, community members and youth educating them on the impact trauma has on the body and how people can heal from that trauma to improve their mental, spiritual and physical health.

This was a wonderful opportunity for students to apply what they are learning in their courses to make a real impact in under-resourced communities. This trip was sponsored by the International Center for Trauma Education & Care and the Institute for the Prevention of Addictions. —*Alima Baltazar, MSW program director, professor of social work, School of Social Work*

Photo courtesy of Garth Woodruff

In May, as part of AU Abroad, a small group of mixed majors traveled to London, United Kingdom, for History of Landscape Architecture, a general education art history class. A few early days in the classroom allowed students to get over jet lag and to build a little theoretical underpinning. Soon, each day included 2–3 garden tours. Starting with Stonehenge & Stourhead, Kew & Chelsea Physic Garden, the group moved to bigger estates like Bowood, Dyrham Park, Rousham Park, Stowe & Blenheim Palace. The tour came to a close with the most precious of spaces designed by Gertrude Jekyll. At just over two weeks, 15 miles each day, walking garden history was a delight. —*Garth Woodruff, program director for Sustainable Horticulture, assistant professor for Environmental and Landscape Design, Department of Sustainable Agriculture*

United Kingdom



Oregon

Photo courtesy of Scott R. Ward

Every spring semester, Discipleship & Lifespan Education takes 13 students to Oregon to visit Seventh-day Adventist church schools in the Portland area. This Seminary “Collaborative Ministry” course has been designed to help future pastors understand the importance of church school ministry. During the field school experience, the students observe schools of different sizes and, with students from a variety of cultures, learn how to present worship talks, then sit down with the local pastors and teachers to learn how they “collaborate” in discipling the young people who attend their church’s schools. —*Scott R. Ward, chair, Department of Discipleship & Lifespan Education*



Andrews University Singers toured Iceland and England from May 8–15, 2023. In Iceland they gave three concerts in a variety of venues from the renowned Harpa Performing Arts Center to the famous historic Skálholt Cathedral, concluding with a concert in the Reykjavik Seventh-day Adventist Church in honor of food ministries provided by the Keflavik and Reykjavik churches to the influx of migrants. In England, University Singers were the featured presenters to over 1,200 in attendance at the international Worship and Music Leadership Training conference hosted by Newbold College. They sang at the Sunday Sacred Worship Service of the All Saints Church of England in Binfield in addition to a performance in St. Paul's Church of Wokingham. —*Stephen Zork, professor of music, director of graduate choral conducting studies, Department of Music*

Iceland and England

Photo courtesy of Susan Zork



Turkey and Egypt

Photo courtesy of Rubén Muñoz-Larrendo

Twenty-four students and four professors attended a four-week study tour hosted by the Department of Religion & Biblical Languages. The group traveled to Turkey and Egypt, engaging with general education courses in biology, history and religion during their time abroad. Students of different academic backgrounds were able to experience and analyze differences in religion, culture, environment and more while visiting famous sites like Mount Ararat and Mount Sinai. The unique opportunities to participate and encounter different cultures firsthand allowed the group to understand the real-life benefits of the work they were studying in their courses. —*Marlene Murray, professor of biology, Department of Biology*

Twenty-four students and four professors attended a four-week study tour hosted by the Department of Religion & Biblical Languages. The group traveled to Turkey and Egypt, engaging with general education courses in biology, history and religion during their time abroad. Students of different academic backgrounds were able to experience and analyze differences in religion, culture, environment and more while visiting famous sites like Mount Ararat and Mount Sinai. The unique opportunities to participate and encounter different cultures firsthand allowed the group to understand the real-life benefits of the work they were studying in their courses. —*Marlene Murray, professor of biology, Department of Biology*

Photo courtesy of Pedro Navia

On May 8, 2023, a group of 30 students and two faculty members from Andrews University embarked on a unique adventure to explore five countries of South America. With only one suitcase each, the group members traveled by plane, bus, train, boat and buggy cars through the diverse environments of

Colombia, Peru, Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil. Tour highlights included the colonial city of Cartagena, the ruins of Machu Picchu, the majestic Seven Colored Mountain, the modern city of Buenos Aires, the natural wonder of Iguazu Falls, the busy Maracana Stadium, the moving

dunes of Natal and the famous Christ the Redeemer statue. Organized by the Department of International Languages & Global Studies, the trip was a journey not only through cultures but through history as well. —*Pedro Navia, chair, Department of International Languages & Global Studies*

Colombia, Peru, Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil



Legacy Scholarships

Each year the proceeds from the Wes Christiansen Memorial Golf Outing during Homecoming weekend generate scholarships for Legacy students—students with a parent and/or grandparent who attended Andrews. Students can apply for this scholarship as part of orientation.

For the 2023–2024 school year, the Alumni Association Board awarded \$12,500 in scholarships to 10 Legacy students. Many thanks for the support of the Golf Committee that generates these funds annually and the 80+ players who donate their time and golf fees to raise the scholarship funds!

Lend-a-Hand

FOLLOWING A BREAK DURING THE COVID-19 pandemic, the Office of Alumni Services has restarted the Lend-a-Hand program. For Lend-a-Hand, originally launched in the 1990s, the Alumni office coordinates volunteers to assist freshmen as they move into the residence halls.

This year, Lend-a-Hand volunteers surpassed our wildest expectations! More than 50 people came to show support for freshman families at Lamson, Meier and Burman Halls. These included President John Wesley Taylor V; Shane Anderson, lead pastor of Pioneer Memorial Church (PMC), and his wife; other pastoral staff from PMC; and alumni and friends from the local community.

Many parents, before leaving campus, made sure to connect with an Alumni team member to specifically thank Andrews for helping them feel welcome. We are so grateful for each person who came to show our new students that their school and church community cares about them!



