

## Births & Adoptions

To Duncan and **Corey (Brace) Grodack** (BBA '98), a son, Brady Breton, born on June 8, 2011, in Winter Park, Fla.

**David** (MSPT '99) and **Ashley** (BS '98) **Whitaker** are proud to announce the birth of two baby boys—Denslow Price Whitaker and William Franklin Whitaker—and a baby girl, Molley Elizabeth Whitaker. The triplets were born Oct. 3, 2011.

## Deaths

**Richard Charles “Dick” Larson** (att., former faculty), 91, passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2011, in College Place, Wash.

Dick was born on Nov. 9, 1919, in St. Joseph, Mich., to Edward and Edith (Benke) Larson, Swedish and German immigrants. He lived his early life in southwestern Michigan and attended Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) in Berrien Springs. While there, he met and married **Evelyn May Myers** (att.) on Oct. 25, 1940. Dick and Evelyn moved to southern California, where he worked at Lockheed in Burbank on the assembly line for P-38 planes until 1944. He then served in the United States Navy until 1946.

Dick and Evelyn moved their growing family to La Sierra, Calif., where he attended La Sierra College (now La Sierra University) and graduated in 1951 with a business administration degree. He became business manager at Monterey Bay Academy in Watsonville, Calif.

In 1953, Dick went to Mountain View College on Mindanao in the southern Philippines. During the five years the family was in Asia he also served at Bangkok Sanitarium and Hospital in Thailand; Penang SDA Hospital in Malaysia, and Youngberg Memorial Hospital in Singapore. In 1958 the family returned to the United States, going to Lansing, Mich., where Dick completed his master's degree in business management in 1959.

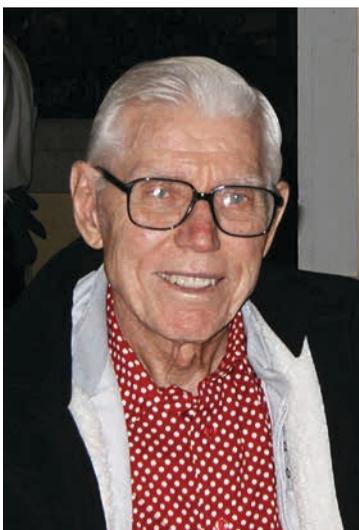
**Edward John Specht** (former faculty) was born July 29, 1915, at Loveland, Colo., and died near Spencer, Ind., on Nov. 9, 2011, at the age of 96. He was professor of mathematics, emeritus, at both Andrews University and Indiana University South Bend.

Edward married Mary Josephine Michel on Dec. 25, 1938. They had two children, Lahna (born 1942), presently living in North Carolina, and Frederick (born 1944), of Bloomington, Ind.; one grandson, Rob Richardson, residing in North Carolina, and two great-grandchildren. Mary died March 26, 2008, in Bloomington.

Specht attended Champion Academy and received his BS from Walla Walla College in 1939; he then studied at the University of Colorado, where he received an MS in 1941. He did advanced study at Washington University (St. Louis) from 1941–44 and at Brown University in the summer of 1945. Specht received his PhD from the University of Minnesota in 1949. He was an instructor of mathematics at both Washington University and the University of Minnesota, and was professor and chair of the Andrews University Department of Mathematics from 1947–1972. He was professor of mathematics at Indiana University South Bend from 1972–1986.

His publications include his PhD thesis on conformal mapping and several papers on potential theory with Harold T. Jones, for whom he served informally as thesis advisor. Harold received his PhD from Brown University in 1958. In his later years, Ed wrote a treatise on Euclidean Geometry with Harold Jones.

Specht was a member (since 1949) of the Mathematical Association of America, a 50-year life member and Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), a member of the American Mathematical Society, Pi Mu Epsilon and the Society of Sigma Xi.



More than 20 of Specht's former students at Andrews University have pursued doctorates in mathematics.

In 1984, Andrews University conferred upon him the honorary degree of DSc. Quoting from the citation for this degree: “Influential in the formation of Adventist philosophy in science and mathematics, Dr. Specht’s foresight and leadership proved critical in the development of the resources for, and the establishment of the computer center and computer science instruction at Andrews University.” He was the principal moving force in the establishment of a cooperative engineering program with the University of Michigan in the early 1950s. This provided a route through the Adventist educational system to high-quality preparation in that field.

