

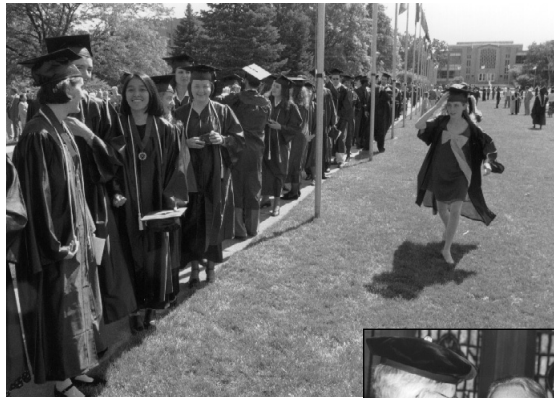
CAMPUS UPDATE

Spring and summer ceremonies fete over 700 graduates

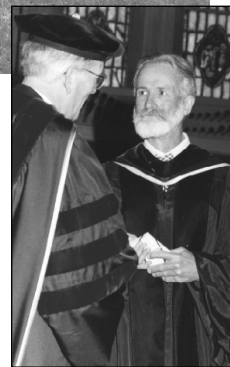
Ceremonies for spring and summer graduation weekends brought crowds of family, friends and well-wishers to campus.

Spring ceremonies awarded 275 undergraduate students diplomas and 223 graduate candidates their degrees. Harvey Elder of Loma Linda University spoke for the graduate commencement, and Charles Teel of La Sierra University delivered the undergraduate address.

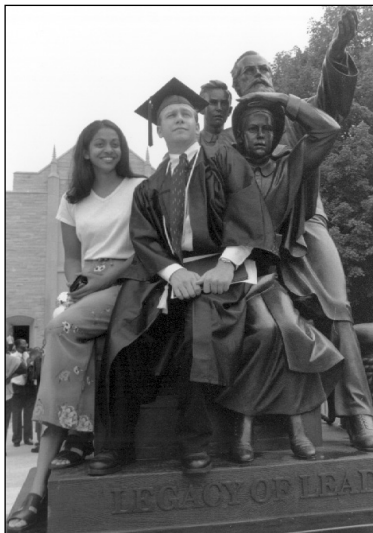
During the summer ceremonies, 144 undergraduates and 67 graduate candidates received degrees. Andrea Luxton of Newbold College in England spoke for the summer commencement service.



ONE LAST DEADLINE BEFORE GRADUATING: Spring graduates line up willingly for their final march of the weekend. President Niels-Erik Andreasen congratulates Ralph Scorpio, professor of biochemistry, on receiving the J. N. Andrews Medallion.



K TO CUM LAUDE: Melphine Ponniah, who graduated in August with a bachelor of science in clinical laboratory science, has attended Andrews schools since she enrolled in kindergarten at Ruth Murdoch Elementary School.



KODAK MOMENT: For both spring and summer events, the recently installed J. N. Andrews family sculpture was the centerpiece for the campus celebrations and the backdrop for many graduation pictures. The last two editors of *The Student Movement*, Shereen Devadas and Kaleb Cockrum, join the threesome in what's become a graduation tradition.

Spring graduation

Undergraduate commencement speaker: Charles W. Teel, Jr., professor of Christian ethics at La Sierra University, Riverside, Calif.

Graduate commencement speaker: Harvey A. Elder, professor of medicine at Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, Calif.

Baccalaureate speaker: Benjamin S. Carson, Sr., director of pediatric neurosurgery, Johns Hopkins Medical Institute, Baltimore, Md.

Consecration speaker: Randall Wisbey, associate professor of Christian ministry, Andrews University

Zapara Award recipient: Curtis J. VanderWaal, associate professor of social work

Honorary degree recipient (Doctor of Fine Arts): Tan Tsao Sui-Lan, artist, Singapore

Honorary degree recipient (Doctor of Laws): Tan Hian-Tsin, businessman, Singapore

J. N. Andrews Medallion recipient: Kendall E. Hill, controller, associate vice president for finance

J. N. Andrews Medallion recipient: Ralph Scorpio, professor of biochemistry

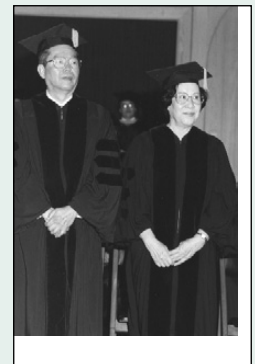
Summer graduation

Commencement speaker: Andrea Luxton, principal, Newbold College, Binfield, Berkshire, England

Baccalaureate speaker: Richard C. Osborn, vice president for education, North American Division, Silver Spring, Md.