Photos courtesy of Raelene Brower

REGIONAL EVENTS



This season's first Alumni Regional Event will be held on **Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023.**

*Maryland Region
Hilton Garden Inn
1497 Shady Grove Rd
Rockville MD 20850*

Please visit alumni.andrews.edu/rsvp to register and get up-to-date information on future Regional Events. To be sure you are connected to Andrews and can receive direct invitations, please update your contact information by emailing alumni@andrews.edu or calling the Office of Alumni Services at 269-471-3591.

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

Homecoming 2024

*Mark Your Calendars Now: **September 26–29, 2024***

*Honor Classes—**1954, 1964, 1974, 1984, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2014, 2019, 2024***

It's Andrews University's 150th anniversary! Next year's Homecoming will include many features about our humble beginnings and help us celebrate how God has been with us to help reach this significant milestone. Plan now to attend!





Andrews Legacy

Among our new students coming through First Stop during New Student Orientation on Sunday, Aug. 20, 79 identified themselves as Legacy students—students with a parent and/or grandparent who attended Andrews. The Alumni Association celebrated this legacy connection by taking photos of the students and/or families.





1950s



The family of Doralee and **Alvin (BA '54) Klein** held a reunion on June 11, 2023, at the home of Ed and Debbie in Lenoir City, Tennessee.

After **Rheeta (Kelley) (BA '57)** and **Elton (BA '57) Stecker** graduated from Andrews University, they spent a year at the University of Michigan before going into medicine at Loma Linda University. They took two years of classes, a year out for graduate studies, then finished two more years at Loma Linda. They completed graduate work in 1961 and medical school in 1963. Rheeta and Elton went to Malawi as medical missionaries from 1964–1977 where they spent eight years at Malamulo Hospital and five years in Blantyre, during which time they established Blantyre Adventist Hospital with their partners. From 1977–1978, they participated in the residency program at Hinsdale Hospital. They then practiced for 17 years as part of the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference in conference-owned clinics in Hot Springs, Arkansas, before joining a private group practice until they retired at age 80. Rheeta and Elton now live near their two daughters in Gentry, Arkansas.

1970s

Jeff Bishop (att.) and his family started a mission project in July 1997 in Papua New Guinea (PNG) with the Gogodala people. The Bishops returned to the United States in June 2002. He says, “Through relating stories of my time as a missionary, I was encouraged to write a book about my experiences, ‘I Saw God’s Hand in Papua New Guinea!’ I also scheduled a trip back to PNG in January 2023 and created a sharing book about the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation to take with me, ‘The Truth Will Make Us Free.’”

1990s



Virginia Alicia Romer (MA '94, MA '98, PhD '04) just retired after 38 years of teaching with the Ministry of Education in the Bahamas, with 17 of those years as a high school administrator. She is looking forward to a new chapter in her life as assistant professor with the University of The Bahamas in the School of Education.

Sindile Dlamini Mathebula (BBA '95) graduated with a PhD in international psychology from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology in 2022. Her experience at the Zimbabwe campus of Solusi University inspired her to do further studies in the U.S. She says, “I was always inspired by my professors, how they were able to achieve advanced degrees while working, going to school and having families at Andrews University. Thank you, alma mater, for instilling in us tenacity, drive and grace to achieve academic, career and life goals.” Sindile is currently a virtual teaching associate at Howard University Center for Drug Abuse Research and is exploring other career opportunities in Atlanta, Georgia, where she lives with her husband, Sibusiso Mathebula.

2000s



Elton DeMoraes (MDiv '05, DMin '16) was re-elected president of the Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists during their Quadrennial Constituency Session on June 11, 2023. Elton joined the Texas Conference family in 1998 as a pastor and served several churches in Houston and East Texas before joining the conference office staff in 2010. He served in various departmental director positions before becoming the conference’s executive secretary in 2015. In 2018, he was elected vice president of the Southwestern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Three years later, he was voted as president of the Texas Conference by the Texas Conference Executive Committee. Elton says, “I consider it an honor and privilege to serve the Texas Conference. Together As One [Texas Conference prayer theme], we are united in prayer and ignited by the Holy Spirit to share

God’s love throughout Texas and around the world to hasten God’s return.” Elton and his wife, Alessandra, have one daughter, Isabella.

2010s



Brent Sherwin (BS '11) and his wife **Laura (Clark)** (att.) have been serving as medical missionaries in Malawi at Malamulo Adventist Hospital for two years. Brent is a general surgeon, currently serving as program director for the PAACS (Pan African Academy of Christian Surgeons) program at Malamulo. Laura, a 2010 graduate of Southern Adventist University, is a general dentist. She recently opened a dental clinic to improve access to quality care for the underserved rural population. They have two children, Jake (born December 2019) and Jenna (born August 2022).

2020s



Ephraim S. Palmero III (BS '20, MSCID '22) was recently selected to “2023 20 in their Twenties” by the Indianapolis Business Journal. He is the youngest

individual selected in this cohort. After he volunteered with the American Red Cross and gained international development experience at a humanitarian agency in Yemen, Ephraim moved to Indianapolis to work in public service. He spent a year with AmeriCorps VISTA in the Indianapolis Office of Public Health and Safety before he joined Local Initiatives Support Corporation Indianapolis as an assistant program officer. Last year, he became the youngest serving board member of the Center for Interfaith Cooperation. He also volunteers at the Philippines Cultural Community Center and was part of the IndyHub 1828 Leadership project class.



William G. Johnson (MA '66) died after an illness on March 11, 2023, in Loma Linda, California. He was 88.

