

Alumni gatherings

Chattanooga, Tennessee

Sunday, March 29, 2009



The response from alumni in the area was phenomenal—we packed two banquet rooms at Provino’s Italian Restaurant. Alumni in attendance represented eight decades, from **Raymond Brodersen** (BA ’39) to recent alumna **Vinita Sauder** (PhD ’08).

Asheville, North Carolina

Tuesday, March 31, 2009



Some of the North Carolina alumni group enjoying each other’s company. Clockwise from left: Betty Hughes, Ross Hughes (DIP ’44), Gerrie St. Claire (Att.), Glenn St. Claire (FF), Lynn Hughes, Glen Hughes (CERT ’73)

There was a bounty of warm southern hospitality at the alumni gathering held at the Asiana Grand Buffet. Attendees included such amazing alums as **Kathryn B. Myers Parker** (AT, SF), world-renowned author of poetry and more than 50 songs (many of which are used in children’s Sabbath School classes, as well as this year’s theme song for the North Carolina camp meeting), and honored alums and President Council members **David** (MA ’57, EdD ’82) and **Marilyn** (MAT ’75) **Bauer**.

Alumni Picnic for May Grads

Thursday, April 30, 2009



Many graduates turned out for the festive Mexican-themed “picnic,” held in the lobby of Chan Shun Hall due to inclement weather. Alumni Board members, **President Andreasen** (MA ’65, BD ’66) and faculty members came to celebrate with them. Each graduate was given a leather folio, embossed with the Andrews seal, to commemorate their Andrews experience as they begin their professional journey as new members of the Andrews University Alumni Association.

Somerset West, South Africa

Wednesday, May 20, 2009



Andrews University alumni in the Western Cape province of South Africa got together May 20 for the first-ever alumni gathering. More than 20 people showed up for dinner at Feast Buffet in Somerset West to fellowship and hear the latest news from Andrews. About half of the alumni present studied on the main Andrews campus in Berrien Springs; the other half of the alums earned their Andrews degrees on the campus of Helderberg College. The dinner was hosted by Andrews University director of development Chris LeBrun, who was in South Africa to work with the development staff of Helderberg College.

Alumni spotlight

“I certainly think in the big picture Andrews has shaped who I am today.” When you’re the top scholar in social sciences, a statement like that certainly polishes your alma mater.

David R. Williams (MDiv '79) recently became the most cited black scholar in social sciences according to the *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education* (JBHE). Each year JBHE publishes a citation index indicating which scholars have been cited the most by academic peers during the year. This year, Dr. Williams placed first with 398 citations, and broke a 14-year first place streak held by the now second-most-cited scholar.

Williams’ research has focused largely on racial disparity in the field of health. He has been widely published in academic journals and has been involved with health policy at the national level. Williams was appointed by former President Clinton in an advisory capacity on the topic of healthcare, and was also appointed by former President George H.W. Bush to look at health-data systems.

“What my work emphasizes is that where an individual lives, works, learns, plays and worships can effect our health more than going to see a physician,” Williams says, also noting, “As a society we have a social obligation to remove the barriers from those who cannot make a choice for better health.” He describes the lack of fresh-food vendors in the innercity, for example, as a real and often underestimated problem.

Williams still remembers his Andrews days when he attended the Seminary. He says, “The quality of the intellectual challenge that I encountered at Andrews among the theologians was one of the most rigorous experiences of my academic career.” He also remembers the friends he made in the Caribbean Club on campus.

Although finishing Andrews with an MDiv degree, Williams says although he didn’t go into pastoral work, he has found ministry in



The Williams family, L–R: Alysia, Delia, Opal (Reed) and David R. Williams

his field. During his study at Andrews he became convinced of the “centrality of health to the ministry of the church.” He adds, “Jesus spent more time in healing than in preaching,” and says that he feels he hasn’t left the ministry as much he has made a ministry out of health.

Williams is married to **Opal (Reed) Williams** (att.) and has two children including a daughter, Alysia, who will be attending Andrews University in the fall. His sister, **Lena Caesar** (BS '86), is associate professor of speech-language pathology & audiology and chair of that department at Andrews University. Williams currently resides in Chestnut Hill, Mass., and is a professor of both African and African American studies, as well as a Norman Professor of Public Health, at Harvard University. He has also participated twice in the Detroit Marathon.



Three-generational challenge

Current student **Courtney Tait** was up against her father, **Brad Tait** (BS '81) and grandfather, **Fred Curry** (att.), as she competed in the annual Beach2Bank event held Friday, April 24, 2009. No word yet on who clocked in with the best time.