

New principal for Andrews Academy

Robert Overstreet comes from Forest Lake Education Center

Robert L. Overstreet became the new principal at Andrews Academy this fall. With more than 15 years of teaching and administrative experience under his belt, Overstreet aspires to create a positive, Christ-centered experience for academy students for the 2011–12 school year.

“We are thrilled to attract an energetic, visionary leader like Mr. Overstreet to Andrews Academy,” said Brent Geraty, chair of the Andrews Academy Operating Board. “We believe he will be able to help the Academy fulfill its mission in new and exciting ways.”

The second-born child in a family of four boys, Overstreet grew up in Minnesota before moving to the south his 6th-grade year. He attended both public and private institutions throughout his elementary school life and considers his public school experience “truly an eye opener of what the world was like.”

When it was time for him to enter high school, Overstreet enrolled at Georgia Cumberland Academy (GCA) and began “probably the best of all my growing-up years,” he says. “I grew so much as a person and as a Christian. I give so much credit to the teachers who showed so much love and patience to such an obstinate young man.”

Following four years at GCA, Overstreet felt God was calling him to teach. He attended Southern College (now Southern Adventist University) and graduated with a Bachelor

of Science in health and physical education. More importantly, it was at Southern where he met his wife-to-be, Tammy. Tammy is now an award-winning elementary teacher. The Overstreets have two daughters: Laura and Rebecca. Laura is a high-school sophomore and will be attending Andrews Academy. Rebecca is in the sixth grade. Overstreet’s favorite hobbies are golf, woodworking projects and spending time with his family.

Overstreet earned a Master of Arts in education from the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga. For the past 15 years, he has worked as a teacher and principal at both the elementary and high-school levels in the Seventh-day Adventist system. He also holds three years of training in coactive coaching and Christian leadership and was the vice-principal at Forest Lake Education Center, Longwood, Fla., before accepting the principal position at Andrews Academy.

“My passion in life is to grow leaders for Christ,” he says. “I feel that as educators, we must model Jesus’ leadership style while He was here on earth. I love to work with young people and be the example that Christ calls each of us to be. I feel so humbled by the opportunity to do His work and am thankful to do so.”



Robert Overstreet is the new AA principal

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Andrews Academy is a college-preparatory secondary school owned and operated by Andrews University. It has been recognized by the United States Department of Education as a recipient of the School of Excellence Award for secondary schools.

Becky De Oliveira authors new devotional

A collection of essays on spiritual themes

Becky De Oliveira is the author of a new book, *Keeping it Real in the Real World* (October 2011, Pacific Press). It is a 2012 young adult devotional book, and also a collection of essays on spiritual themes. De Oliveira originally wrote the majority of the essays over a two-year period for a youth magazine called *Hub*.

Originally titled *In the Real World*, the book explores the concept of authenticity and “being spiritual without necessarily conforming to certain stereotyped or expected styles and behaviors,” says De Oliveira. Of the book, reviewers have said, “The author’s undiluted frankness and quirky sense of humor appeal to young people who want to be authentic Christians but are also attracted to “the real world out there.”

De Oliveira has previously published two children’s books. This is her first book for adults.



Virginia Nachreiner retires

After 31 years of service at AA & RMES, the Andrews University Schools

Virginia Nachreiner came to Andrews University as a 6th-grade teacher at Ruth Murdoch Elementary School in 1979. Thirty-one years later, she is retiring as office and computer systems manager at Andrews Academy.

Born in Logansport, Ind., Nachreiner earned a BA in elementary education and English from Andrews University in 1968. She went on to complete an MAT from Andrews University in 1984.

Nachreiner taught 6th grade for five years, and then became a 7th and 8th grade teacher. She helped establish, set up, and teach courses in the first computer lab at Ruth Murdoch. Many of her first computer students went on to careers in programming or computer sciences.

While a teacher at Ruth Murdoch, she received the Thomas and Violet Zapara Excellence in Teaching Award in 1993.

In 1995, Nachreiner moved to Andrews Academy, where she worked as the secretary for then-vice principal James Nash. After Carol Dronen's retirement, she became the office manager and computer systems manager. She worked for five academy principals: Richard Orrison, Roosevelt McKenzie, Randy Graves, Alan Chase and the recently retired Cleon White.

"My most precious memories from working at Andrews," she says, "are the wonderful people throughout these years, faculty and staff members as well as parents and students. As a Christian teacher I have had the joy of seeing Jesus make a difference in the lives of many students."

Nachreiner officially retired in July of 2011,



Virginia "Ginny" Nachreiner

but will help part-time with the transition at Andrews Academy until December 2011. She and her husband, Peter, plan to travel extensively and visit their grandchildren, but will remain in their home of Berrien Springs.

Dominique Wakefield receives national recognition

Named one of the ten "Personal Trainers to Watch"

On Friday, Oct. 14, 2011, at the 26th annual Club Industry Show in Chicago, Dominique Wakefield, director of fitness and exercise studies at Andrews University, assistant chair of the Department of Nutrition & Wellness and assistant professor in that department, was named one of ten "Personal Trainers to Watch" by the American Council on Exercise (ACE) and Life Fitness.

"God has created us so wonderfully and he has created our bodies to be active and to move!"

After a six-month nationwide competition, ACE and Life Fitness, the leading manufacturer of commercial fitness equipment, named ten finalists along with the one "Top Personal Trainer to Watch" from a pool of 300 nominees, taken from over 260,000 fitness professionals in the U.S.

Wakefield, one of the finalists, was recognized for her "significant commitment to fitness and in helping their clients achieve

a lasting lifestyle change," said Chris Clawson, president of Life Fitness. Wakefield has established a number of fitness initiatives on campus since arriving in 2008, including the FitZone fitness lab, a Bachelor of Science in health & fitness, a Bachelor of Health Science in wellness and a minor in Fitness Education, programs to certify students as personal trainers or group fitness instructors, the annual Fitness Expo, and has helped to encourage an atmosphere of fitness across campus. She is also instrumental in PMC's Health and Wellness Ministries, and assisted with the organization of the first Let's Move Day. She holds a leadership role in the faculty fitness initiative AhealthyU, is an ACE-certified personal trainer, and assistant coach for the Lady Cardinals soccer team.

Wakefield was nominated for her dedication to physical fitness and motivating the Andrews campus to achieve their God-given goal. She says, "God has created us so wonderfully and



Dominique Wakefield (third from left) was named one of the ten "Personal Trainers to Watch" at the Club Industry Show in Chicago.

He has created our bodies to be active and to move! Caring for the body is an essential part of our beliefs in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but physical fitness has not received nearly as much focus and attention as have other parts of the health message. Our community is struggling with the same issues and diseases that the rest of America is dealing with and physical fitness will provide many solutions to these problems!"