Better known as Bill, Johnson was born in Adelaide, South Australia, in 1934, the youngest of nine children raised by parents Joel and Edith (Painter) Johnson. He trained to be a chemical engineer, graduating at age 19 with a bachelor's degree in chemical technology from Adelaide University. But Bill couldn't ignore the inner voice compelling him to the ministry, and he gave up a promising career to study theology at Avondale College.

Weeks after graduating with a bachelor's in theology in 1959, he married the love of his life, **Noelene (Taylor)** (MAT '77), and they set sail for India. Bill served as a missionary from 1960 to 1975, working first as a teacher at Vincent Hill School and then as a faculty member at Spicer Memorial College.

Along the way Bill collected more degrees: a master's degree in systematic theology from Andrews University in 1966; a Bachelor of Divinity from the University of London in 1969; and a master's degree and Doctor of Philosophy in biblical studies from Vanderbilt University in 1973. Later in life, he was recognized with honorary doctorates from Andrews and Loma Linda universities.

Bill embraced life as a scholar at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews from 1975 to 1980, where he started as a professor of New Testament exegesis and theology and later was named

associate dean. He was elected as the first president of the Adventist Society for Religious Studies in 1979.

A year later, Bill switched careers, joining the editorial staff of the *Adventist Review*, the church's weekly flagship magazine. He led the magazine for 24 years, launching a spinoff, *Adventist World*, as the founding editor.

Some of the most meaningful work of Bill's life came after he retired at age 72. At the request of then-General Conference President **Jan Paulsen** (BA '57, MA '58, BD '62, MA '83), he worked to introduce Adventists' values and mission to religious and government leaders in the Muslim world. The "seven-year odyssey," he wrote, "would challenge long-held ideas, expose prejudices, and open my mind and life to people and ideas previously shut out of my thinking."

However, Bill is best known for his writing, often with a strong pastoral emphasis. He authored more than 40 books, hundreds of *Adventist Review* editorials and thousands of articles—all of them handwritten on legal pads. He was working on a new manuscript just days before his final illness.

Bill will be remembered for his endless optimism, gentle humor and indomitable spirit. He ran in 20 marathons, completing 17 of the races. That grit and determination helped him do some of the most impactful writing of his life while battling lymphoma. Bill is survived by his wife Noelene, sister Ruth White, daughter Julie, son Terry and his wife, Renee, and granddaughters Madeleine and Jacqueline.

James Dean McKee (MAT '65), 89, of Berrien Springs, Michigan, passed away on March 2, 2023, with the anticipation of being reunited at the second coming of Jesus with his daughter, **Diana** (AS '82, BBA '84), who preceded him in death in 1985.

He was born in Glasgow, Iowa, on April 10, 1933, in the family

home and was raised on a farm in southeast Iowa. Jim graduated from Birmingham High School in 1951 as valedictorian of his class. He then attended Parsons College in Fairfield, Iowa, but was able to transfer to Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska, to complete his bachelor's degree. He graduated with a major in math and minors in religion, physics and secondary education. He began his teaching career at Agency Iowa High School for two years. Then, in 1958, he joined the teaching staff at Union College Academy back in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he taught math and science for 15 years. In 1973, **Richard Orrison** (att., former faculty) called him to teach at Andrews Academy on the campus of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan.



Jim was a beloved teacher at Andrews Academy and was known for his kindness, patience and humor. He loved mentoring students and watching them grow in Academy and beyond in their professional life. After 39 years of teaching, Jim retired at the end of the 1994–1995 school year. He was a member of and an elder at Pioneer Memorial Church, where he could often be seen running the audiovisual equipment in the early days of PMC's media ministry.

Jim is survived by his wife, **DeLauna (Keith) McKee** (former staff); his son, Ronald McKee and his wife Karla; and his two grandchildren, Kaitlin "Kaiti" McKee and Cameron McKee.



Geraldine (Bicknell) St. Clair (att.), better known as Gerre, was born in Deer Lodge, Tennessee, on Dec. 25, 1932, the youngest of 16 siblings. She passed away on Feb. 21, 2023, surrounded by family. Her husband, **Glenn Walter St. Clair** (att.), 90, died peacefully following a ruptured aortic aneurysm on Oct. 13, 2022, in Niles Lakeland Hospital.

Gerre spent the first nine years of her life on the farm her parents owned. At age 9, because of a parental divorce, Gerre moved up to Hagerstown, Indiana, to live with Leonard, her 19-year-old brother, and his new bride. Leonard and Thelma took Gerre in and gave her a loving home through high school.

After high school Gerre attended Emmanuel Missionary College where she studied secretarial science.

Glenn was born in Rib Lake, Wisconsin, on Oct. 19, 1931, and was in the first graduating class of Wisconsin Academy. He continued his education at Emmanuel Missionary College and graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering from Tri State in Angola, Indiana. He also earned an MBA from Indiana University in 1967 and a PhD in industrial management from Pacific Coast University in 1978.

Glenn and Gerre married on Feb. 12, 1956. After Glenn graduated from Tri State, he took a job at the worldwide headquarters of Cummins Diesel Engine Company in Columbus, Indiana, where he and Gerre lived for 28 years.

During the Columbus years,

Glenn and Gerre's family grew to include five children—Sarai, Carrie, Amy, Jeff and Mary. It was very important to Glenn and Gerre that their family love God, and church was an integral part of life. Their children and many other young people benefited from the many years that Glenn and Gerre directed the local Pathfinder Club. They also held many offices in the local Adventist church.

As soon as her youngest child, Mary, started first grade, Gerre started working on a college degree in education, taking one class a semester for many years, finally graduating with a degree in education in 1983, the same year her first-born Sarai also graduated from college.

