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### New Accreditation for Andrews' School Psychology Program

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## New Accreditation for Andrews' School Psychology Program

As a first in Adventist education, the Andrews University post-graduate school psychology program was recently accredited by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). The accreditation, received in January, allows program graduates to be nationally certified as school psychologists upon achieving a passing score on the school psychology portion of the National Teachers' Exam.

The accreditation comes after painstaking work on the part of the Educational and Counseling Psychology

Department to fulfill the requirements for the accreditation. "It took two years to create the folio that we had to submit," said Sheryl Gregory, associate professor of school psychology.

The accreditation is well worth the effort.

"Prospective students regularly ask if we are a NASP-approved program. When they choose a graduate program, they are specifically seeking a NASP program," said Gregory. Students also find that graduating from a NASP-approved program is seen to be an advantage by prospective employers. "The school psychology job market is wide open," said Gregory.

"There is a shortage of school psychologists throughout the entire country. It will get more severe over the next 10 years because baby boomers are retiring," added Rudi Bailey, professor of educational and counseling psychology.

In a letter received from the National Association of School Psychologists, the accreditation officers commended Gregory and her colleagues for their "commitment to quality training and national approval."

Jim Jeffery, acting School of Education dean, said: "They have made the School of Education shine once again, and we are proud of them."

*Bjorn Karlman, student news writer*

## Teacher in the Spotlight

"Unconventional" is probably the best word to describe Andrews University's associate professor of marketing, Lauren Oliver Strach. Students find her classes a refreshing break from the traditional and a reason to be increasingly interested in marketing. Strach has proved that it is possible to promote both serious thought and laughter in class for marvelous results.

Strach most simply describes marketing as "telling the story." Perhaps part of the reason Strach connects so well with Andrews students is the fact that her story started at Andrews. Strach served as student association vice president during the 1978-'79 school year, when she led the student senate and served as a student representative on a number of faculty committees, giving her what she calls, "a different, unusual perspective."

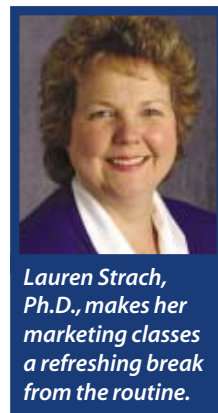
She graduated from Andrews in 1979, anticipating medical school, but along the way came a shift in her goals. "I decided that my true interests and abilities lay in the business world and especially in marketing," she said.

With that shift, Strach earned her MBA from Central Michigan University in 1984, and in 1990, she completed her Ph.D. from Michigan State University.

In the fall of 2001, after twenty years of studies, marketing work, and teaching at Central Michigan University and Saint Mary's College at Notre Dame, Ind., Strach returned home. Her experience away from Andrews "provided a new appreciation for the quality and perspective of Andrews students," she said.

Back at her alma mater, she is determined to teach in a way that leaves no alternative to the student but to learn. As a true marketer, she is relentless in her efforts to impact her audience. "If you don't engage the students, what's the point?" she said.

Aside from her passion for teaching, Strach feels the need to contribute to society on an even wider scale. "The truest good that a person can achieve is to contribute to building the cornerstones of society—schools, libraries, and churches." Strach strives to serve the community through devoting a significant amount of her time offering marketing consulting for a range of nonprofit organizations, which in turn provides new material for her classes and experiences she can share with her students.



*Lauren Strach, Ph.D., makes her marketing classes a refreshing break from the routine.*



*School psychology student Autumn Ryan practices administering the Differential Abilities Scale, a cognitive IQ test, to fellow classmate Mei-Ying Chang.*