

## Spring graduation adds 377 alumni

*Esther Diaz and Lawrence T. Geraty receive honorary degrees*

Friends, family, faculty and staff attended graduation ceremonies May 3, 2009, as the 130th graduating class took their place among the nearly 37,000 alumni of Andrews University. On that day, 227 undergraduate and 150 graduate students received their diplomas on the main Andrews campus.

Friday evening, Verlyn Benson, dean of the College of Technology, delivered a thought-provoking address, "Life Isn't Fair. Oh Wait, Yes It Is!" for Consecration. Don Livesay, president of the Lake Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, offered graduates a glimpse at the years ahead during the Baccalaureate service with his sermon, "In the Center of a Tight Spot." A Sabbath Vespers tribute to parents, faculty and students at Pioneer Memorial Church was followed by the President's Reception for graduates and their families in the lobby of the Howard Performing Arts Center.

Sunday morning, graduates were greeted by a colorful array of international flags against a clear blue sky as they marched into Pioneer Memorial Church to receive their degrees. Andre Weston, BA, English/writing, cum laude, testified that the president's grip was still surprisingly firm even after shaking the hands of hundreds of graduates.

Esther Diaz, former dean of the Cuban Adventist Seminary in Havana, Cuba, was the keynote speaker for graduate commencement. For her leadership in overcoming the prejudices and stereotypes concerning women in ministry, the faculty of Andrews University chose to honor Diaz with an honorary Doctor of Divinity.

Lawrence T. Geraty, president emeritus and professor of archaeology at La Sierra University in California, was the keynote speaker for the undergraduate commencement ceremony. Because of his dedication to higher education, research and cultural diversity, Andrews University chose to honor Geraty with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

Esther Diaz was recognized particularly for her service at the Cuban Adventist Seminary, where she served as dean for eight years, and her efforts on behalf of women's issues in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. During her tenure as dean, she created curricula, strengthened academic and library resources, and improved the school's financial base. She also served as the Seminary's school chaplain, college professor and coordinator for women's ministries. In 2005, Diaz received the Woman-of-the-Year Award from the Association of Adventist Women to recognize her labor on behalf of women in the Church.

President emeritus and professor of archaeology at La Sierra University, Lawrence Geraty is currently appointed to the California Postsecondary Education Commission to promote the interests of higher education in the state. His leadership skills often reflect an international perspective, likely due to



his childhood in China, Hong Kong, Burma and Lebanon. Geraty served as a faculty member in the Andrews University Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary from 1966–1985, where he directed archaeological expeditions in the Middle East, taught in different countries around the world, served as the curator of the Horn Archaeological Museum and became the founding director of the Institute of Archaeology. He has published nearly 50 scholarly articles, edited eight books, contributed to over 30 books and is the recipient of numerous academic and research awards.

## School of Business Administration in final stages of accreditation

*On-site accreditation visit by IACBE*

Evaluators representing the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE) visited campus on April 28–29 for an on-site accreditation visit. The Andrews University School of Business Administration was accepted into the membership of IACBE in November 2007 and attained candidature status in October the following year. The School's self-study was completed in early January 2009.

IACBE follows a mission-driven, outcomes-oriented approach to accreditation, and as such is regarded as the premier professional accreditor for business programs in student-centered colleges and universities throughout the world. Its philosophy of accreditation centers on student learning and operational outcomes. IACBE bases its accrediting process on principles rather than prescriptive input standards. This approach to business

accreditation differentiates IACBE from other business accrediting bodies, and has led IACBE to continue to pursue recognition through the Council of Higher Education Accreditation. More than 200 business schools, offering a minimum of four-year undergraduate business degrees, are accredited through IACBE. The School of Business Administration is thus in the final stages of having all its BBA degree programs and the MBA program accredited through IACBE.

## Scriptural Pursuit telecast passes 5-year milestone

*Viewers from around the world are blessed by this ministry*

On Friday, April 3, 2004, the first Scriptural Pursuit telecast was aired. Five years and 260 programs later, more than 100 students have gained communication and media skills. Each program involves many hours of preparation, taping and editing by a team of up to 10 individuals. Hundreds of student and faculty guests from Andrews University and the community have been on the program, reaching viewers as far away as New Zealand, India, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Romania, Lebanon, Honduras, Jamaica, Benin and Guam.

Scriptural Pursuit is a cooperative effort between the Department of Communication and the Department of Religion & Biblical Languages at Andrews University under the leadership of producer Melchizedek Ponniah and host Glenn Russell. Thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers, Scriptural Pursuit is one of the many ways students at Andrews University **Seek Knowledge, Affirm Faith and Change the World.**

## School of Architecture's third CNU award

*Project targets sustainable development on Great Abaco Island of the Bahamas*

The Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU), a non-profit organization promoting community development, urban design and restoration, recently announced the CNU Charter Award Recipients for 2009. For the third year in a row, the Andrews University School of Architecture was selected as one of 12 professional and academic projects as representations of the best of "The New Urbanism"—an international movement that promotes the building of communities and the Congress' principles.

Other 2009 recipients include the University of Notre Dame's Kai Hu students, as well as several companies and urbanism teams scattered across North America.

The graduate architecture students were awarded for an Urban Design Studio project held from Sept. 21–Oct. 1, 2008. The intense 10-day workshop took place at the Great Abaco Island of the Bahamas. "Planning Abaco" strived to bring people together, create vision and lay down guidelines to promote the building and preservation of rural and urban landscapes in the area.

