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“We’ve Only Just Begun...”

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IN FOCUS

"We've Only Just Begun..."

Beginnings. Yesterday I met my first classes of the semester, and from the looks on student faces, they're excited to be at Andrews. But they're also a little nervous, bewildered, tired, homesick, shy, and maybe just a bit hungry (OK, one of my classes meets just before the lunch hour).

It's not always easy to make a new start.

As new and returning students quilt themselves into the fabric of our university life, it reminds me of those awkward moments of newness: new to a place, new to a job, new to a culture, new to an experience.

Challenging to those of us who like familiarity and the routine, "newness" inevitably promises something more; it raises our hopes and a desire for something better.

And as with any new year, the returning campus congestion—deep bass vibrations from (mostly) student-driven vehicles, drifts of fine scholars "sidewalking" between classes, longer lines in the cafeteria and at the local Baguette de France—holds a lot of promise. But this year, perhaps more than others, inspires our hopes, especially when we look at the world around us and the crises that testify to the biblical truth: the wisdom of men is foolishness to God. Can we admit our own foolishness?

So, for me, it is inspiring to think of our students as catalysts for change in our world, a function the university cannot prize too highly. I am reminded with their arrival, and the "newness" in the experience, that someday Christ will satisfy our hopes and desires, that He will fill all the inklings of "better things" and longings that "newness" can inspire.

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For this issue, Katie Shaw traveled to southern Illinois to profile Dr. Tiffani Clark Dillard, a 1992 graduate. Tiffani's story and career have been the subject of features in *Jet Magazine*, *Women's News*, *Adventist Review* and a number of newspapers. Now Tiffani can add *FOCUS* to that list. A veteran obstetrician at the tender age of 30, Tiffani's meteoric rise in the medical field is a tribute to her professors at AU and to her dedication to Christ.



Johnson Gym was transformed into an international banquet hall, as it played host to new students and their parents at the President's Luncheon on Monday, August 18, 2003

Photo by Sarah Spangler

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No one said life on the farm was easy, but the Andrews University dairy farm is hoping to make it easier in the 21st century. And researchers at the farm think the secret may be in the barn; the barn structure, that is. On her short trek down to the dairy this summer, our new *FOCUS* intern, Lynnette Struntz, discovered an experimental "solar barn" might just mean an increase in milk production. Lynnette also found out that in spite of all the technological advances at the dairy over the past

100 years, the mission remains the same: provide AU students with hands-on experience and a learning environment that will prepare them for service to the community and employment in agribusiness.

As we all look forward to the opening of the Howard Performing Arts Center in October, it's good to take time to remember (and appreciate) some of the older buildings on campus. In *Time Pieces*, Meredith Jones Gray pays tribute

to old Science Hall (more recently, the former Art building). A unique structure on campus, the building came into existence because of the determination of students and faculty alike, and their shared desire for improved facilities for education in the sciences.

Our *Aluminati* features Robert Slaughter, a 1970 graduate and the artist behind one of our campus sculptures. In the *Student Spotlight*, music major Jonathan Wall shares his joy for music and music education at Andrews University.

I hope you'll also take time to be part of our *FOCUS* Reader Survey, which is available at: www.andrews.edu/PR/focus/

This short survey will allow you to share your opinions, views and suggestions with the *FOCUS* staff as we continue to try to provide you with the AU news and information you value most.

~ Ivan Davis is assistant professor of English and the editor of Focus.