Specht was a formative person in the development of science education and research on the Andrews campus. In the 1960s and 70s he guided the conduct of a large number of institutes for secondary school mathematics teachers, funded by the National Science Foundation. Quoting again from his honorary degree citation: “During his tenure at Andrews University, Specht negotiated a contract with the Air Force Office of Scientific Research to do basic research in potential theory, thus becoming the first Adventist to attract large-scale support for research aside from the medical sciences.”

Edward Specht will be remembered as a person of wide-ranging interests in science, mathematics, humanities and the arts. He lived a life filled with Christian kindness and integrity, always encouraging his students regardless of background, race or ethnicity. The depth of his social consciousness was legendary. He was always ready to take the part of the underdog. Truly this man was a giant.

(Obituary and photo courtesy of Don Rhoads, associate professor of mathematics, emeritus)

From 1960 to 1971, Dick taught business administration and accounting at La Sierra College. He completed his PhD in business management at Michigan State University in 1968, and earned his CPA shortly thereafter. Dick also taught at Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Texas, and at Andrews University, where he completed his teaching career in 1985. He and Evelyn retired in Sonoma, Calif., and then moved to Victorville, Calif., in 1989 to be near their sons. There he served as a Citizen on Patrol for the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department.

Following Evelyn's death in January 1998, Dick married Doris Milelli and lived in Florida and California before settling in Walla Walla in 2006.

Dick is survived by his older brother Frank Larson, sons and daughters-in-law Richard C. Larson Jr., Donald D. and Barbara Larson,

David N. and Heidi Larson, and Robert E. Larson. He also leaves six grandchildren, Jodi Larson-Wagner, Gerry Larson, Julie Larson-Voshell, Eric Larson, Richard C. Larson III, and Grace Larson; as well as ten great-grandchildren.

**Esperanza Alvarez-Muniz** (M.Div '07), Esperanza Alvarez-Muniz, assistant dean of women at Lamson Hall, passed away Friday, Oct. 14, 2011. She was born Sept. 1, 1970, in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, to Jose Manuel Alvarez and Lidia Mercedes Duran.

Esperanza attended Hunter College in New York where she majored in Black and Puerto Rican Studies and graduated in 1979 with a double major in Spanish Literature. In 2007 she graduated from Andrews University with a Master of Divinity.

Esperanza's passion was always for young

people. As a child, Esperanza would often gather her cousins and baby brother and pretend she was their teacher. Often she would have 12 or more participants in her class. She led Pathfinders, taught youth Sabbath School, worked as a bilingual education teacher in the public schools of New York City and spent two years working as an elementary-school teacher at Bronx-Manhattan Seventh-day Adventist School in New York City. Always looking for another way to minister, Esperanza felt God was calling her to do more. While preparing a youth Sabbath school program, she was encouraged to attend a ministerial training seminar led by José Cortez. At the seminar, a call went out for young people to do the work of preparing the next generation. Esperanza asked God to show her what His will was. After talking to Pastor Cortez, Esperanza

**Robert "Bob" J. Robinson** (BA '55), 84, of Niles, Mich., passed away Thursday, Oct. 13, 2011. He was born Jan. 22, 1927, to the late Phillip and Florence (McHattie) Robinson.

Bob spent his first nine years of life in Battle Creek, Mich., and after relocating with his parents to Corning, N.Y., attended and graduated from Union Springs Academy. He is a WWII veteran and was drafted into the U.S. Army-Air Corps in 1943, serving first as a communications specialist/radio operator at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Ariz., and later as a medical technician at Mather Air Field in Sacramento, Calif.

After his discharge, he attended Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Mass., before transferring to Emmanuel Missionary College in 1945 to study business administration and French. He married **Martha Hlad** (former staff) on Oct. 15, 1950.

Bob took a sabbatical from school to work as an announcer and remote broadcast engineer for WCBA Radio in Corning, N.Y. In 1951, he and Martha moved to Chicago, Ill., where he first worked in sales for Clarke Sanding & Equipment Co., and later for Dunn & Bradstreet as a credit investigator. He returned to Emmanuel Mission College and completed his bachelor's degree in 1955.