Projects are selected for recognition by a jury of leading urbanists searching for works that exemplify the principles of the Charter of the New Urbanism. The awards emphasize the extent of the built and natural environment, examining the "big picture" of the region's weaknesses and the small details of the people's needs over time.

Honorees are said to "set the gold standard" for urban design and serve as powerful examples for future community development. All twelve projects that received the CNU award brought excellence in urbanism and sustainability to large and small sites around the world.

The Planning Abaco project focused on South Abaco and Central Marsh Harbour. Students helped prepare South Abaco for sustainable development, shaped the Marsh Harbour neighborhoods, prepared different regions for opportunities to grow, and helped Great Abaco avoid urban sprawl through different plans and designs.

The international team who hosted the design workshop consisted of 26 graduate architecture students directed by Andrew von Maur and Troy Homenchuk, assistant professors in the School of Architecture.

"It's evident that God was blessing the efforts of this studio as we worked with the folks in the Bahamas, and then as we refined the presentation of good design principles that earned an award," says Homenchuk. "The good Lord deserves all the glory for our humble efforts as teachers, students and architects. I feel blessed to have been a small part of something much greater than we could have anticipated."

Andrews students will be recognized in a ceremony at the annual Congress for the New Urbanism in Denver, Colo., June 13.

## European Tours

Alumni and friends of Andrews University are invited to join one of the following 2009 European tours offered by Merlene Ogden, dean emerita of Andrews University:

### Christmas Markets Cruise

*December 7–15, 2009*

Cruise on the Danube River from Nuremberg, Germany to Vienna, Austria, with stops at Regensburg, Passau, Linz, and Durnstein. City tours, Christmas markets, and concerts.

### Optional Pre-Cruise Extension to Prague, Czech Republic

*December 4–7, 2009*

### Springtime in the Netherlands, Belgium and France

*April 18–May 5, 2010*

Includes tulip-time in Holland; historic Brugge, Belgium; the French Normandy Coast, Mont-St.-Michel, and Paris.

### For information, please contact:

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## Andrews student receives prestigious scholarship

*Libby Megna recipient of Goldwater Scholarship*

An Andrews University student is one of only 12 students in the state of Michigan to receive a scholarship from the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation. Libby Megna, a junior biology major from Coloma, Mich., was selected based on her academic merit from a pool of nearly 1,100 applicants.

For undergraduates in the fields of science, mathematics and engineering, the Goldwater Scholarship is one of the highest distinctions in the country. The scholarship includes a financial award of up to \$7,500 per year for their remaining years as undergraduates.

While at Andrews, Megna has been an active member in the J.N. Andrews Honors program. She has also worked alongside Professors Shandelle Henson and Jim Hayward in conducting research on seagulls

off the coast of Washington, which is the focus of her Honors research thesis.

Gerald Smith of the Goldwater Scholarship foundation says, “Goldwater Scholars have very impressive academic qualifications that have garnered the attention of prestigious post-graduate fellowship programs. Recent Goldwater Scholars have been awarded 73 Rhodes Scholarships, 102



Libby Megna

Marshall Awards (7 of the 40 awarded in 2009), and numerous other distinguished fellowships.”

“This scholarship is one of the most prestigious in the fields of math, science and engineering with a nationwide competition,” said Tiffany Summerscales, professor of physics and the Andrews University representative for the scholarship. “This is very exciting news as it

shows that science students from Andrews are among the very best in the country.”

## Susan Joshua memorizes 2,500 Bible verses

*Joshua receives Johnston Bible Memorization Award for the fifth year in a row*

If you memorized one verse from the Bible every day for six years you still wouldn't have as much text under your belt as Susan Joshua. On April 16, 2009, she was presented with the Robert and Madeline Johnston Bible Memorization Award for the fifth time at the Andrews Awards Assembly bringing her total verses memorized to 2,500.

The award was founded by Madeline Johnston and named in honor of her husband, Robert, upon his retirement from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary.

Susan, whose husband Calvin plans to graduate with a PhD in Curriculum & Instruction from Andrews University in August 2009, initially began memorizing texts for her debut attempt at the award in 2004. At first, her efforts were based on a misunderstanding of the contest. Calvin, who worked as a janitor for Custodial Services, told Susan about fliers he had seen announcing what appeared to be a \$750 prize for memorizing 500 Bible verses. Five hundred memory verses later, Calvin reluctantly reported to his wife he had misread the flyer. The \$750 referred to a different award. The Johnston Bible Memorization Award offered a free Bible as a prize.

The next time the contest came, Susan entered with no thought of a cash reward as a

motive. She memorized a second set of 500 verses in 2006 and went on to win the award again in 2007 and 2008—an additional 500 each time. Susan describes the “satisfaction of having the word of God hidden in my heart” as one of the most rewarding parts of what she does.

Although 2,500 verses is an impressive feat, it was not Susan's first experience with lengthy memorization. While she was living in India, she says, “I took up the challenge of memorizing Psalm 119.” Susan was asked to recite it—the longest chapter in the Bible—during the worship hour.

Susan describes her reason for memorizing Scripture as an effort to “stay comforted and close to God.” In India, the Joshua family lived in the isolated Himalayan Mountains. While her husband was away doing Bible work, Susan was at home by herself.



President Andraesen presents Susan Joshua with the Johnston Bible Memorization Award

Scripture memorization became a source of consolation.

In addition to solitude, writing the text in a journal, recording her voice and listening to it help her commit verses to memory. Susan's preferred translation is the King James Version. As a former English teacher in India, she appreciates the old language.

Calvin and Susan plan to return to India in August.