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Homecoming Weekend 2005

Beverly Stout
Andrews University

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Homecoming Weekend 2005

“Come Home for the Harvest” was the theme of the first-ever fall Andrews University Alumni Homecoming Weekend, Sept. 29–Oct. 2.

The weekend was packed full of fun things to do. A few favorite activities included the Thurs. evening *People’s Choice Concert* and dessert buffet at the Howard Performing Arts Center, the annual *Wes Christiansen Memorial Golf Outing*, Fri. evening’s *International Flag Raising Ceremony* on the campus mall, Sun. morning’s *5K Run/Walk* and *Annual Homecoming Parade*.

Along with annual favorites, several new activities were added to this year’s schedule of events, including Friday’s *Pizza, Pop, and Professionals!* Current Andrews seniors had the chance to interface with alumni professionals in an informal question and answer session. During a special missions emphasis church service on Sabbath, 62 students stood up and committed to becoming a student missionary, and \$30,200 was collected in a special offering for the missions program. Sabbath afternoon’s *Harvest-Time Picnic* provided a new twist to the annual salad supper. This year’s event moved outdoors to the backyard of the Alumni House where alumni got reacquainted while munching on a bounty of grapes, apples, and salads provided by local alumni.

“Having a fall Homecoming was the best!” said alumnae Nicola Johnson (B.S. ’95) of Berrien Springs, Mich. “It was sunny during the day and crispy cool at night. The outdoor ‘salad supper’ had great atmosphere, with hay bales and quilts, hot cider, cocoa, and doughnuts.”

On Sat. evening, alumni, students, and community members alike enjoyed a special concert featuring the *Heritage Singers* and *The Ambassadors* in an evening of gospel favorites and African-flavored contemporary Christian music.



Old friends got reacquainted while enjoying the dessert buffet after the People’s Choice Concert on Thurs. evening.

“We were blessed with beautiful sunny weather and warm fellowship,” noted Tami Condon, alumni director. “Many alumni have expressed an appreciation for the cozy festivities of the *Harvest-Time Picnic* and the overall variety of events to participate in. Numerous helpful hands went into making sure every detail was carefully orchestrated; I was especially touched by the team effort that so many individuals at Andrews put into making the weekend a success. Thank you!”

Beverly Stout, University Relations correspondent

Staff in the Spotlight: Dan and Julia Hansen

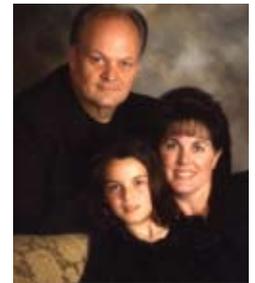
“We absolutely love Michigan,” Julia Hansen exclaimed, gesturing out the window toward a rather chilly Oct. afternoon. “And it’s truly a privilege to be at Andrews,” her husband Dan rejoins, adding, “I can hardly wait to break in my new boots this winter.” Having spent over twenty-five years serving the Texas and Okla. conferences, the couple is understandably excited over the prospect of a white Christmas, but their enthusiasm characterizes more than their attitude toward oft-frowned-upon Mich. weather. As Andrews’ newest staff couple, Dan and Julia Hansen are equally eager to “make students the first priority and demonstrate the character of Jesus in all that [they] do.”

Before moving to Andrews, Julia worked first as an executive assistant for Cadbury Beverages’ Dallas headquarters, then as a secretary at Miller Adventist School in Dallas, Texas.

Meanwhile, Dan worked in purchasing, operations, and contracts for Ericsson, a telecommunications company also based in Dallas. When the industry suffered from downsizing, Dan turned his attention to the Adventist health-care system. But while Dan was applying for a hospital position near Wash.’s Walla Walla College, his friend was forwarding Dan’s résumé to Andrews, where university administrators were quick to request an interview that the Hansens are sure was God-ordained.

After a mid-Feb. 2005 interview, Dan and Julia accepted respective positions as manager of Plant Services and administrative assistant to Francine Faehner, vice president of Student Services. Dan enjoys the responsibility of keeping the campus comfortable and orderly, and Julia enjoys assisting students on an interpersonal level.

In their spare time, the couple enjoys outdoor activities. Dan golfs and is an ardent yard worker who keeps Julia’s plants from “committing suicide.” Julia enjoys biking and bird watching, but spending time with their daughter Stevie ranks number one for both of them. In fact, that ten-year-old Stevie would be able to enjoy an uninterrupted educational experience at Andrews confirmed the couple’s decision to accept campus jobs. “At Andrews,” Julia notes, “children can go from kindergarten to doctorate school without moving.” For the Hansens, stability is vital to the success of any learning environment and is an enormous blessing. And Dan and Julia look forward to continued contribution to that stability in their new positions.



Dan, Julia, and Stevie Hansen

Elizabeth Lechleitner, University Relations student news writer