

## Transformative relationships

*Skip Bell retires after years of service at the Seminary*

AFTER YEARS IN PASTORAL MINISTRY, AS A departmental director and then as a conference administrator, Skip Bell received a call from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary asking him to fill a vacant faculty position. Following numerous conversations and prayerful thought, Skip decided to join the Andrews community.

“I felt God was impressing me that I had something to share,” he reflects. “When God leads, it’s not that He is saying ‘you cannot serve where you are’ or ‘this is the only thing I desire for you.’ I don’t believe that there is just one path, but I do believe that God at times opens doors and offers a sense of how we might serve.”

During his nearly 19 years at the Seminary, Skip served as professor of Christian leadership. When not teaching or working on research, he was instrumental in initiating and forming the group that founded the Christian Leadership Center. Skip also helped launch the *Journal of Applied Christian Leadership*, an academic journal still contributing thinking and research in the area of leadership. Most notably, Skip served as director of the Doctor of Ministry

program. Under his leadership, the program was completely redesigned and grew from 92 students to over 400.

When asked what has been the most impactful about his time at Andrews, Skip talked about his relationships with students, faculty and staff. He and his wife, Joni, regularly had both undergraduate and Seminary students over to their house. “The interaction with students where ideas have been exchanged, worldviews have been explored and a sense of meaning and purpose have formed—those are the most exciting things about my years of service at Andrews,” he asserts.

“The greatest joy is in seeing people’s lives transformed, and it doesn’t happen by transferring information as much as through relationships,” he says. He seems to have made a conscious effort to consider the long-term impact of education for each student he interacted with. Skip explains, “We don’t simply serve people for four or five years of their life or, in the case of the Seminary, three years of their life. We serve a person with the rest of their life in mind. We’re forming life for outside the University.”



Now that he is retired, Skip and his wife are transitioning to live in an urban area south of Portland, Maine, near their son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren. They plan to stay busy with service and development projects in their new community. “We want to form a faith community that is open to post-Christian people who feel negatively about church membership,” he says. “We wish to serve the community in a way that forms a holistic view of life and opens the door to forming community that glorifies God apart from prioritizing and requiring church membership.”

## New title from Ann Gibson

*Dealing with business ethics with a Christian worldview*

ANNETTA GIBSON, PROFESSOR EMERITA, has recently completed a new book titled, “Honorable in Business: Business Ethics from a Christian Perspective.” Written with contributions from Professor Emeritus Daniel Augsburger, who passed away in 2004, this book combines a Christian worldview with business ethics to present Christians with a mental framework for approaching the world of business as an ethical Christian.

The book begins by laying the foundation for a Christian world view with principles garnered from Genesis and the Ten Commandments. It then applies these principles to a number of business ethics topics including employee rights, discrim-

ination, technology and privacy, insider trading and accounting fraud, and working internationally. The goal of the book is to help new and experienced employees in business consider how a Christian worldview foundationally impacts their ethical decision-making in their business careers.

Former dean of the School of Business Administration (1995–2006) and Hasso Endowed Chair for business ethics (2006–2013) at Andrews, Gibson is the current assistant to the General Conference treasurer for treasurer training. She lives in Berrien Springs, Michigan, and has published other work in several journals including the *Journal of Business Ethics* and the *Journal of Applied Christian Leadership*.

Augsburger taught at Andrews University in modern languages, religion and the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary from 1942–2003. His love of teaching and his students is honored by Andrews University’s annual teaching award being named the “Daniel A. Augsburger Excellence in Teaching Award.”

Ralph Trecartin, associate provost and dean of the College of Professions (formerly School of Business Administration), states that this book is “really an outstanding accomplishment, since to my knowledge this is the only book of its kind.”

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