Glenn's early retirement from Cummins released the family to pursue other adventures, first taking them to southern California for two years and then to Berrien Springs, Michigan, in 1985. Four years later, in 1989, Glenn and Gerre accepted a call to Masanga Leprosy Hospital in Sierra Leone, West Africa, where Glenn was hospital administrator and Gerre was his secretary, receptionist and spokesperson for eight years.

They then served in Nepal for four years where Glenn worked as ADRA country director. During those years they were able to travel extensively to many countries.

Glenn and Gerre returned to the U.S. in 2001 for a true retirement at their home in Berrien Springs. Gerre quickly got involved in her church and community again, using her spiritual gift of hospitality, intentionally including the lonely and reaching out to people at the margins.

Glenn was president of GEM (Global Education and Medical), a non-profit organization for third world countries. His hobbies included sailing his 31-foot Hunter sailboat, tinkering with

and driving his 31 Model A Ford, working in his yard and spending time with family.

They are survived by their children: Sarai St. Clair, Carrie and her husband **David Grellmann** (BA '77), Amy (Chuck) Looker, **Jeffrey** (BA '92) (Kari), **Mary** (BSELED '93, BS '98, MSPT '99) **Moore** (Craig); 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.



Neal Lee Sherwin (BA '53, MA '66), 93, of Berrien Springs, Michigan, was born in Battle Creek, Michigan, to Orlen and Vera Sherwin on Oct. 13, 1929, and died Feb. 20, 2023, at home peacefully.

Neal graduated from Cedar Lake Academy in 1948 and Emmanuel Missionary College in 1953. He married **Joyce L. Draper** (att.) on Aug. 22, 1954. He finished a master's degree in theology from Andrews University in 1965, then served as a missionary in Pakistan from 1955–1975.

Returning to the U.S., he worked as a pastor in Michigan for 20 years and retired to Battle Creek. After his wife, Joyce, died in 1999, he remarried in 2001 to Betty Downs.

He is survived by his children, **Linda** (BS '81) (Dan) **Thompson** and **David** (BFA '82, current faculty) and his wife **Jane** (BS '83) **Sherwin**; stepchildren: Bethany Cannon, Katherine Hudson, Karl (Christine) Downs, Kenneth Downs; grandchildren: **Rachelle** (BFA '09) and her husband **Brenton** (BMus '09, MMus '16) **Offenback**, **Jonathan** (BMus '13) (Evaine) **Thompson**, **Brent** (BS '11) and his wife **Laura** (att.) **Sherwin**, Brittany

(Harold) Chelchowski, Chrystal and Kimberly Cannon, Katrina Hudson; seven great-grandchildren; his sister, **Lavonne Peak** (DIP2YR '60), and sister-in-law, Kay Sherwin.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Adele; his parents; wife, **Joyce Sherwin** (att.); brother, Verlen; and wife, Betty Sherwin.

Elia Villanueva-Hernandez

(BSW '03, MSW '12), 42, of Berrien Springs, Michigan, died Feb. 13, 2023, at her home. She was a self-sacrificing wife, a loving mother, a faithful sister and a sincere friend.

Elia was born July 14, 1980, in Dallas, Texas, the daughter of Gualberto and Epifania (Nava) Villanueva. After graduating from high school, she came to Andrews University to reach her goal of a college degree, which she achieved in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in social work. In 2012 she also completed a master's degree and was a social worker for Catholic Charities.

From her first marriage, she had her beloved firstborn son, Jonathan Lopez, 22. Years later, Elia was blessed to find happiness once again by marrying Samuel Hernandez, and from this marriage her beloved son Joshua Hernandez, 4, was born.

Elia was a dedicated and self-sacrificing social worker. As for hobbies, she loved to be with her family and friends, do crafts, watch the Mexican soccer games and the Dallas Cowboys football games, and, of course, go shopping. Her energy, generosity and desire to help others will be greatly missed.

She is survived by her husband, Samuel; her children, Jonathan and Joshua; her mother, Epifania; and her sisters, Lili, Ruth and Angelica.

Gualberto, her hero and father, preceded her in death.

Wolfhard Touchard (former staff), 87, of Berrien Springs, Michigan, fell asleep in Jesus on Feb. 5, 2023, after a brief illness.

Wolfhard was born June



30, 1935, to Wilhelm and Elsa (Zanke) Touchard in Stuttgart, Germany. He attended Bismarck Schule in Nurnberg, Schulzentrum Marienhohe in Darmstadt, Germany, and then moved to America to attend Atlantic Union College and Syracuse University, where he graduated with a Master of Library Science.

Wolfhard worked as a librarian at Shenandoah Valley Academy; Middle East University in Beirut, Lebanon; University of Eastern Africa Baraton in Kenya, East Africa; and Andrews University.

During his time at AUC he met and married **Irene Vandulek** (former staff) on July 3, 1966. They had two children, **Erika** (BS '93, MSPT '94) and her husband **Donald** (AT '93) **Kissinger** and **John** (BT '95) and his wife **Maria** (BSW '97) **Touchard**; and four grandchildren: Samantha (Michael) Gusky, Phillip Kissinger, DeAnna Touchard and John-Mark Touchard.

After retirement he enjoyed spending time with family and friends, yardwork, sharing his faith and knowledge on spiritual gifts, and his music.

Wolfhard was predeceased by his wife, Irene Touchard; his parents; and his sister, Eva Euerl.

Jon Dybdahl (MA '66, BD '67) passed away Jan. 18, 2023, in College Place, Washington.

Jon held a master's degree in systematic theology and a Master of Divinity from Andrews University. He completed doctoral studies in Old Testament at Fuller Theological Seminary. He was also the author of multiple books and articles.