Following graduation, he was hired by the *Faith for Today* television ministry in Forest Hills, N.Y., where he worked as director of the film department. While in New York, Bob began studies toward earning a Master of Business Administration at The City College of New York.

During the winter of 1960, Bob and his family moved to Takoma Park, Md., where he served as assistant business manager at



Columbia Union College, now Washington Adventist University. While at CUC, he attended George Washington University in Washington, D.C., completing the requirements for his MBA from The City College of New York.

In 1968 he was hired by Union College in Lincoln, Neb., to serve as business manager. While there, he was active in the Downtown Lincoln Chapter of Kiwanis International and served twice as their president.

In 1976, Bob rejoined the faculty at Columbia Union College, serving as chair of the business department. He also tied his interest in teaching together with his passion for flying and cofounded a flying club for students and faculty. One year later, he was hired by Andrews University to serve as director of personnel and student finance. During his

20-year tenure, he was active in the St. Joseph Chapter of Kiwanis International, serving as their president from 1987-88. He was also involved in the Personnel Roundtable of Southwest Michigan.

His interests included, first and foremost his family, service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, flying as a private pilot and being an award-winning amateur photographer with the Berrien Springs Photo Club.

Bob is survived by Martha, his wife of 61 years, also of Niles; his children **Karolee Robinson** (BS '82) of Chicago, Ill., and **Stephen** (BS '83) and Michelle Robinson of Lancaster, Calif.; grandchildren Stephen Eiji Robinson of Orange County, Calif., Satoshi Erik Robinson of Loma Linda, Calif., and Esther Mei Ling Robinson of Lancaster, Calif.; and three great-grandchildren, Kaelynn, Christian and Elijah Robinson, all of Orange County, Calif.

decided to attend the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.

While a student at the Seminary, Esperanza worked as a student dean at Lamson Hall. After graduation from the Seminary, she returned to teach at Bronx-Manhattan. Lydia Morales, a parent of a Bronx-Manhattan student, remembers, "She was my son's teacher. We shared so many things that year: the happiness of her nuptials, the sadness of a student's death, the triumph of more than one student, too many things to list...she was an excellent teacher. Never a harsh word was heard from her lips. She imparted not only her knowledge but her kind and Christ-like manner to her students and to those she came in contact with."

In May 2008, Esperanza married Paul Muniz, whom she met while she was fulfilling her NADEI requirements (North American Division Evangelism Institute). Esperanza had asked God to send her a sign when the time was right for her to marry: her future husband would read her Joshua 1:9. Paul and Esperanza began to grow their friendship, and one day, God led Paul to read Joshua 1:9. Esperanza said the Lord had confirmed that they were to be husband and wife.

That same year, Esperanza received

an invitation to return to Lamson Hall as assistant dean of women. Two months after her marriage, she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. But her indomitable spirit and love for the women in the dorm wouldn't allow her to quit work while she underwent treatment. Two years later, after two surgeries and nine sessions of chemotherapy, she was declared cancer-free.

Esperanza means "hope" in Spanish, and Dean Muniz truly was hope, inspiration and joy to all those who knew her.

She is survived by her husband, Paul, her sister Dilia Alvarez; her brothers Rhadames Duran, Ignacio Alvarez and Jose Manuel Alvarez; her mother, Lidia Mercedes Duran; seven nieces, five nephews and one grandniece.

**Arthur "Jack" Anders** (BA '48, MA '59), 95, of Spencerville, Md., passed away Sept. 14, 2011 at Montgomery General Hospital, Md.

His devotion to God began in the Roman Catholic faith in his birthplace of Marietta, Ohio. As a child he aspired to be a priest. His response to God's love blossomed into a lifelong commitment upon his baptism into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1940.

He and his wife Betty Jo met in 1936. She

worked at a Woolworth's department store in Cleveland, Ohio, across the street from an ice cream parlor that Jack colaunched. They married in 1937 and lived with Betty Jo's parents in Indianapolis, Ind., a time and place that led to Bible studies and a connection to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Their daughter Judy was born in 1942.