Consecration speaker: Lawrence G. Burn, campus chaplain, Andrews University

J. N. Andrews Medallion recipient: George H. Akers, professor of curriculum and instruction, emeritus



ON THE PLATFORM: Mr. and Mrs. Tan of Singapore receive honorary degrees during spring's undergraduate commencement.

CAMPUS UPDATE

Mutch named to VP post

The end of a nearly two-year search for an academic vice president came on July 1 when Patricia B. Mutch, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, assumed the post.

On June 3, the president's office announced that Mutch had accepted the position. "She not only brings enormous skill and widespread support, she also has an almost unsurpassed knowledge of this campus and how it works," said Gary Ross, assistant to President Andreassen.

The search for a new academic chief started in October 1996, when then-vice president Mailen Kootsey resigned the post to become university chief information officer. (Kootsey has since left Andrews to chair the pharmacology and physiology department at Loma Linda University.)

Arthur Coetzee, retired university

provost, initially served as interim academic VP from March to July 1997. The need for an interim seemingly ended when the search committee announced that Bart Rippon, dean of the graduate school and director of research at Loma Linda University, had accepted the job and would begin in May 1997. But in June of the same year, Rippon announced he would not take the post.

Delmer Davis followed Coetzee as interim vice president in July 1997. The situation took a curious turn when Rippon again accepted the position this past April, but then two months later determined he could not come.

Since 1972, Patricia Mutch has served at Andrews in a variety of capacities:



Patricia Mutch

She has directed the professional dietetics program, the Office of Scholarly Research and the Institute for the Prevention of Addictions. She has also been a classroom teacher, and in 1995 she was named dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

She earned her bachelor's degree in food and nutrition at Andrews in 1965 and did a dietetic internship at Loma Linda University. She

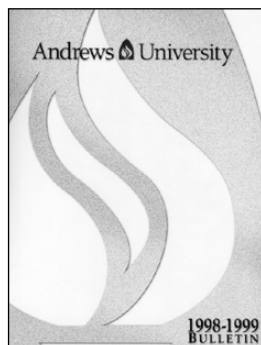
earned her doctorate in nutrition from the University of California, Davis, in 1972.

Consolidated bulletin now available

In May, the Andrews mail center began mailing out a new, consolidated Andrews University academic bulletin.

The 250-page document not only featured a new design on its cover, it also marked the end of the annual bookshelf of bulletins that was heretofore produced by the university.

The move from seven bulletins (six schools and a general information issue) to



Randy Siebold, assistant professor of technology education, designed the new bulletin's cover.

one bulletin required cross-school cooperation, the support of the academic deans, and the leadership of Gary Ross, assistant to the president, who directed the bulletin consolidation project.

James Fisher in the Office of Scholarly Research prepared the first draft for the new bulletin, and an editorial team from the Andrews University Press incorporated various changes into successive drafts as requested by the deans.

Ross says particular credit for technical and design assistance on the bulletin goes to University Press workers Carol Loree, Joyce Jones and Deborah Everhart, along with Patricia Spangler of University Relations.

Semesters to return to AU

A series of votes in the spring made a move toward semesters at Andrews more likely. Four separate campus deliberative bodies—the University Senate, the graduate and undergraduate councils, and the general faculty—all agreed that semesters are preferable to the current quarter system, which has been in effect since 1968.

Academic administration made the case that a move to semesters would improve student retention, allow for more substantive class content, and correct chronic problems associated with the existing system.

In July the Board voted to institute the change to semesters effective fall term, 2000.

CAMPUS UPDATE

What does Net '98 mean to Andrews? Does satellite evangelism work? How is Dwight holding up?

A FOCUS interview with PMC senior pastor Dwight Nelson

by Jack Stenger

By this time, the Net '98 statistics are well known. From Oct. 9 to Nov. 14, the Bible-based series will be broadcast via satellite to more than 1,500 locations in North America and 5,000 sites in other parts of the world. The series, designed to be friendly toward the urban, "Gen X" mindset, is called "NeXt Millennium Seminar: Finding A Forever Friendship with God." The site for this globally transmitted event is Andrews University. The project will require more than 40 translators and 30 broadcast technicians and the satellite broadcast, projected to reach more than 100 countries, is shaping up to be the largest televangelistic event of its kind in the history of Christendom.

For Dwight Nelson, the above means only one thing: The heat is on. In October 1996, the senior PMC pastor was selected by the North American Division as Net '98 speaker. In December of the same year, Andrews was chosen as Net '98 host site.

Over the course of six months from July 1997 to January 1998, Nelson developed and wrote more than 30 messages for the series. Since January, Nelson has barnstormed across North America and the globe, rallying church members and leadership for the church's biggest satellite evangelistic campaign ever.

