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2006 Andrews University Employee Service Awards

Andrews University is made up of a community of faculty and staff members who are dedicated to Christian education and creating an environment that is enjoyable to work and study in. At the annual faculty and staff awards ceremony on Apr. 3, several employees were honored for their years of service and commitment to excellence.

This year, six faculty members were awarded the Daniel A. Augsburger Excellence in Teaching Award. This award is intended to recognize faculty whose teaching reflects the high standards of excellence modeled by Daniel Augsburger in his 60 years of teaching at Andrews University. This year’s recipients are: J.H. Denis Fortin, professor of theology in the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary; Betty Gibson, assistant professor of information systems; Shandelle M. Henson, associate professor of mathematics; Ronald Johnson, assistant professor of mathematics; Jimmy Kijai, professor of research and statistical methodology; and L. Monique Pittman, assistant professor of English.

The Excellence in Service Awards are presented each year to hourly or salaried full- or part-time staff members who have served for at least three consecutive years. The award is given “in recognition of outstanding service to the university, church, and the community, and for demonstrating, by precept and example, a Christ-centered life.” This year’s recipients are: Bill Richardson, dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Lorena Bidwell, chief information officer; and Martin Bradfield, director, transportation and custodial services.

Adrienne Townsend, assistant dean of women, is this year’s recipient of the Spiritual Life Award. This award is given to any employee, faculty, or staff who has made a significant contribution to the spiritual life of the campus. Names are considered and voted by the Spiritual Life Committee.

For her tireless commitment and service to the university as a long-time member of the Andrews University Board of Trustees, Marguerite Dixon is the 2006 recipient of the President’s Medallion. This award was designed to recognize individuals who have distinguished themselves in causes that the university views as congruent with its own idealism, mission, and Christian outreach.

Three faculty and staff members received the 30-year Service Award. They are: Joseph W. Warren Sr., professor of English; Lois Forrester, assistant registrar; and George R. Knight, professor of church history. Several others were acknowledged for serving the university for 20, 15, ten, and five years.

Staff in the Spotlight: Bill Richardson

Passionate, dedicated, caring—these are three words often used to describe Bill Richardson, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

An Andrews veteran who holds four degrees from Andrews—a bachelor’s in theology, a master’s in Greek, a master’s of divinity, and a doctorate in biblical studies—Richardson is an expert on life on both sides of the classroom.

Richardson has taken the wealth of knowledge he gained as a student and applied it to his work in the classroom. He taught Bible at the academy level at South Lancaster Academy in Mass. before taking positions in the religion departments at both Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Texas, and Pacific Union College in Angwin, Calif. By the time Richardson joined the Andrews University faculty in 1977, his reputation as one of the denomination’s top Greek professors preceded him.

Ten years after becoming a religion department faculty member at Andrews, he became chair of the department in 1987. Religion department colleagues sorely missed Richardson’s presence when his passion for excellence in education led him to deanship of the College of Arts and Sciences in Sept. 1998. During his tenure as dean, he played a key role in helping Andrews transition from the quarter to semester system.

For his dedication in the classroom and to the university, Richardson received the Daniel A. Augsburger Excellence in Teaching Award in 1992 and a 2006 Andrews University Excellence in Service Award. For his lifetime commitment to education, he was honored with the John Nevins Andrews Medallion at the May 2006 Andrews University undergraduate commencement service.

In his spare time, Richardson enjoys traveling, sports like swimming and racquetball, and writing. He has authored many articles and three books—Paul Among Friends and Enemies, Speaking Tongues, and most recently, Famous Fugitives.

Richardson is married to his childhood sweetheart, Sandra. Together they have three adult children—Cindy Schmidt, Cheri Leffler, and Stephen Richardson—and seven grandchildren.