Jon was president of Walla Walla University from 2002 to 2006 and taught theology at WWU for 13 years starting in 1976. Prior to accepting the presidency of WWU, Jon served as professor and chair of the Department of World Mission at Andrews University and director of the Institute of World Mission. He was also a church pastor in both Northern California and Southeast Asia Union College in Singapore. He was at various times a pastor, evangelist and college president in Thailand, where he was instrumental in founding Chiang Mai Adventist Academy.

While teaching at WWU, Jon received the Zapara Award for Excellence in Teaching. Under his presidency at WWU, the old Administration Building was demolished and rebuilt, what was then Walla Walla College began the process of changing their name, and the student missionary program flourished.

In 2008, Jon was selected by the General Conference and Andrews University to be the general editor of the Andrews Study Bible. He supervised the work of a team of scholars who collectively produced the study notes and other material for a widely popular Bible for the church. Since 2010, the Andrews



Study Bible has gone through 16 more printings in the New King James Version and in the New International Version, with many scores of thousands of copies sold for personal Bible study, evangelism outreach and prison ministry. "This part of Jon's profound legacy to the church

will live on for generations," says Ronald Knott, director of Andrews University Press.

Jon is survived by wife Kathy of College Place, Washington; daughter **Krista Croft** (BS '93) of Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri; and son **Paul** (MDiv '95, PhD '04) of Walla Walla. Daughter Jonna Buell preceded him in death.



Andrew Paul Haynal (BA '43), MD, was born Jan. 29, 1921, in Cleveland, Ohio. He died Dec. 29, 2022, at Powell Valley Assisted Living, in Gresham, Oregon, only a month shy of what would have been his 102nd birthday.

Andrew graduated from Broadview Academy in 1939, Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) in 1943 and the College of Medical Evangelists (now Loma Linda University) in 1947.

His 60-year career as a physician, missionary, professor and program administrator included postings in seven countries in four continents. He served the Adventist church first at the Florida Sanitarium in Orlando; Christian Medical College in Vellore, India; Loma Linda University; and Adventist University of the Philippines. His work for the United States Department of State took him to Liberia, Thailand, Pakistan and Guyana where he developed public health programs that improved the health and wellbeing of thousands in need.

After retiring, Andrew continued serving the church as a volunteer professor for Adventist University of the Philippines' graduate program in public health. When not teaching in

the Philippines, he served as a pickup and delivery driver for the Adventist Better Living Center in Brush Prairie, Washington. For many years he sang with the Oregon Adventist Men's Chorus. He was a frequent guest speaker at churches in the NPUC, always promoting healthy living and God's desire that we "have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

He is survived by his beloved wife of 76 years, Helen Babienco Haynal; six children: Andrew and Robin Haynal of Redlands, California; Peter and Sheila Haynal of Spring Valley, Ohio; **Mark** (BA/BS '78, MA '83) and **Kris** (BMus '77) **Haynal** of Lewiston, Idaho; John and Susan (Haynal) Jenson of El Segundo, California; Greg and Lois (Haynal) Robinson of Gresham, Oregon; Steve and Heidi Haynal of Wilsonville, Oregon; 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.



Sharon (Brophy) Russell (MA '81, former faculty) of Lincoln, Nebraska, passed away on Dec. 16, 2022, at the age of 74 after a courageous fight against lung cancer.

She was born on June 9, 1948, in Sellersville, Pennsylvania, to Thomas and Lillian Powell Brophy. Sharon attended Blue Mountain Academy and then Columbia Union College, near Washington, DC, where she majored in home economics and accepted leadership roles in the girls' club and student activities.

There she met **Malcolm Russell** (former faculty), who invited her to view the fall colors along Skyline Drive in

Virginia. Acquaintance ripened into a 52-year friendship, strengthened by National Symphony concerts, and crowned by marriage in 1973.

Travel followed, as Sharon joined her husband during his dissertation research in Europe and the Middle East. While teaching home economics classes at Takoma Academy in Maryland, Sharon developed into a favorite sponsor and friend of many students. In 1977 the Russells moved to Berrien Springs, Michigan, where she joined Andrews Academy as a faculty member, teaching home economics and health. Again she became a popular teacher, mentor and sponsor for events like week hikes and winter Bible camp.

In 2003, Sharon reluctantly moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, and became the guest facilities director at Union College. Her mentoring philosophy meant she hired only students and expected each one to handle all the responsibilities. After her retirement in 2014, she continued to serve students, cooking meals high in the Rockies for the college's International Rescue and Relief students. Never a smoker, in December 2019 Sharon was diagnosed with lung cancer. Surgery, chemotherapy, a clinical trial and immunotherapy followed. They likely delayed the cancer, but did not defeat it, and Sharon suffered numerous side effects. Nevertheless, she continued to walk vigorously, and she rode her ebike over 2,500 miles this year, her final rides just days before her death.

Sharon is survived by her husband, Malcolm; her brother, Tom (Jean) Brophy of Las Cruces, New Mexico; her sister, Patricia (Warren) of Coverdale, Ooltewah, Tennessee; and her sons, Michael Ian of Washington, DC, and Eric of Conifer, Colorado, in addition to two aunts, many cousins, nephews and nieces.



Rowena Bird Futcher (former staff) was born in London in 1925 to Alfred and Constance Baldwin Bird and died in Temple, Texas, on Dec. 12, 2022.

As a child of a Seventh-day Adventist preacher, she moved many times in her childhood, living in various towns in England and Wales. In 1947, Rowena graduated from the Royal Academy of Music in London with her LRAM in piano. She got engaged on graduation day to **Wilfred Futcher** (former faculty), getting married in 1948. Wilfred and Rowena lived in the Watford (England) area for several years, where Rowena taught music and piano at Stanborough School. They also spent two years in Nigeria and three years in Canada (Oshawa, Toronto).

