



Fanny Andersen

Fanny Andersen, a 1999 graduate of the Andrews Theological Seminary, is the subject of this issue's Aluminati—a Q & A column featuring a randomly selected Andrews University alumnus.

FOCUS: What made you decide to come to the AU Theological Seminary?

FANNY ANDERSEN: Way ahead of my decision, my brother got wind of my interest in going to a seminary, and a package of application materials (from AU) arrived in less than two days which answered my prayer for God's leading: the first application would be the seminary I would pursue!

FOCUS: How many other women were enrolled in the MDiv program while you were here?

ANDERSEN: There were, perhaps, a couple ahead of me, and a couple of others started more or less at the same time I did. A few more enrolled during my second year. At graduation there were two of us in my class.

FOCUS: What are a couple of your fondest AU memories?

ANDERSEN: I remember John Baldwin's valuable advice and support, and singing in his Seminary Choir was a delight. I valued our time interacting and praying together. Sylvia (his wife) is a gracious and caring lady, and I also thank her for her friendship.

The dean, Werner Vyhmeister, and his associate dean, Ben Shoun, were extremely kind and generous in accepting me and guiding me, and I am indebted dearly.

As an AU singer, working with Stephen Zork was a delight. It uplifted my soul most of the time, allowing me to focus on God's wonderful acts and His awesome love.

Jim and Ann Fisher were my spiritual mentors, and they played a major role in making me feel part of the AU Seminary community. The Sabbath lunches and social activities they hosted were my physical and spiritual nourishment for each week. I felt like part of their family, and theirs was a "home away from home."

Ruth and Don James also opened their home to me on many occasions, and Ruth helped me substantially with an important school-related project. As with the Fishers, I felt like a family member in their home. Their love and generous way of supporting me were heaven-sent—I needed them more than they ever realized.

Bill and Sandra Richardson are another wonderful couple that opened their home to me. Specifically, Sandra taught me everything in my job at the physical therapy department. When I was around them I felt closer to God's spirituality and love.

Basically, I had a tremendous experience with all my professors and instructors. I could go on and on.

FOCUS: What was your favorite class?

ANDERSEN: Dwight Nelson was my preaching professor, and his class was the highlight of my entire seminarian experience. He showed a real interest in my progress then, and he is continually encouraging and supporting my ministry today.

FOCUS: What was the most challenging course you took here?

ANDERSEN: Religious Liberty was the most difficult, as it turned out, because it included a lot of American history and other information I was not familiar with. My background didn't help me any in this sense. But I liked George Knight and I enjoyed his expertise and his instruction.

FOCUS: What have you been doing since you graduated?

ANDERSEN: I was called to do my dual pastoral/clinical internship in CPE/Chaplaincy at Shadygrove hospital in Silver Spring, Maryland, and since March 2001, I have been working for the Ontario Conference as a part-time Bible worker. Still, preaching is my passion.

FOCUS: You seem to have a lot of energy and enthusiasm. What's your secret?

ANDERSEN: My joy and enthusiasm come from others. Their presence, communication, action, sharing, and smiling gives me an opportunity to exchange spiritual contact and a shared love for God.

FOCUS: All in all, it sounds as if you really enjoyed your AU experience.

ANDERSEN: AU is the place to be; when I am away, I feel like I'm missing out. I wish God would provide me with an opportunity to serve at AU or return there to study further. If God is willing, I am ready.