

ROYSON JAMES BS '78

What is the true measure of a good teacher? Royson James knows. He developed a love for oratory, litany, and drama at Andrews University and attributes this to the nurture of Dr. Elaine Giddings and Dr. Luanne Bauer who he deems "my heroes."

James began his career in print journalism in 1979 with *Contrast*, Toronto's first black community weekly newspaper. He joined the staff of the *Toronto Star* in 1981 and has covered the city hall beat for several surrounding communities, served as Bureau Chief, medical writer, editorial writer, and is presently a city columnist specializing in municipal affairs. He also currently serves his community as a member of the Toronto Fire Department's advisory board.

In 2001, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists recognized James with the Bridge Award which is given to communication specialists who, through their work, form a bridge between their profession and the church. He also received the 2001 African Canadian Achievement Award for Media.

During the 2000 General Conference Session in Toronto, James met with a team of communicators to brief them on the local media, provide contacts and intelligence, and suggest ideas to increase the visibility of Adventists.

A native of Jamaica, James and his family emigrated to Toronto, Canada, in 1969. James graduated from Harbord Collegiate in downtown Toronto in 1973 before coming to Andrews University to pursue his Communication degree. He majored in Communication with an emphasis

in Print Journalism and edited the *Student Movement* during the 1977-78 school year. "The four best years of my life, that's how I remember AU," he said. While at Andrews, he was involved with several productions

They have enjoyed raising Tanish, 26, Sheldon, 22, Darnell, 18, and Avalon, 9, together. Sheldon received his degree in communication in 2003 from his father's alma mater.

For his significant contributions to



President Andraesen recognized the honored alumni during at Pioneer Memorial Church on April 17. Pictured l-r: Niels-Erik Andraesen, Rebekah Wang-Cheng, Royson James, Ruth DePaiva, and Rebecca May, director of Alumni Services.

including "The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail," and his own original voice choir composition to commemorate Black History Month. James also got his introduction to broadcasting with the campus radio station, WAUS 90.7 FM.

James is an active member of the Toronto West Seventh-day Adventist Church and serves as director of that church's Pathfinder Club. He also produces dramatic musicals for area churches, including an annual Easter musical presentation.

Audrey Chambers became Mrs. Royson James on September 23, 1979.

journalism, and devotion to his church and community, Andrews University honors Royson James as an International Honored Alum 2004.

REBEKAH WANG-CHENG BA '74 BOARD OF TRUSTEES 1990-2000

Rebekah Wang-Cheng developed a love for people at an early age. She spent many of her childhood years in Galesburg, Ill., visiting with the residents at her parents' nursing home. When it came time to choose a career,

medicine was an obvious choice.

Wang-Cheng graduated from Andrews University in 1974 with a major in Behavioral Sciences and a piano minor. She also took a year out of her studies and taught English to middle-school students in Hong Kong for a year. Hong Kong is where she decided on a medical career. "On the weekends, the missionary doctors would invite me over and I got to see firsthand how the medical field was a way to reach people."

Loma Linda University in California was the next stop on Wang-Cheng's educational journey. She earned her doctor of medicine degree in 1978 and completed her specialty training in internal medicine at the same institution. She currently enjoys her own private practice affiliated with the St. Helena Hospital in California and is a clinical professor of medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin, where she previously served as professor of medicine.

Wang-Cheng has received many honors, including the Golden Apple Teaching Award from the Medical College of Wisconsin, and was elected to the Society of Teaching Scholars at the same institution. In 2000, she was chosen as the Outstanding Adventist Woman of the Year, and in 2001, Andrews University named her one of their 100 Honored Women of the Century. She is also one of 350 women featured in the National Library of Medicine Exhibition celebrating America's Women Physicians.

Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society, Phi Kappa Phi, the Society of General Internal Medicine, and the Christian Medical and Dental Association have all invited Wang-Cheng to be a part of their organizations. While part of the Milwaukee

community during her tenure at the Medical College of Wisconsin, Wang-Cheng authored a popular question-and-answer column titled "Dear Dr. Becky" for the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* which remains syndicated on the internet. While teaching in Wisconsin, she commuted to California frequently to film the "Lifestyle Magazine" TV program of Faith For Today, which she cohosted with Dan Matthews.

