



FOCUS | Summer 2012

## Biology feedback

I enjoyed reading the articles of the whole summer 2012 FOCUS magazine. The biology emphasis was well done. I appreciated the timeline, and the individual sections on the four retirees. “Faithful Scientists Passing the Torch” shows Adventist education making a great difference for good in the world. The emphasis on community and paying attention to each student mirrors the care that Jesus took with each person who came to Him for help. Keep up the good work!

**Christine Rorabeck**  
(current graduate student)

In your interview with the biology department a crucial part was left out and that is “that the world is now only about six thousand years old” (*To Be Like Jesus*, p. 154). And this: “the very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God” (*Selected Messages*, Vol. 1, p. 48). In the biology building [Science Complex] is a display behind glass that the Great Lakes are now 18,000 years old. So who is right? Ellen White the prophet or the biology professors at Andrews?

Yes, 6,000 years of human beings being tempted by the devil is all that God allots Satan. The period between 6,000 years and 7,000 years our planet will be the home of Satan and his imps.

Since the “very last deception of Satan” is now taking place in our church in many areas—not just this one—time must be very, very short before Jesus returns and that it is! Hallelujah!

**Howard Loewen**  
Berrien Springs

The summer FOCUS just arrived over here in Egypt. I enjoyed all of it. The Biology Teaching Timeline prompted this bit of trivia I will share with you. When Burton Phipps retired in 1961, he and his wife celebrated 50 years of marriage, they sold many of their belongings and moved to Angwin, Calif., where their daughter Barbara was librarian at Pacific Union College. We bought their old oak rocking chair for \$2. Several years later Chuck took it all apart, sanded it down to the bare wood, replaced a broken slat in the back, replaced the worn out leather seat

with Naugahyde and gave it a new coat of finish which is still good. In the process, he discovered a brass plate on the underside that said, “Wingelmire Furniture Company, Holly, Michigan, 1911.”

From that we assumed that the Phipps’ had purchased the rocker during their first year of marriage and that he was teaching at Adelpian Academy. The last time we were in Holly, Mich., about five years ago, the Wingelmire Furniture Company was still in business. We have owned that rocker for 52 years. We had it when Chuck was teaching at Adelpian Academy and when he was working at Andrews University. The thought has occurred to us that possibly the Wingelmire Furniture Company or the Andrews University Department of Biology might like to own this still comfortable antique rocking chair.

**Janet (Wildman) Schlunt** (BS ’62)  
**Charles Schlunt** (BA ’62, MAT ’79, MS ’83)

Your Teaching Timeline in the latest issue I found quite interesting. Seeing a photo and the name of Donald Seidel brought back lots of memories, all of them positive. I had the privilege of being in his General Biology class and it was so unusual to sit down to begin a class period and hear the ending bell ring five minutes later—at least it sure seemed that way. It was the most fascinating class I’ve ever taken. (With Merlin Tuttle as our lab instructor, labs were very interesting also.) I think he exemplified excellence in teaching and I credit him with the continuing fascination nature and God’s created life forms still have for me.

Thank you, Dr. Seidel, for what you gave me in that class—it was a privilege and pure enjoyment.

**John Glass**  
(BA ’66, BD ’68, DMin ’92)

I am not an SDA but I recently had an opportunity to examine your 2012 summer issue. What caught my attention was the interview with David Steen and Tom Goodwin. I came away with a nauseous feeling that the Andrews University biology department is so politically correct and academically moderate as to be virtually useless to the cause of creationism. This amazes me when I consider the name of your denomination is stamped with the day



*Thanks for writing*

**Letters to FOCUS are always welcome.** To ensure a range of viewpoints, we encourage letters of fewer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for content, style and space.

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Opinions expressed in letters are not necessarily shared by the editors, university employees, officers and administrators.