In 1969, Wilfred and Rowena settled at Andrews University. Rowena worked in Human Resources, taught piano and volunteered as a church musician. During the 35 years she lived at Andrews University, she entertained many friends and students at her house with delicious food and great company, including many teachers and students who had come to Andrews from all over the world. She also enjoyed gardening and traveling, making memorable trips to England, Italy, Canada, Russia and all over the States. Many of these trips involved Romola and Brian Combridge, her sister and brother-in-law (now deceased).

Rowena is survived by her daughter, **Beverley (Scheider)** (BS/BA '77, MA '82) and son-in-law, David Scheider; three

grandchildren, Jessica Stautberg, Brendan Scheider and Kimberly Ayala; and eight great-grandchildren (Futcher, Ethan, Coen, William, Hattie, Owen, Emery, Maddie) who all live in Texas. She is also survived by her bonus family, LuAnn and Walter Bermeo, their six children and three grandchildren, who live in Michigan.

"Bud" Warren E. Davis (former staff), 90, of Berrien Springs, Michigan, passed to his rest on Dec. 11, 2022.

Bud was born to Milford and Lorena Davis on March 16, 1932, the second of three sons. He married his high school sweetheart, Phyllis Glynn, on June 8, 1952. To this union six children were born: Daniel (Marilyn), Julie (David), Patricia (Douglas), Pamela (Michael—deceased), Candy (Conrad Jr.) and Mary (Randy). As time passed, he and Phyllis were blessed with 25 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, and four great-great grandchildren—so far! Bud was predeceased by his parents, his wife, two brothers and his sons-in-law, Michael and Terry.

Bud served in the United States Army for just under two years during the Korean War. His professions included farmer, private-duty nurse (LPN), electrician and 20 years of work in Plant Services at Andrews University.

Following his retirement in 1998, he continued his involvement in audiovisual support for his church and keeping up with his house, yard and bird-feeding stations. Time with family, along with these pursuits, filled his days, and he enjoyed them right up until his death.

Cynthia Pam Coetzee (former staff), 88, died on Dec. 2, 2022, in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

She was born on Feb. 22, 1934, in Grahamstown, South Africa. She was one of six children who were born to Melville and Mildred Bradford.

Cynthia grew up on the Eastern Cape of South Africa, which

inspired her lifelong enjoyment of long walks on the beach and swimming in the Indian Ocean.

She graduated from Helderberg College in South Africa, and while in college she met the love of her life, **Arthur Coetzee** (MA '67, former staff). The couple married in 1956 and shortly after they began a lifetime of service to Christian education.

Cynthia first worked in the registrar's office at Helderberg College, and when she and Arthur moved to Andrews University and the Berrien Springs area in 1979, she worked in the records office at Andrews University until her retirement.

During their retirement, both Arthur and Cynthia loved to take trips back to South Africa. Significantly, Cynthia was Arthur's devoted caregiver when he became ill before he passed away in 1998. Following Arthur's death, Cynthia continued to travel and spend time with family. In the last two years of her life, she was well taken care of at Myra's Place in Berrien Springs.

Cynthia was the ultimate hostess and had the amazing gift of hospitality in her home and community. She always cherished spending special time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She will be deeply missed by her daughter, Lynda and her husband **Edwin** (BA '78, MA '79) **Hurlow**, and her son, **Andrew Coetzee** (BBA '83) (Dori).

She'll also be missed by her four grandchildren—**Darryl Hurlow** (BS '14) (Carmel), **Allison Hurlow** (BBA '07), Ashley Turk (Matt) and Austin Coetzee; and three great-granddaughters—Audrey Hurlow and Nora and Tansy Turk.

Cynthia is also survived by her oldest sister, Daphne, and her lifelong friend of 70 years, Bridget Baird, who both reside in South Africa.

Arlene Scott (BS '63) passed away on Dec. 1, 2022, following a TAVR procedure to replace her aortic valve. She taught at Lynwood Academy's Elementary

School for five years after leaving Andrews University, prior to teaching in public school for the rest of her career. She retired in 2003. She was a member of the Norwalk Adventist Church. She leaves many friends and a grieving fiancé, **Jim McFarland** (BA '64).



Irma Pearl (Wrate) Church (BS '48) died Nov. 24, 2022, at her home in Berrien Springs, Michigan. She was surrounded by family: her five remaining children, some of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. While she would tell you she was 100 years old, she fell short of that mark by five weeks.

Born on Jan. 2, 1923, in Battle Creek, Michigan, to Joseph Levi and Onita Pearl (Palmiter) Wrate, Irma would go on to have a lifetime of adventure and hard work, joy and loss, and a deep and sincere faith in God. Irma graduated from Battle Creek Academy with a class of 17 students in 1941 and from Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) in 1948.

She married **Max J. Church** (BA '49) on Aug. 6, 1950. They went on to missionary service in Africa for over 20 years, with three of their six children born there.

Survivors include her sister, JoAnne Snelling; sister-in-law, **Phyllis Wrate** (BS '60); children: **Jan Louise Church McAlpine** (BA '76), **Lowell Grant Church** (BS '80, MBA '85) (Valorie), Leona Pearl Stanton (David), **Rodrick Allan Church** (CERT '78, AIT '80, current staff) (**Nancy**) (BS '81), **René Alden Church** (AIT '81, BT '00, current staff) (**Licette**) (AIT

'79, current staff), and Davona Thoresen Church (**Max Henry**) (BA '77, MSA '00); and 31 grand-to great-great-grandchildren.



James Robert Hoffer (MA '64), 82, was born April 12, 1940, in Cleveland, Ohio, and died Nov. 16, 2022, in Calhoun, Georgia. Cancer took his body quietly and quickly.

