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## New Physics Professor Returns to Alma Mater

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## New Physics Professor Returns to Alma Mater

“When I was in high school, one of my favorite classes was calculus,” said Tiffany Summerscales, the latest addition to the Andrews University Physics department. The lack of an accompanying smirk suggested that she wasn’t joking. The young professor added that she herself had gone to Andrews University for her undergraduate studies and had majored in math and physics.

Academics, it seems, did not present a huge challenge for Summerscales. Some of her best memories of Andrews University are of her teachers. “I was very much impressed with the professors here; they really cared for the students and made me want to be like them.”

Another positive association with Andrews University came in the form of a husband, Rodney, a fellow student. “We were friends from the first week of school ... and then the last year we started dating,” said Summerscales. She added, “We got engaged the day after I graduated from Andrews,” and “got married the summer after my first year at grad school!”

Summerscales went to Penn State for her graduate studies. Her Ph.D. work focused on the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory, an area that she helpfully explained as dealing with “ripples in space-time.” In total she spent seven years in graduate school and is excited to now be back at her undergraduate alma mater as a teacher.



Tiffany Summerscales



New Andrews students registered with advisors and received other important information at First Stop, held for the first time in the Howard Performing Arts Center.

“I guess my biggest goal is to be like the professors I had ... to take a real interest in students ... and also maybe teach them some physics. Physics can be kind of challenging!”

Bjorn Karlman, University Relations student news writer

## Students Get All Fired Up!

Whether competing in Beach Olympics at Warren Dunes, scoring at CM Radio’s Extreme Bowling Party, or lending a hand with one of several community service projects, the group of new students who participated in the 2006 All Fired Up! Orientation Week were never at a loss for fun things to do.

Running from Aug. 20–27, this annual prep week is the perfect opportunity for new freshmen and transfer students to get a taste of life at Andrews University and southwestern Michigan, while building friendships that often last a lifetime. The week kicked off with First Stop, where students got the lowdown on college-life essentials like activating their ID cards, parking, and financial aid. The week continued with three more days of “business,” such as first year tests, breakfast with advisors, student success seminars, and introductions to the library.

On Wednesday night, All Fired Up’s family groups met for the first time and students were introduced to their veteran-student “parents.” On Friday evening, new students had dinner at the homes of various Andrews University staff members who will serve as “coaches” or mentors for the year ahead.



Faculty and staff members served new students and their families at the annual President’s Luncheon held in the Johnson Gym.

“Orientation programming offers students important ‘just in time’ college success information, as well as giving them an opportunity to form a social support network,” stated Steve Yeagley, assistant to the vice president for student services and orientation organizer. “Many students tell us that friends made in their orientation ‘family group’ remain friends throughout their college experience.”

The week continued with fun events such as Fusion Vespers under the All Fired Up! tent, a pizza feed, and a concert at the Howard Performing Arts Center. By the second Sunday, students definitely felt warmly welcomed into their new “home away from home.”

Beverly Stout, University Relations media relations coordinator