In 1944, Jack and Betty Jo moved to Berrien Springs, Mich., so Jack could attend college with ministry in mind. While there, he and Betty Jo lived at Frontenac, a group home where they served as house parents to dozens of returned GIs. He went on to earn his Master of Social Work from the University of Maryland.

Upon graduation in 1948, Jack became boy's dean at Broadview Academy in Illinois. In the following years, they moved to several towns in Illinois, then to Arizona, and finally to Maryland in 1961.

Jack's many talents led to jobs as a pipe organ tuner, an inspector at the Indianapolis General Motors plant, outfitted to make aircraft engines during World War II; a soda-fountain "soda jerk" in Cleveland; a pastor and chaplain at Hinsdale Hospital; head of social work at Washington Adventist Hospital; chaplain at Cedarcroft Psychiatric

**Mercedes (Habenicht) Dyer** (BA '40, former faculty), 94, of Berrien Springs, Mich., passed away on Friday, Sept. 30, 2011, at Lakeland Regional Medical Center, St. Joseph, Mich.

She was born July 8, 1917, in Argentina, to Judson Power and Federica Elisa Habenicht. At the age of four, her family returned from mission service and settled in Michigan.

After graduation from Emmanuel Missionary College (Andrews University) in 1940 with a French major, Mercedes worked at EMC, Shenandoah Valley Academy and Cedar Lake Academy as a teacher and dean of women.

In 1947 she graduated from the University of Michigan with a master's degree in education. She then went to River Platte College in Argentina (where her parents had taught and her grandfather had established a hospital) as dean of women. Returning to the United States five years later, she became dean of women and vice president for student affairs at Columbia Union College in Maryland.

On June 27, 1954, Mercedes married Fred Dyer. Having completed her doctoral degree from the University of Michigan in educational



guidance and counseling, they moved to Berrien Springs in 1961 where she became a professor in the department of education at Andrews University. She later served as the chairperson of this department from 1978 to 1982.

After her retirement in 1982 as professor of educational psychology and counseling, emerita, she and Fred traveled extensively, teaching, giving conferences and volunteering with Maranatha. She was an avid genealogist who has provided a wealth of information about her family. In the course of her life, she authored several books and numerous articles, and was a dedicated Bible student who loved nothing more than to study with anyone who was interested.

She was preceded in death by her husband, **Fred** (MA '59, MA '65), on Nov. 18, 2003. She is survived by her stepsons, Bill and Dennis Dyer; 12 grandchildren, and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Mercedes will be remembered as a hard worker who loved God supremely and spent her life helping those around her.

Hospital in Maryland; and a private practice as a psychiatric social worker and counselor.

Jack would often ask, “When was the last time you had fun?” He lived that motto throughout his life. In May 2011, he visited the Grand Canyon for the first time at age 95. He took great joy in his ability to share the financial blessings God had bestowed on him and Betty Jo. His philanthropy was truly a Godsend to many people and he generously supported many church and school projects.

Betty Jo, his cherished wife of 62 years, preceded him in death in 1999. He is survived by his daughter Judy and her husband, Erv; his grandchildren, Tammy and Jamie; Tammy’s husband Dan, his great-grandchildren, Megan, Kaitlyn, Brittany, and James; and four special step-grandchildren, Sue, **Pam Bratcher** (CERT ’80, AIT ’81), **Sandy Goodall** (att.), and **Gary Koch** (att.) and their children.

**Darrell Allen Nicola** (MA ’63) was born April 19, 1929, in Los Angeles, Calif., to Tesla and Ruth Nicola. He died August 26, 2011, in Fallbrook, Calif.

Darrell was an ordained minister of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. After five years as a church pastor he became a chaplain at Portland Adventist Hospital for eight years. He served as a chaplain at Harding Hospital in Worthington, Ohio. Darrell became a supervisor of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) and established a certified program at Kettering Medical Center in Kettering, Ohio. He also established a CPE program at Florida Hospital in Orlando, Florida.

He is survived by his wife Sonja; his son Allen, daughter Nanci Robertson, daughter-in-law Maricela, step-grandson Joshua, and grandson Noah.