**CORRECTION:**

On page 4 of the summer 2012 issue, Thomas J. Zwemer should have been listed as “att.”

that commemorates it. There was no reference to serious research projects underway or science-based apologetic publications that should be flowing out [of] this department. In the real world the creation-evolution debate is taking off with more intensity than ever. Organizations like Creation Research Institute, Answers in Genesis, Discovery Institute and Intelligent Design proponents dominate this debate. The voice of SDA academics is largely unheard. It is no wonder your church is losing its young people. Indeed, the torch is passing but it's going to others.

Mark Twain  
Seattle

## Goal of higher education

I was dismayed to read Niels-Erik Andreasen's recent article [editorial] in the summer 2012 issue of FOCUS. Below are my opinions about this particular article.

Setting aside for the moment the importance of the spiritual aspect of attending Andrews, and just replying to the main thrust of his article, let me respond as one who has attended Andrews on two separate occasions, first as a BA undergrad back in the 70s and returning to get my MBA later in the mid-80s.

He argued that Andrews University's primary educational focus shouldn't be helping students gain employment after graduation...saying as much that learning well and acquiring good sense should be its primary goal. This is a shameful article written by a tower dweller who has apparently lost touch with the ground.

To me, these are lofty academic teaching goals, and yes should be stressed, but they should only serve what a university's major mission should be—why hard-earned funds are given up for earning a degree at Andrews. I would dare say the primal goal for survival once one graduates is finding a job. Hopefully one that is derived by having both a sound degree and an applicant that has exhibited the traits an employer is looking for, and shows a strong desire to commit to the given mission at hand.

Even though Andreasen does point out that recent prominent institutions have failed the truth test in the area of job placement statistics, that shouldn't negate this leading indicator of how well a college or university

does in positioning itself as a fulcrum for job placement. This aspiration to enable its graduates with employment should still be one of the major purposes that an institute should strive for. It just costs too much money and effort to do so otherwise, and would be an injustice. To weaken this purpose by swapping it out, neglecting it or burying it should not be the response. Standing up to the tremendous challenge America now faces in the fight to bring meaning to our lives is showing responsibility. Basic needs such as paying our bills, owning a house, providing medical coverage—some of those elemental issues facing us all.

That said, I realize each student needs to decide what they want out of their higher-level learning experience. I recognize there may be some that do not put a high value on finding a job after graduation, are not that concerned with how they'll compete against other applicants. They want to expand their minds in areas that perhaps do not readily translate into any position. They feel learning well and gaining good sense are paramount. But my guess is that most students expect to get employed within a reasonable time after graduation...no more than say six months.

As we all know, America is facing a tremendous unemployment challenge right now. Millions are out of work, it's affecting all types of applicants. I see it everywhere.

It's my humble opinion there are serious errors in the mission and curriculums of many of our higher learning institutions and conveying properly how those institutions are responding in positive ways to this crisis.

As an outsider, I'm convinced that Andreasen made a mistake in leading this issue of FOCUS with his message of neglecting the needs of why most students attend Andrews.

John Sherman  
(MBA '87)

### Editor's Note:

Please see page 2, "from the President's desk."

## Upcoming Tours

Alumni and friends of Andrews University are invited to join the following 2013 tours offered by Merlene Ogden, dean emerita of Andrews University:

### Venice and the Po River Cruise

June 8–16, 2013

#### Extension possible to Florence and Rome, June 16–21, 2013

During the cruise we will visit the World Heritage Sites of Venice, Ravenna, Padua, Bologna and Verona. The second week will include visits to the important historical and cultural sites in Florence and Rome, including Michelangelo's *David*, the Roman Colosseum, St. Peter's Cathedral, the Sistine Chapel, and much more.

### Australia and New Zealand Adventure

October 9–27, 2013

#### Extension to the Island of Fiji, October 27–30, 2013

In Australia we will visit Sydney with its outstanding landmarks and the Cairns area with a full-day exploration of the Great Barrier Reef.

In New Zealand we will enjoy the beauties of both the North and South Islands from Christchurch, to Queenstown, to Milford Sound, to Rotorua, to Auckland. We will have three days getting acquainted with the lovely island of Fiji.

### Full information is available upon request to:

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