James was a retired pastor and former missionary in

Uruguay and Brazil. In 2017 he married Ruth Wright and moved to West Virginia. The couple relocated to Calhoun, Georgia, in 2022. He was a fisher of men, a preacher for Jesus, a linguist, musician, author, editor and golfer. For many years he was president of the Adventist Amateur Radio Network with call sign KW8T. He made God first in his life and went wherever God led him.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth Wright Hoffer; two siblings, Alice Hoffer Sinyard (Mike), Dennis Hoffer (Lorie); his four children, **Barbara Battle** (BA '86) (Michael), **Tamara Hoffer** (BS '88), Michele Pokuta (Joseph), and **Richard Hoffer** (BS '98) (Kelly), two stepchildren, Kenneth Wright and Sharon Wright Stromberg (Chris), eight grandchildren, several nieces and nephews and a large number of

wonderful friends, both in the United States and abroad.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Vera Hoffer, and his brother, William Hoffer.

Glenn Forrest Engen (BA '47) was born April 26, 1925, and died Nov. 2, 2022.

During his nearly 40 years of research experience, Glenn also worked for the U.S. Naval Ordnance Laboratory, John Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, the Technical University of Denmark and, in later years, Boulder Research Associates. His lifetime of work in metrology, the science of weights and measures, earned him four patents and five awards including the Department of Commerce Gold Medal, the highest civilian award given by the U.S. Government.

Glenn was a Fellow in the Institute of Electrical and Elec-

tronics Engineers. He presented over 50 papers at professional meetings around the world, was published in more than 40 technical journals and authored a book titled "Microwave Circuit Theory and Foundations of Microwave Metrology." He was also inducted into the National Institute of Standards and Technology in 2001.

His career held great satisfaction and allowed him and his wife **Sadie** (BA '46) to travel together around the world. Sadly, Sadie passed away in 2009.

Glenn was introduced to Mildred (Bona) Geates by her daughter, Pearl. Glenn married Mildred in Alberta, Canada, on May 9, 2010. Glenn and Mildred enjoyed their time both at their

Sharon Jane Dudgeon (MMus '86, MA '09, current staff), 66, of Buchanan, Michigan, who was a daughter, sister, aunt, devout Adventist, musician, counselor, and general manager of radio station WAUS, died peacefully on Nov. 23, 2022, with her family gathered around at Corewell Health Lakeland Hospital, St. Joseph, following an accidental fall outside at her home the previous Thursday.

Her family elected to enhance and extend the lives of others through organ and tissue donation to Michigan-Eversight and Gift of Life—Michigan.

She was born on April 30, 1956, in Oswego, New York, to William E. and Jane A. (Roberts) Dudgeon, and graduated in 1974 from the Pioneer Valley Academy in Braintree, Massachusetts. She continued her education at the former Atlantic Union College in Lancaster, Massachusetts, earning a Bachelor of Arts in music education in 1979, and began her professional life as a junior high school band director.

Her primary performance instrument was the saxophone.



In 1986, she earned a Master of Music from Andrews and began her radio career as music director at WAUS 90.7 FM with a format of classical music and inspirational programming. She moved on to radio stations throughout the Midwest United States, returning to WAUS as general manager and on-air personality in 1994.

Through WAUS's online webstream, and her participation at Adventist World Radio and Adventist Radio Network, the wonderful and unique voice of Sharon was heard around the world, a voice which clearly

represented her cheerful personality and great smile.

Under her leadership, WAUS increased its region, listeners and financial support, and in 2006 WAUS moved to brand-new purpose-built facilities, the John and Dede Howard Studios in the new Howard Performing Arts Center.

More recently, Sharon had completed courses and had been licensed in Michigan as a Limited Licensed Counselor, serving at a clinic in St. Joseph.

Sharon was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church on the campus of Andrews University, where she also organized and hosted vegetarian-oriented cooking classes. She gathered every Thursday with a group of ladies in their homes for knitting and fellowship. She was a member of VegMichiana which supports vegan and vegetarian lifestyles and was a member and past president of the Berrien Springs/Eau Claire club of Rotary International. She previously served on the board of the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra and performed with

the University Chorale and the University Singers.

At home, Sharon's cooking skills featured a vegetarian fruitcake and a vegan cheesecake. She enjoyed travel, both throughout the United States and European tours, the most recent of which included the country of Turkey, and traveling on a yacht to the Greek island of Patmos. She was an avid birdwatcher, keeping binoculars always nearby, but also cared for her pet cats, Princess Meow and Chairman Meow.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Jane Dudgeon on Jan. 17, 1981, and by a sister, **Marcia Joy Dudgeon** (CERT '83) on Sept. 3, 2011.

Surviving family includes her father, William E. Dudgeon of Buchanan; brother, **William E. Dudgeon Jr.** (MDiv '15) (Cheryl) of Grand Rapids, Michigan; a niece, Tricia Erin (Tony) Krezinski and their daughter Eloise; a nephew, William E. (Cali) Dudgeon III and their daughter Evalynn; and an amazing circle of wonderful friends, fellow musicians, and radio station supporters and listeners.

homes in College Place, Washington, as well as in Alberta.

They were involved in their College Place church community and enjoyed these years of marriage. Glenn enjoyed good health and a happy life to the age of 97, and the family credits all of that to God and Mildred.

Glenn is survived by his children, Dr. Mary D. Anderson (Marvin, deceased), Trudy Schmidt, David L. Engen, daughter-in-law, Barbara Dawson, Dr. Barry Geates (Faye), Terry Geates (Brenda), Pearl Tuerk (Audie, deceased); grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Glenn was preceded in death by his parents, Oscar and Bertha Engen; brothers, Hartman Engen and Otto Engen; sister, Ruth Hervig; and wife, Sadie Engen.

