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Professors awarded the J.N. Andrews Medallion

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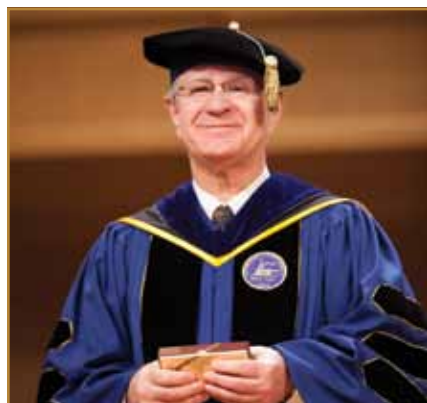


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Darren Heslop

Ranko Stefanovic received the J.N. Andrews Medallion during the 8:30 a.m. Commencement service

Professors awarded the J.N. Andrews Medallion

Two professors were awarded a J.N. Andrews Medallion at the Andrews University commencement services on Sunday, May 5. Ranko Stefanovic, professor of New Testament at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, was awarded the medallion at the 8:30 a.m. Seminary and School of Health Professions service. L. Monique Pittman, professor of English and director of the J.N. Andrews Honors Program, was awarded the medallion at the 11:30 a.m. College of Arts & Sciences service.

The J.N. Andrews Medallion is given in recognition of excellence in research, teaching and service. Since it was first awarded in 1979, 94 medals have been awarded to Andrews University professors and teachers at Andrews Academy.

Stefanovic earned a diploma in theology from the SDA Theological School in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in 1970. He went on to complete an administrative officer certificate in Zagreb, Croatia, in 1988, and then a B.A. in theology and an M.A. in religion from the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies in 1989 and 1990, respectively. He completed a Ph.D. in religion from Andrews University in 1996.

Stefanovic began his career in 1970, pastoring in the Yugoslav Seventh-day



Darren Heslop

L. Monique Pittman is the youngest woman to receive the J.N. Andrews Medallion

Adventist Union conferences in Serbia, Bosnia and Croatia. From 1996 to 1999, Stefanovic taught in the Department of Religion at Canadian University College, before joining the Seminary faculty in 1999. He maintains a heavy schedule of preaching, guest lecturing, conference presentations and scholarship, and has received numerous excellence in teaching awards. He is the author of two books, published by the Andrews University Press. Stefanovic's students describe him as an asset to the school and praise his spiritual influence in their lives.

Beloved and esteemed by colleagues and students alike, Pittman is well-known for her contributions to the field of literature and the enthusiasm she devotes to the professional development of her students. She earned a B.A. in English from Andrews University in 1991, an M.A. in English from the College of William and Mary in 1993, and a Ph.D. in 2000 from Purdue University. She taught for three years at Pacific Union College before joining the Andrews faculty in 1999.

Pittman has written extensively about Shakespeare and popular media, and has been published in top journals in the field, including *Shakespeare Bulletin*, *Literature/Film Quarterly*, and *Early Modern Literary Studies*. She published a monograph titled *Authorizing Shakespeare on Film and Television: Gender, Class, and Ethnicity in Adaptation* (Peter Lang, 2011). Pittman regularly attends conferences, most recently presenting at the 2013 Shakespeare Association of

America conference and the 2013 Oxford University Round Table on Women and Education that took place at Harris Manchester College, Oxford University, in England.

In addition to teaching and publishing, Pittman finds time to mentor student research, guiding the scholarship of numerous graduate and undergraduate students who have presented their research at Honors Symposia and at various professional conferences. Her students have pursued or are currently pursuing advanced degrees at such institutions as Emerson College, Berkeley Theological Union, Western Michigan University, Ball State University, the University of Maryland, Northwestern University, Salisbury University, University of Florida, University of Toronto, Columbia University, and her alma mater, Purdue University.

Upon being presented with the medallion, Pittman received a standing ovation from her Honors students and alumni, many of whose research she has mentored and who have gone on to significantly influence the scholarly community. She is the youngest woman to receive the J.N. Andrews Medallion.

Samantha Snively, graduate writer, Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication



Joshua Martin

Pieter Damsteegt received his degree at the 2:00 p.m. commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 5. Damsteegt graduated *summa cum laude* with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography and Documentary Film. His senior thesis project, a documentary film titled "Back of My Life," chronicles his life as a college student while growing progressively more handicapped from degenerative rheumatism. To learn more about his film, visit <http://vimeo.com/user2692714>.