**Dorothy Sheddan Beardsley-Culbert-White** (BA ’35) died August 17, 2011, at age 97, in Reed City, Mich. She was born Feb. 14, 1914, and grew up in Jacksonville, Fla. After attending Southern Missionary (a junior college at the time) for three years, she took the train up to Berrien Springs in 1933 to complete her Adventist education.

She married **Eldred J. Beardsley** (BA ’35, deceased) in 1936, and they worked to establish Peewee Valley Junior Academy in Kentucky, then moved to Battle Creek Academy, Michigan, in 1943. They worked

at Cedar Lake Academy in Michigan from 1947–1955. The Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists hired Eldred to be the treasurer and maintain the church office for the Battle Creek Tabernacle from 1955–65, and then for the Detroit Metropolitan Church from 1965–71, when he died.

Dorothy took over his responsibilities for a year or so before moving to Grand Ledge Academy as bookkeeper from 1972–75. She married Marion Culbert in 1974 and when she retired in 1975, they moved to Mammoth Spring, Ark., and worked to build up a new church for nearby Cherokee Village.

After Marion passed away in 1984, she spent 18 months as the bookkeeper for Holbrook Indian School in Arizona (1986–88), returning to her home in Mammoth Spring until 1999, when she moved back to Michigan to help her granddaughter with a new baby.

Dorothy loved going to alumni functions, and received an honorable mention in the quest for Andrews’ 100 most influential women. Her musicianship and wise counsel are greatly missed.

She married **H. Hampton White** (MA ’68) in 2002, and they worked together to build a new facility for the Reed City, Mich., congregation.

Dorothy is survived by her husband, H. Hampton White; a son Lawrence E. Beardsley, of Wildwood, Fla.; three daughters: **Laura Long** (BS ’61), of Rochester, Minn.; **Donna Stilson**, of Escondido, Calif.; **Ellen Murdick** (former staff), of Reed City, Mich.; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**Frank W. Hale Jr.** (HON LHD ’06) died July 27, 2011, at the age of 84. He served as president of Oakwood University from 1966 to 1971 and later helped grant nearly \$15 million to minority graduate students at Ohio State University. His promotion of scholarships for minorities helped The Ohio State University become the top producer of black PhDs in the 1970s.

Hale taught a class each year he served as Oakwood president, and established the school’s department of public relations. Under his tenure, Oakwood joined the United Negro College Fund. He served as president from 1966 to 1971, before accepting the position at Ohio State as associate dean of the graduate school, chair of the fellowship committee and professor of communication.

Hale served as a professor at Ohio State

from 1971 to 1988, before his appointment as vice provost. A campus building is named after him—Hale Hall, which also houses the Frank W. Hale Jr. Black Cultural Center.

A native of Kansas City, Missouri, Hale attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees in communication and political science in 1950 and 1951. He earned a PhD in communication and political science from Ohio State in 1955.

Hale was also awarded a post-doctoral fellowship in English Literature from the University of London in 1960.

Hale served as a professor at Oakwood from 1951 to 1959 and chaired the department of English at Central State University from 1959 to 1966. He lectured at more than 300 colleges and universities.

He later received honorary doctoral degrees from Wilberforce University, Shaw University, University of Nebraska, Capital University, La Sierra and Andrews University. The first two of his three retirement attempts were unsuccessful. Hale served as executive assistant for the president at Kenyon College from 1989–1992 and as distinguished university representative and consultant in the office of the president at Ohio State from 1999–2005.

He is survived by his wife Mignon Scott-Hale, a retired school teacher, and three children. His first wife, Ruth, preceded him in death in 2001.

**Warren M. Clark** (BA ’49), 91, died on March 13, 2011, in Boulder, Colo. He was born Jan. 10, 1920, on a farm near Sturgeon Bay, Wis. On Jan. 13, 1944, he married Mary Elizabeth Johnson in Battle Creek, Mich. He graduated from Battle Creek Academy in 1937 and earned a bachelor’s degree from Emmanuel Missionary College in 1949. He served in the Army in the U.S. and India during WWII. Later he earned an MBA from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. His life was devoted to medical administration in Battle Creek and St. Helena, Calif., and he served as administrator of Boulder Memorial Hospital for 21 years until his retirement at the end of 1987. He was predeceased by his wife, Mary, in 1995. He is survived by a son, Steven Warren Clark, of Boulder.