On Oct. 24, 2022, **Frederick Russell Stephan** (BA '53, MA '64) died in Bridgman, Michigan, at the age of 94.

Fred was born on June 4, 1928, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He was the fourth of six children all of whom preceded him in death, including his younger brothers Ralph Stephan and James Stephan and older siblings Alice Clapp, Christian Stephan and Gertrude Bigorowski.

Fred met his wife **Sylvia (Wente)** (att.) while attending Emmanuel Missionary College in Berrien Springs, Michigan. After graduation, Fred and Sylvia went to Wisconsin where he was a pastor for the Seventh-day Adventist Church from 1955–1960. During this time, their first child Brian was born in Eau Claire, and four years later Elise was born in Green Bay.

From 1960–1966, Fred was principal of Wisconsin Academy where he found a passion in serving the Lord through education. He remained in the educational field the rest of

his career. Fred left Wisconsin and accepted a call to be the Southern New England education superintendent in 1967 in South Lancaster, Massachusetts. It was here their third child Jill was born. He stayed until 1969 when he accepted a call to be the education superintendent for the Michigan Conference. Two years later, the family moved to Berrien Springs where Fred became the Lake Union education superintendent until 1980. His next call took him to Maryland where he became the director of K–12 education for the North American Division of the General Conference. He returned to the Lake Union as education superintendent in 1990 and stayed until his retirement in 1995.

In retirement, Fred and Sylvia found extra time to travel and visit family. They also loved to volunteer at the Miller Farm, a historical farm, in upper state New York. After Sylvia became too ill to travel, Fred faithfully cared for her until she preceded him in death in 2014.

Fred was a loving father to their three children who survive him, **F. Brian Stephan** (BA '78, MBA '80) (Cindy), **Elise** (AS '80, current staff) **Damron** (Don), and **Jill Simon** (BA '90, MA '92) (Matthew). Fred also leaves behind seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.



Edwin Eisele (MA '65, MDiv '82), 80, of Felda, Florida, died at home on Oct. 12, 2022, following an extended illness.

He was born Oct. 27, 1941, at home in Williams, Minnesota, to Byron and Dorothy Eisele.

Ed grew up on a farm, one of six siblings. He graduated from Maplewood Academy in 1960 and Union College in 1964 before earning two degrees from Andrews University.

Ed married Evelyn (Lynn) Peck in 1965 and two children were born to them, Lisa and Steve. Ed served as a pastor in Nebraska for six years, then the family moved to Brazil serving as missionaries another six years. In 1978 the family moved to Southwest Michigan where Ed began a beekeeping business to provide a livelihood and education for his family until 1992, when he and Lynn moved to Africa. They served as missionaries in Africa for four years, returning to continue ministry in Arizona another 10 years. Ed retired in 2008 but immediately resumed beekeeping alongside his son Steve. He finally sold his bee business in 2018.

Two of Ed's favorite ministries were Adventist World Radio and Gospel Outreach. He traveled extensively with Gospel Outreach during his retirement years. He was passionate about his Lord and always anxious to share Jesus with anyone willing to listen. Ed enjoyed sailing, hiking, traveling and making memories with his family. His positive attitude and sense of humor will be missed by all who knew and loved him. Ed is survived by his wife Lynn; children **Lisa** (BS '92, BA '93, MA '99) **Eisele** and Steve Eisele; grandchildren Johanna (Brad) Poole Erhard, Isaac Poole, Grace Eisele; siblings **Melvin** (MDiv '73), Regi, and Allie Eisele Anderson. He was preceded in death by his parents, along with two siblings, Bob and Allan.

Eugene I.B. Virgil (att.) died on Aug. 8, 2022. He was born on Oct. 23, 1928.

Despite being recognized throughout the island for his superb musicianship and artist-



ry on the guitar, a yearning for God stirred within Eugene, and he began to search for truth. He concluded that the Seventh-day Adventist Church had the only logical message.

As a result, young Eugene began sharing his faith early. An elder entrusted him with giving Bible studies alone before his baptism. He conducted cottage meetings in the community and gave Bible studies to prisoners at Casemates Correctional Facility, and church members began encouraging him to enter the ministry.

After studying at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, he officially entered the ministry. He began as the associate pastor of the Hamilton Adventist Church in Bermuda in 1965 and as the youth pastor of the Ephesus Adventist Church in Harlem, New York, in 1966. These two consecutive assignments laid the foundation for his 40 years of service in the Bermuda and Northeastern conferences.

A man of quiet fortitude and unwavering principle, Eugene was a trailblazer. He left Bermuda to travel all the way to Alberta, Canada, and became the first Black person to attend Canadian Union College. He was also the first Bermudian and first Black person to pastor within the Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

He ministered with his wife Ann and their three children (Cheryl Kerr, Ronald and Todd).

Give a gift that pays you back.

When you fund a charitable gift annuity with Andrews University, you get more than the satisfaction of supporting our mission. You also get fixed payments—for life. You may enjoy significant tax benefits as well, including a deduction in the year of your gift and future payouts that are partially tax-free. If you're interested in supporting Andrews University while enjoying the benefit of a dependable income, call or email us to learn more.

Age	Payout rate*
70	4.7%
80	6.5%
90	8.6%

* Actual rate varies based on age and annuity type. Not available in all states.



Donald Bedney
MDiv '47, MSA '91
Author of inspirational
articles and singer of
hymns and spirituals.



Office of Alumni Services
Andrews University
Berrien Springs MI 49104-0950

Address Service Requested

World Changers Made Here.

*Student leaders prayed over President John Wesley Taylor V at University Convocation on Thursday, Aug. 31, 2023.
PHOTO: Darren Heslop, University Communication staff photographer*

