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Commencement Ceremonies Held for Class of 2008

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National challenge for Adventist Robotics League comes to Andrews University

On May 12, elementary and high school students from throughout North America met at the Howard Performing Arts Center at Andrews University to compete in the Super Bowl of science competitions in Adventist education: the North American Division Adventist Robotics League Challenge. Teams with creative names, like the Green Electrifiers, Cloud Nine and the Biobots, traveled from Calif., Wash., Va., Tenn. and Mich. to put their skills to the test for this year's challenge theme: Power Puzzle.

Each team designed and built battery-powered robots with miniature computer modules, programmed to navigate a tabletop obstacle course, complete with power lines, windmills, a dam and river, and a satellite.

The overall champions of the competition and the new owners of a Lego-inspired trophy were the Brick Boys of Cleveland, Tenn., a team of home-schooled students.

"This event exemplifies the North American Division Office of Education philosophy of 'Journey to Excellence' in that it creatively inspires students to grow and learn in an authentic environment," said Larry Blackmer, vice president for education for the North American Division of



Each team programmed their robot to navigate a table top obstacle course with power lines, windmills, coal, a dam and river, and a satellite.

the Seventh-day Adventist Church. "We're so proud of the nine teams and their dedicated coaches and sponsors who made this memorable opportunity happen for them here at Andrews University."

Robert Moncrieff, news writer,
University Relations

Commencement ceremonies held for class of 2008

During the first weekend of May, 380 undergraduate and graduate students donned their caps, gowns and regalia for commencement ceremonies at Pioneer Memorial Church on the campus of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. Friends and family from around the world gathered on campus to honor the graduates.

On Friday evening, Pierre Quinn (B.A., '04), coordinator of annual giving for Andrews University, addressed the graduates at the consecration service. Quinn challenged the graduates to strive for excellence in all aspects of life as reflection of the Andrews motto: "Seek knowledge. Affirm faith. Change the world."

Speaking to the graduates on Sabbath morning, May 3, Bill Knott (M.Div., '83), editor and executive publisher of *Adventist Review*, gave the graduates of 2008 a spiritual send-off with his baccalaureate address, "Jericho in the Mist." The days to come will be filled with celebrations and gifts, followed by job interviews and relocation for the soon-to-be graduates, but the message Sabbath morning served as a reminder, "Do not mistake the crossing of the river for the taking of the city. You'll find being on the other side of Jordan is not all it's cracked

up to be," he cautioned.

On Sun., May 4, commencement services were held at Pioneer Memorial Church. Author, consultant, management educator and Andrews University alum

Gary Hamel (B.S., '75; M.B.A., '76) addressed graduate students on the subject of "Exceeding Expectations." Hamel, who was recently ranked No. 1 on a list of influential business thinkers by *The Wall Street Journal* over journalist Thomas Friedman and former CEO Bill Gates, encouraged Andrews graduates to think and do outside the box. Hamel also received an honorary Doctor of Business Administration degree.

Jeff Fettig, chairman and CEO of Whirlpool Corporation, spoke at the undergraduate commencement ceremony. His address, "Innovation: Your Career Lifeblood," spoke about the importance of innovation, having worked with a company that went from good to great through creative ideas, people and products.

On behalf of the faculty, Patricia Black Mutch was awarded the John Nevins Andrews Medallion in recognition of her many contributions to Andrews University.

The dust will eventually settle and the responsibilities of real life will begin to sink in, but for some students the culmination of their studies at Andrews felt like a dream. "Graduation was a bit surreal for me," said pre-med music major Paul Byssainthe. "I don't think it really has hit me that I am a college graduate."

Keri Suarez, media relations specialist,
University Relations



Tori Steely from Augusta, Mich., graduated with a B.S. on May 4, 2008.

Sarah Lee