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Gerry Chudleigh

The 2011 Society of Adventist Communicators convention will be held this year in Lombard, Ill., Oct. 20–22. Don't miss this unique opportunity to network and learn from people who share a passion for spreading the Adventist message.

connecting with other communication professionals and growing from one another's knowledge, expertise and passion for ministry. It's about being enriched and energized by attending SAC's annual convention and returning home ready to put your newly-acquired knowledge into action. It's about networking and making new friends—people who will become a source of spiritual and

professional support for years to come. If you're a communication professional, it's about using your talents and acquired knowledge to mentor a young person. And if you're a novice, it's an opportunity to connect with a specialist in your field whose wise mentoring can help you to grow professionally.

SAC is comprised of people from all facets of the communication field,

including television producers, writers, editors, graphic designers, Web designers, photographers, social media experts, public relations specialists—and the list goes on. Membership is open to students and working professionals who are employed by the church or the secular media, and those who are self-employed.

“As a member of SAC, my desire to collaborate in ministry projects with colleagues has increased, and I feel I have grown professionally through association with this organization,” says Diane Thurber, assistant communication director, Lake Union Conference.

SAC offers a mentor/mentee program, a communication certification program, SAC Awards of Excellence, job postings and an annual convention. There's a lot more to say about SAC, but the only way to really know what SAC is all about is to join, attend the annual convention, and see for yourself what a great organization it is. For membership information, please visit www.adventistcommunicator.org and click on the Members Only link. We hope to see you (and your colleagues!) at the next SAC convention in Chicago (Lombard, Ill.), Oct. 20–22!

Pat Humphrey, associate director of communication for the Southwestern Union and vice president for recruitment for the Society of Adventist Communicators

[WORLD CHURCH NEWS]

Griggs University moves to Michigan

During the weeks of June 20–July 18, Griggs University & International Academy physically moved its operations from Silver Spring, Md., to its new home on the campus of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich.

In Nov. 2010, Andrews assumed ownership of this more-than-a-century-old international distance education institution. When operations officially transferred to Berrien Springs in July,



several new employees for Griggs University & International Academy joined the Andrews University community as part of a newly-established School of Distance Education.

The School of Distance Education operates out of the Lake Union Conference Headquarters, which Andrews recently purchased. On June 1, Andrews

University took ownership of the Lake Union Conference building, but will share it with the Union until the Union builds a new facility for their operations. The wing occupied by Griggs will be named Griggs Hall in honor of Frederick Griggs, a leading Adventist educator at Andrews and elsewhere. When the Lake Union Conference relocates, Andrews will begin utilizing the entire building, and the building in its entirety will be renamed Griggs Hall. In addition to housing Griggs, the new Griggs Hall will also house the School of Distance Education and other University services.

Griggs educates more than 4,400 students ranging from preschool to university graduate level in the United States and around the world, including locations such as Africa, India, Central America and Asia. Now that Griggs is owned by Andrews University, the number of students that the University educates in southwest Michigan and around the world approaches more than 10,000.

“While it’s difficult to leave our Maryland home, it’s exciting to move to Michigan and join with Andrews University in pursuing a variety of distance education initiatives that employ the best in distance teaching methods, that make use of affordable emerging technologies to serve all students, whether it is a young preschooler in Michigan, an M.B.A. student in Vietnam or senior citizens in Venezuela. Already, Andrews offers a rich heritage of diversity as one of the Top Ten ethnically and internationally diverse universities in the country. Now, with our partnership, Griggs and Andrews can implement a whole world policy—by making Adventist education truly accessible and as affordable as possible to people wherever they are,” said Alayne Thorpe, interim president of Griggs University and dean of the proposed Andrews University School of Distance Education.

The majority of operations at Griggs University in Md. closed on July 14 and resumed on the campus of Andrews University on July 18. However, Griggs will keep a small office open in Md. to oversee Griggs’ contracts with Job Corps both in Md. and across the United States. Job Corps is a government-run program that offers high school diplomas and job skill training to at-risk students.

As this significant transition takes place, students and other contacts of Griggs can expect some communication and shipping delays throughout the process, even as the institution remains committed to consistently and effectively responding to the students and families they serve as best they can. Current departmental mail addresses



Griggs University & International Academy is now located in a wing of the Lake Union Conference office building, which Andrews recently purchased. After completion of a new facility for the Union office, Andrews will utilize the entire building.

for Griggs (griggs.edu) will remain active and continue to be processed for several months after the move. The toll-free phone number for the institution remains the same: 1-800-782-4769. Additional contact and other transition information updates will be posted at www.griggs.edu and www.andrews.edu/distance.

Last November, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists transferred ownership of Griggs to Andrews University. During the past several months, a transition team prepared both campuses for the physical move led by Patricia Mutch, a former Andrews University academic vice president who came out of retirement to oversee the transition. Along the way, key hires were made for Griggs, and some of those new employees played a central role in the relocation planning and moving logistics.

In 1901, it took 16 boxcars to relocate Andrews University to Berrien Springs from Battle Creek, Mich. In July, it took at least five moving trucks to transfer Griggs to Andrews University. Packed away in those moving trucks were nearly every piece of Griggs and its history, including Griggs’ archives that date back to 1909.

Several individuals joined Griggs at its new Michigan location, and two

previously announced hires began their duties. La Ronda Forsey is associate dean and principal of Griggs International Academy, and Janine Lim is associate dean for university-level use of teaching technologies. In addition, the following have also been appointed: Lynley Bartlett, director of affiliation & extension programs (replacing Charles Tidwell); Loring Bearce, bookstore supervisor; Glynis Bradfield, director of Student Services; Steven Fox, assistant registrar/testing; Ethan Jones, project manager; and Stephen Rivers, associate director of affiliation & extension programs.

Thorpe concludes, “Andrews University and Griggs University are setting a new whole-world policy for Adventist education—every interested student in every corner of the globe deserves access to a quality, values-based Adventist education. Now, we can offer them that access from Griggs and Andrews, institutions that share the same goals and mission to serve the world field. To quote Shakespeare, this is a ‘Perfect marriage of true minds.’”

Keri Suarez, media relations specialist,
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