

2011 Spirit of Philanthropy Awards

The Spirit of Philanthropy Banquet, which took place at Dining Services on Thursday, Sept. 29, 2011, is the kickoff event for Alumni Homecoming Weekend. Three Spirit of Philanthropy Awards were presented and 217 new members were inducted into the Golden Hearts Club.

Frank (DP '44, BS '47) and Anna **Damazo** were recognized for their lead donation toward the construction of Damazo Hall. **Cletus Georges** (BS '87) was acknowledged for his consistent annual giving since graduating in 1987. **Bonnie Jean Hannah** (BA '42), who taught at Andrews University for 34 years before retiring, was honored for her foresight in establishing an endowment fund and estate plan to ensure her legacy continues.

Following are excerpts of the individual presentations to the award recipients.

Frank and Anna Damazo

Presented by David Faehner, vice president for University Advancement

We are glad that Frank and Anna Damazo are here today, along with their daughter Nancy and son-in-law John.

Today we live in a world that has many financial challenges, in some ways similar to life in the Depression of the 1930s. Yet many people who experienced these challenging years reflect back with fondness because it brought families closer together and [developed] a great respect for the Lord's protection of their lives.

Frank Damazo's family fits in this category. A large family with 10 children raised during the Depression by wise and frugal parents, who found a way to send all 10 children through the Adventist educational system, including elementary, high school, college and graduate programs. They were taught to serve others and give back.

The Damazos have made many contributions to our church and society. Allow me to share with you one. Frank and Anna heard the call to service after finishing medical school and serving in the military. They settled in the town of Frederick, Md., just 50 miles north of Washington D.C. The Lord had a reason for them to settle in this town.

After World War II, the U.S. Army decided to establish a program to study the threat of chemical and biological warfare. They selected Fort Detrick in Frederick, Md., for experimentation. The program was called Operation Whitecoat. The Seventh-day Adventist Church was approached and asked to encourage young Adventist men who were noncombatants [conscientious objectors] to volunteer as human "guinea pigs." The project began in 1954 and ended in 1973. More than 2,000 Adventist soldiers [most of whom were trained medics] served their country in this capacity.



President Andreasen, Anna Damazo, Frank Damazo

Anna and Frank Damazo became the shepherds of this flock, encouraging soldiers to attend their church, potlucks and worships, and often inviting them to eat and sleep at their home. One soldier put it this way: "The Damzos were a friend and a mentor to every one of us, showing great care and love." By the way, that soldier is here today [Chuck Randall].

In addition, Frank regularly kept in contact with the government medical staff to be sure "his boys" were being treated properly. Today the Damazos continue to shepherd the flock, regularly sending newsletters and conducting retreats.

I conclude by summarizing their philosophy of philanthropy: "All that we have done has been simply to glorify God, and not us, and to also pay back to those who sacrificially gave to establish these institutions." Thank you for giving us a new women's residence hall.

Cletus Georges

Presented by Jacqueline Spencer, annual giving coordinator

When we think of philanthropy, we often think of it in terms of the larger gifts that impact an organization almost instantly. While the amount is certainly encouraging, the gifts that I find most inspiring are not the multimillion-dollar gifts that come our way every so often, but rather the regular gifts that in their own way make a tremendous impact over time.

Born and raised in St. Thomas, V.I., Cletus Georges joined our Andrews family during his undergrad years and left in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science in zoology/biomedical. He continued his academic career at Cornell University Medical College in New York City where he graduated with his medical degree in 1991, listed as one of the urology research fellows. He went on to do his residency in both general surgery and urology at



President Andreasen and Cletus Georges

Northwestern University McGaw Medical Center, Chicago, Ill. He is currently a partner at Mid-Florida Urological Associates in Orlando, Fla., where he has practiced since 1999.

Cletus made his first gift to Andrews University in 1987 (the year he graduated) to the Class of 1987 Beaver Point class project. He gave \$12. Thank you, Dr. Georges. He continued to make generous contributions that resulted in a pattern of regular giving to the University, and also recently contributed a legacy gift to Buller Hall.

Cletus Georges is a member of both the Andrews University Board of Trustees and the President's Council. Over the years, he has made more than 40 gifts to the University, helping to support various departments and projects on campus, including the Howard Performing Arts Center, BSCF, the Andrews Study Bible project, the Fund for Andrews and the Department of Biology.

It is not merely the generosity of his gifts, but his faithful and consistent support over the course of almost 24 years that has made Cletus a superlative example of the Spirit of Philanthropy among the alumni of Andrews University.

Bonnie Jean Hannah

Presented by Tari Popp, director of Planned Giving & Trust Services

Bonnie Jean Hannah earned her bachelor's degree in business administration from Emmanuel Missionary College in 1942. She later completed a master's degree at Columbia University.

For the next 11 years she taught at five different Seventh-day Adventist academies and colleges. After that she says, "I just stayed put."

Joining the faculty at her alma mater here in Berrien Springs, in 1953, she "stayed put" until her retirement in 1987—a full 34 years.

She became an active part of the transformation of Emmanuel Missionary College into Andrews University as the school grew from 500 students to more than 3,000.

"There was a time when the majority of offices and classrooms were in Nethery Hall," she remembers. "Most of the teachers' offices were in the main lobby area where the English department is now. Aromas from the basement biology lab wafted throughout the building! The business office, health services, registrar, custodial and president's office were all housed in this one location on campus.

"My first office was a corner of the typing classroom...and I wasn't the typing teacher! Whenever I needed a book or other materials I would tiptoe into the room, then go to the library to do my research and office work.

"I would have laughed if anyone had told me in 1953 I would remain at Andrews for all these decades," she says.

Perhaps few departments were changed as much with the coming of computers and word processing as the business education department she headed for over 30 years.

"I remember how excited we were when the first word processor was delivered; we all thought it worked like magic! The first rotary calculator even lured math department people to look it over with envious admiration."

One of Miss Hannah's hobbies was traveling, and she began in a big way with an around-the-world tour in 92 days with her good friend, Arlene Friestad, in 1970. They traveled to 25 countries, had a fabulous time, and didn't lose their luggage!

Spending one week in Iran and seeing the crown jewels were both memorable highlights, but the greatest joy was meeting



President Andreasen and Bonnie Jean Hannah

former students, many of whom were serving as missionaries for the Church in various countries. For you see, while Miss Hannah has had lots of hobbies and interests over the years such as traveling, stamp collecting, china painting, and spoon and giraffe collecting, her passion has always been her students.

That's why, while she was still a faculty member here at Andrews University, she spearheaded an initiative to create an endowed scholarship fund for worthy international students. Not only did she contribute personally, but she also encouraged her current and former students to do the same and today that fund is over \$27,000!

But even before that, Bonnie Jean did something that demonstrated her love for students and her belief in Andrews University. She set up an estate plan that will benefit the people she cares for as well as the school she devoted her life to. And while she is not the very oldest of our trustees, since early in 1968 she has maintained a relationship with Andrews University's Office of Planned Giving & Trust Services. Longer than any of our other living trustees!

Miss Hannah has loyally committed her resources of time and money to the students of Andrews University and had the foresight to make plans for young people to continue to be blessed even after she is gone.