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Enrollment Continues to Climb at Andrews

With about two months of school under their belts, Andrews University students, faculty, and staff are excited and optimistic about how the 2003–2004 school year is shaping up. Freshmen, transfer, and international students began arriving on the Berrien Springs, Mich., campus as early as Friday, Aug. 15. On Sunday, Aug. 17, they were given the opportunity to attend First Stop where they could take care of any registration holds, get their pictures taken for their ID cards, make sure that they were financially cleared, and acquaint themselves with the 1,600 acres that would be their home for the next four years.

As of census day, Sept. 11, the registrar's office reported that the total head count for the university is 2,975—196 more than last year. Steve Yeagley, local recruitment coordinator for university enrollment management, sites three reasons for the rise in numbers. First, is the Andrews Partnership Scholarship (APS) which is in its second year. APS offers from \$1,000 to \$6,000 to freshmen for each year of college, up to four and a half years. "Students don't have to search for obscure endowed scholarships or beg for need-based grants," said Yeagley. "They are now distributed equitably in one easy plan."

The second reason is due to enrollment management making a number of system changes in their department over the past year. For instance, Yeagley reports that thousands of pre-filled applications have been sent to students who have either indicated an interest in the university or who the university believes might be interested. The applications contain their names and any other information the office may have. All the students need to do is fill in the rest of the information and return the applications. "There has been a tremendous response to these mailings," Yeagley said. "We expect to do more this year."

Finally, qualitative enrollment has played a large part in higher enrollment this year. In 2002, one of the brightest classes, based on test scores and GPA, enrolled as freshmen. This year's class has topped last year's by 2.92 points on the Andrews Partnership Scholarship rating system. The Society of Andrews Scholars has enrolled 65 freshmen in their SAGES

program this year. "Success breeds success," Yeagley states. "I attribute the growth, in part, to the difference in campus culture that good students create."

Several parents commented to university personnel about how impressed they were with the ease of registration and the wonderful activities planned. Tom and Sietie Heslop of Cedar Lake, Mich., helped their son, Darren, a freshman engineering major, register during First Stop. Braced for the five-hour lines at student financial services they had heard about before coming to campus, the Heslops were pleasantly surprised when they sailed through the process. "Andrews obviously has put much time and effort into improving the process, and it seems to have paid off," Tom Heslop said.



This year's President's Luncheon, held Aug. 18 in Johnson Gym, was attended by 720 new students and their family members.

Andrews University has made a concerted effort in the past two years to focus on the students and their needs. The social recreation department has also begun planning a variety of fun activities for the students to participate in, such as the Beach 2 Bank Challenge and the new tubing hill on campus. The Center for Youth Evangelism held their first annual Easter Passion Play in April, which was a huge success, and depended largely on the participation of students. Allison Hurlow, a freshman family group leader, said it best: "Andrews is helping students stay excited by providing a better school to be proud of."

For more information about Andrews University, log on to <http://connect.andrews.edu>, or call (800) 253-2874.

Katie Shaw, university relations news writer