Wang-Cheng recalls her years in Berrien Springs as some of the best. She said: "I've wondered how my life would have turned out if I'd gone to an ivy-league school rather than Andrews, and I'm convinced that all my small successes are from following God's plan for my life. AU was a major catalyst in that journey. Where else could I have experienced faculty who knew and cared about me personally and with whom I keep in touch 30 years later! My time at AU was only the beginning of friendships and learning that will continue throughout eternity. That's the difference between 'famous U' and AU."

Her greatest accomplishments are in the form of her three sons: Christopher, 23, a graduating fine-arts major at Pacific Union College, Angwin, Calif.; Andrew, 21, a graduating business major at Santa Clara University in California; and Ryan, 15, a sophomore at PUC Preparatory School, Angwin, Calif. When she has free time, Wang-Cheng enjoys tennis, eating healthfully (except for dark chocolate), playing the piano, being active in her church, reading, biking, roller-blading, and traveling.

For her commitment to humanity through medicine and through her media ministry, Andrews University honors Rebekah Wang-Cheng as Honored Alumna 2004.

ITAMAR DEPAIVA
MA '80, DMIN '83
RUTH DEPAIVA
MAT '80, MA '84, PHD '98

Itamar and Ruth DePaiva have spent their married life traveling the globe in dedication to God and the Adventist Church. Having served in different locations in Africa, South America, Mexico, and the United States, their mission is truly global.

Itamar has produced several articles and papers in four languages, and specializes in holistic stewardship which he has been investigating, implementing and teaching since 1970. Ruth has worked with family counseling, drug-addiction prevention and recovery, and developing marriage-commitment seminars. They are currently under appointment to Sudan, Africa, Itamar as president and Ruth as head of the education department for the Sudan Field Mission.

In December 2003, the DePaivas' lives were forever changed. Their son, **RUIVAR** (BA '85, MSA '04), his wife, **MARGARETH** (att.), and their children, Larisson, and Melissa, were serving as missionaries in Palau, a tiny cluster of islands in the South Pacific, when an intruder broke into their home. Intent on theft, he attacked each family member as they were awakened until they were all dead except ten-year-old Melissa.

The remarkable story of the state funeral held in the island nation was recounted by John Rutledge, an attorney with the State Government of Palau. He reported that nearly four hours into the funeral, Ruth DePaiva invited the intruder's mother to the stage, gave her a hug, and forgave the family. Earlier in the week, she had met with the intruder,

and had forgiven him as well. After imploring the Palauans not to blame the family, she said, "We raise our children; we educate them. We teach them right from wrong. That is all we, as mothers, can do. They have their own minds."

Itamar and Ruth are now relocating to Berrien Springs to raise their

granddaughter. The DePaivas' example of God-given grace in the face of great tragedy has been humanly incomprehensible, but is a story that begs to be told to the larger community, to bring glory to the God who has sustained them.

For their exemplary service to the Adventist Church, their outstanding

loyalty to Andrews University, their Christlike spirit of forgiveness and love, and for their commitment to raising their granddaughter to love Jesus, Andrews University honors Itamar and Ruth DePaiva as International Honored Alumni 2004.



BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES 40-YEAR REUNION: The department celebrated its 40th anniversary with a reunion of faculty, staff and students at a reception on Sabbath, April 17. Pictured are three longtime faculty: Donald Gillespie, Dick Proctor and John Berecz, each having taught for at least 35 years.



"CHAT AND CHEW:" On Sabbath, Feb. 21, 2004, Hal & Betty Phillips invited 24 Andrews alumni to their newly remodeled residence in Howey-in-the-Hills, Fla. They enjoyed tasty food and fellowship while reminiscing about the "good ole" days.



REUNION OF PHOTO ALUMNI: On April 17, former photography professor and current Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Don May, was surprised by many of his former students as part of a celebration in Smith Hall honoring his teaching career at AU. May called the gathering of photography graduates an "emotional, inspirational and invigorating experience," as he was reunited with former students who spanned his 25-year career.

While on campus, photography alumni met again on Sunday, April 18, to consult with current teachers about the future of the industry and the future of the photo program. Alumni also expressed their willingness to assist in career networking for current students.