

Andrews University
Digital Commons @ Andrews University

Focus

Office of Alumni Services

Spring 2019

SPRING-2019

Andrews University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/focus>

 Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

Never in a vacuum

Andrea Luxton, *president*

IN A FAMOUS 1962 PERFORMANCE OF Brahms D minor Concerto, Leonard Bernstein took the unusual step of addressing the audience beforehand regarding his differences in the interpretation of the music with the pianist, Glenn Gould. Their views were so different he declared that some may ask why he is conducting to that interpretation. His answer recognized his respect for Gould as an artist and therefore his conclusion that he should take seriously an interpretation Gould considered valid.

This event intrigued me, not so much because it happened but because it was a distinct reminder that it is not just in music performance that interpretation is happening and that often such interpretation happens without the listener's understanding.

Education is no exception. A teacher approaches the classroom with a frame of reference that will impact the way they teach their subject, the way they view their material. Recently I was part of a conversation between individuals of different denominations about the importance or otherwise of Christian education. There too, as with a conversation amongst Seventh-day Adventists, were the supporters and the doubters.

The doubters will argue that public education puts children and young people in the real world and that as long as the home and church are strong, that is enough: why pay money for "private" education? There are many responses to that, but I want to focus on one. I know many of you know this, too, but I think it is important to restate it again, especially in a time when more and more parents and students are choosing the cheaper or perceived more elite options for their education.

Education is never delivered in a vacuum, and informational/professional learning is only a part of education. I know the way I approach the study of

literature, for example, is dramatically different to how it was approached in the secular university I attended for a while. A biblical frame of reference is no less valid educationally than a secular frame of reference, in any discipline. In fact the values and biblical context of learning I would suggest deepen, not narrow, the educational experience, and that happens inside and outside the classroom. Whether consciously or unconsciously, students will be impacted by the frame of reference of their teachers, staff, peers, at whatever level. That does not mean all students will accept those values and perspectives at the end of the day. But it is far more likely they will become deeply embedded into their minds, souls and hearts.

I know I am not saying anything new in this editorial, but I write it because I feel passionately that the future health of the Seventh-day Adventist Church cannot be separated from the health of Adventist higher education (indeed all Adventist education). I am distressed (and no that is not too strong a word) to see its value minimized or even disparaged. I hope that you can join me in speaking out and celebrating the gift of education that God gave this church from its inception, because that is what it is: a gift!



Editor

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

Associate Editor

Patricia Spangler (BS '04)

Contributing Editor

Andriy Kharkovyy (BBA '06, MBA '09)

Designer

Justin Jeffery (BMus '04)

Photographers

Clarissa Carbungco (current student)
Jessica Condon (current student)
Alistair Clarke (current student)
Shiekainah Decano (current student)
Darren Heslop (BFA '10)
Andriy Kharkovyy (BBA '06, MBA '09)
Lloyd Martinez (current student)
Heidi Ramirez (current student)
Christina Rogers (current student)
David Sherwin (BFA '82)

Student Writers

Laura Fierce (current student)
Hannah Gallant (current student)
Nehemiah Sitler (current student)

Copy Editor

Alisa Williams (BS '06)

Andrews University

President

Andrea Luxton (MA '78)

Provost

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

Senior Vice President for Financial Administration

Lawrence E. Schalk (BS '64, MBA '71)

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 Diversity & Inclusion

Michael T. Nixon (BS '09)

Vice President for Marketing & Enrollment Management

Randy Graves (MA '72)

Vice President for University Advancement

David A. Faehner (MA '72)

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 U.S. Hwy 31, Berrien Springs MI 49104-1000. Copyright © 2019 by Andrews University. Reproduction in whole or part without permission is prohibited.

Printed by The Hamblin Company, Tecumseh 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 Dr, Berrien Springs MI 49104-0950, email alumni@andrews.edu or call 269-471-3591.