

## Werner Pressnitz hangs up his hammer

*But still plans to work part-time on campus and volunteer at Camp Au Sable*

Werner Pressnitz is retiring as the assistant manager for Plant Service after 27 years of service at Andrews University. Pressnitz was born in Austria in 1946, and emigrated to the United States in 1958. He began a four-year apprenticeship in carpentry in 1966 in Denver, Colo.; but in 1968 enlisted in the U.S. Navy Reserve. Pressnitz served two years in active duty in Vietnam and the Pacific. In 1972, he completed his apprenticeship.

Pressnitz began working at Plant Service in 1985 as assistant paint foreman. In 1987, he began working in the carpentry shop as a carpenter. Three years later, he was promoted to carpentry foreman, a position he held for seven more years. In 1998, Pressnitz again became painting supervisor. In November 2007, Pressnitz became the assistant manager for Plant Service, a position he has held since then. Pressnitz was also instrumental in setting up the Andrews University booths at the General Conference Sessions over the years.

His work in the carpentry shop gave him “a sense of accomplishment,” he says. “By

the end of the day, you could look back and say, ‘I made this.’” Paul Elder, one of Werner’s colleagues and manager of Plant Service, remembers Werner as “a very dependable worker that has been blessed with many talents. He was always conscientious in whatever project he was involved in. He believed in the highest quality of work, yet was able to have fun

in the process of striving for that perfection.”

Elder also recalls a lighter side of Pressnitz, who loves to play racquetball. Pressnitz has continued to play racquetball, as well as volunteer some time at Plant Service.

Werner plans to stay busy in his retirement, by volunteering during the summer at



Werner Pressnitz (left) is congratulated by Paul Elder, manager of Plant Service

Camp Au Sable and working part-time at Transportation or Plant Service. Now that he and his wife are both retired, they hope to travel to the Grand Canyon, Glacier National Forest and Austria.

## Debbie Michel receives award from MCC

*For commitment to community service and service learning*

Debbie Michel, associate professor of communication, was honored with the Michigan Campus Compact’s Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Award for Andrews University in a ceremony on Jan. 30, 2012. The ceremony took place at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center at Michigan State University.

The Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Award is presented to the faculty and staff of MCC members who exhibit an exceptional commitment to community service and service learning. Each MCC institution selects their own award recipient based on the individual’s efforts to encourage or provide opportunities for student involvement in service-learning or community service.

Michel won the award for her Group Dynamics and Leadership class, in which students work with community and nonprofit organizations. In groups of four or five,

students choose a project and a goal based on the needs of their organization and work throughout the semester to meet that goal. Student projects have been varied, including raising funds to support missionary projects and gathering donations for organizations such as Invisible Children. “It’s truly a satisfying experience,” says Debbie Michel.

Her students agree and are pleased by the opportunity to gain real world experience in Michel’s classes. “Professor Michel is motivator, mentor, spiritual guide and teacher



Debbie Michel (left) with Renee Zientek, executive director of MCC

all in one,” says Megan Jones, a senior public relations major who took Group Dynamics in fall 2010. “She is able to see potential in her students and pushes them to places they never thought they could go.”

## Charles and Ruth Tidwell retire

*Serving a combined total of 30 years at Andrews University*

Charles and Ruth Tidwell are retiring from their positions after 15 years of service each at Andrews University. Ruth is retiring as an administrative assistant for the Department of Accounting, Economics & Finance in the School of Business Administration. Charles retires as the dean of Affiliation & Extension Programs, as well as an associate registrar and a professor of international business and communication.

Charles was director of off-campus programs for the School of Business Administration before becoming dean of Affiliation & Extension Programs. He also served as interim dean of the School of Business Administration on two occasions, and regularly taught in the School of Business Administration and for the master's in International Development Administration Program.

Born in Lincoln, Neb., Charles attended Atlantic Union College in Massachusetts, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in English and history in 1967. He completed his master's degree in English from Andrews University in 1968. In 1983, he received his doctorate in English literature from the University of Calgary, Canada. Charles grew up in India where his parents were missionaries for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He and Ruth married in 1967.

Before coming to Andrews in 1996, Ruth worked as assistant to the librarian and school nurse at Hong Kong Adventist College. Before she and Charles moved to Hong Kong in 1984, she worked as a registered nurse at hospitals in Red Deer, Alberta, Canada; Stoneham, Mass.; and Edmore, Mich.

Before coming to Andrews University in 1996, Charles served for 12 years as vice president and academic dean of Hong Kong Adventist College; for seven years as associate professor of English at Canadian Union College; and for nine years as an English and history teacher at South Lancaster Academy in Massachusetts and Cedar Lake Academy in Michigan.

Charles published a number of articles on pedagogy issues in intercultural communication and made regular referred presentations at annual conferences of the



At the retirement reception for Charles & Ruth Tidwell held August 31, 2011, a contest was held to select the "favorite Tidwell ties."

National Communication Association. He is a board member of the Adventist Accrediting Association and has served as an evaluator for AAA site visits to 20 different Adventist colleges around the world, as well as a board member of the *Journal of Adventist Education*.

Charles and Ruth will be staying busy in their retirement. Charles holds a part-time appointment as advisor for the South African cohort of the Master of International Development Administration, taught yearly at Helderberg College in South Africa.

## Sue Schwab retires following 21 years of service

*Coordinated Andrews' conversion to Banner*

A retirement reception was held for Sue Schwab on Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011, in the Undergraduate Learning Center student lobby. Sue is retiring following 21 years of service to Andrews where she worked as a Banner support specialist for ITS. Sue first came to Andrews in 1980 to work at the Andrews University Press while pursuing a second degree in architecture. In 1985, she took a job at Walla Walla College, where she worked until 1993.

She returned to Andrews University in November 1993 as administrative assistant to Jerry Thayer. In June of 1994, Schwab was hired to coordinate Andrews' conversion to a purchased enterprise management system called Banner. Sue planned and directed the

conversion of the university's student-related systems: admissions, academic records, student housing, student accounts receivable, and financial aid. When the conversion was completed, the position of Banner Support Specialist was created for her, and she continued to support these systems until her retirement in 2011.

In retirement, Sue plans to spend much less time glued to a computer screen and much more time enjoying her three grandsons and the natural world of God's creation. She is taking landscape design classes and hopes to apply those skills at home in the spring. Reading, quilting, art, music, long-deferred home projects, volunteering and travel are all on her agenda.



Sue Schwab