

# focus

THE ANDREWS UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

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A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH

Q&A WITH RON WHITEHEAD

NEW WEBSITE



## Business with Pleasure



One of the real pleasures of working at Andrews is the daily interaction I have with colleagues. And working on Focus pushes me into places I might not otherwise venture. Many of these visits buoy my belief in this university and what it stands for. The preparation for this issue was no exception.

A caveat. Academics, and those who work with them, are an interesting group. We are generally a critical bunch. Ideas must be thought and rethought, tested and assessed, sometimes run through a committee or twelve, and then we'll eventually agree to disagree.

And this is just in personal conversation, never mind the larger business of the institution.

But even in this culture, where some might say that nothing ever gets done quickly, there are those who push us forward. Sometimes they challenge a way of thinking, sometimes they just know how to get things moving, and sometimes they have skills that help us reinvent ourselves. So it is with three individuals who play a prominent role in this issue.

In his interview with me, Ron Whitehead, assistant to the president for spiritual life, proved to be charismatic and purpose-driven. His firm belief in God and what God's leading is doing (and can do) at Andrews is inspiring.

Just as inspiring was the contact I had with Bill Richardson, whose philosophical and ethical consideration of "right-to-life, right-to-die" issues can be found in this issue. As Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Bill's willingness to write for Focus at a time when budget meetings and decisions dominated administrators' schedules is an indication of his own belief in what Andrews should be about.

Finally in working on this issue, Martin Lee, the university's web coordinator and a colleague I've worked with over the last couple years at University Relations, further demonstrated to me his technical wizardry, which should enhance the university's presence on the worldwide web for years to come. Martin's high standards even showed themselves as together we edited and re-edited the web articles you'll find here.

I'm proud of my colleagues, but even more importantly, I'm privileged to work with them and share in our university's mission.

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### Features

#### 14 **AU's Latest Click** Andrews Unveils New-Look Web Design

It's been a long time coming, but the Andrews University website ([www.andrews.edu](http://www.andrews.edu)) has a brand, spanking new appearance. Elizabeth Lechleitner writes about the redesign process, including a behind-the-scenes profile of the man who orchestrated the innovative design, Martin Lee. Lechleitner also showcases some of the new design's improvements, from easier navigation to more timely content.

#### 18 **A Matter of Life and Death** Lessons From the Schiavo Case

The media circus and political hoopla surrounding the Terri Schiavo case have finally begun to fade, but have we learned anything from the questions her sad predicament raised? Bill Richardson, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, explores how modern medicine is affecting our views of mortality and morality.

#### 22 **It's Not (All) Academic** A Conversation with Ron Whitehead about Spiritual Life at Andrews University

In a simultaneously frank and encouraging discussion of spiritual life at AU, recently appointed assistant to the president for spiritual life, Ron Whitehead, talks about his plans to enhance already-successful campus programs through better communication and empowered student leaders. Whitehead also shares some ideas about how interested alumni can get involved.

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#### On the cover

Nothing says Michigan like trees blooming in the Spring. Dave Sherwin (BFA '82) captured these beauties on campus in April.