In denominational circles, Nelson's reputation has grown since his arrival at Andrews in 1983. Then, he was very much the pastor *wunderkind*, known as much for his boyish looks as he was for his passionate and often unorthodox oratory. But an extensive speaking schedule and a popular preaching series on 3ABN have spread his fame far beyond Adventist circles in southwest Michigan. And Net '98 puts the spotlight even more squarely on Nelson. Now 46 years old and in his fifteenth year at PMC, he ranks among the church's leading voices in North America.

In a recent interview with FOCUS, Nelson showed no signs of pre-Net '98 stress. For him, interview answers are like his sermons: words gush out in torrents, vision-heavy and laden with the passionate "Dwight-speak" that first won students over in the early 1980s. A global satellite event is bound to change an Adventist college in sleepy Berrien Springs. It's also bound to change the campus pastor upon whom much of the campaign's success depends.

What will Net '98 mean for Andrews?

There's no question that Net '98 will position Andrews at the heart of a global evangelistic campaign that will go to six continents. It will be a classic example of an Adventist institution of higher learning acting as a vibrant hub for communicating the very good news of Jesus to the surrounding world. A marriage like this one—where institutional mission and global outreach so neatly merge—has never been seen before in Adventist circles.

When Net '98 viewers around the globe view this message, what's the likelihood

they'll say: "Where in the world is Berrien Springs, Michigan? Why was Andrews University chosen as the host site rather than a larger media market with more name recognition?"

Originally we weren't the choice. Church leaders first envisioned a global event emanating from a big city, possibly New York. But the longer we thought, the more Andrews seemed like a logical choice, and we eventually made the pitch to them. Net '98 planners wanted a strategic evangelistic effort that was user-friendly to the young—we have 3,000 Gen Xers right here and we are accustomed to tailoring our messages to meet their needs. Church leaders wanted a message that would have global appeal and few Adventist institutions have as much experience with an international community as Andrews does. The third thing going for us is the campus' familiarity with broadcast evangelism. Every Sabbath our services are taped and broadcast for viewing on 3ABN. Our Pioneer congregation is used to lights and cameras, and the attitude of this campus has always been *What we do here we want to share with the world.*

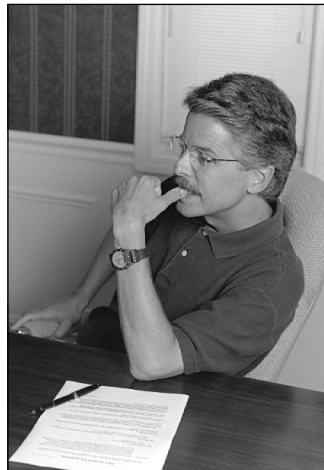
Some critics of church evangelistic campaigns say the traditional Bible Prophecy-Revelation Seminar approach to evangelism is outdated and ineffective in reaching unchurched people. How will Net '98 be different?

The title alone indicates a shift in the public evangelism paradigm. The dominant message is a God who is passionate for a personal encounter with every human being. There's a line in *Christ's Object Lessons* (p. 415) that reads: "The last message of mercy, the last rays of merciful light will be a revelation of God's character of love." We are reaching out to the most relationship-starved generation in history, so Generation X is ready to listen about a relationship with the God who made them. It's not that we are *not* going to dwell on prophecy, but the emphasis will be on *relationship*.

CAMPUS UPDATE

The term Generation X and a North American college-based event might indicate an age-specific, America-centric and evangelistic approach. Will Net '98 be meaningful to people older than 35 and culturally understandable to those outside North America?

We are not denying that Net '98 is designed to reach Gen-Xers, but the event is not totally narrow-cast. All along our motto has been *User-friendly for the young, life-changing for all*. Every age will get something out of this series. Of course, in the information age a presentation has to have multimedia elements and even Cyberspace links if we want a media-savvy generation to notice. We're going to have these things. But the gospel is not an



age-specific message, and the gospel is the message of Net '98.

If we consider the global nature of this outreach, a concern about an overly America-centric approach is valid. But in my travels I've seen that a common, secular culture is developing around the world. Increasingly, the people across the globe are more alike than different, particularly those under 40. They eat alike, think alike and are entertained alike. So although our message will reach different countries, an emerging, urban secular culture is starting to become the

dominant worldwide culture, particularly in developed nations.

In 1997, a massive PMC building expansion was completed. The \$4 million project doubled the church's interior space and expanded ministry possibilities. Was the project done with Net '98 in mind?

It seems coincidental, but it's actually providential. Throughout our construction project, we had no idea that Net '98 would come to PMC, so it's apparent God must have had this evangelistic campaign on His mind long before we had it on ours. Our new church wings have become vital space that will make this giant global effort possible. We now have room for the

translators, for technicians, for equipment and for nightly children's meetings—we just didn't have the space for all this before. God truly guided us in the expansion of our church.

There are high hopes for Net '98 and awesome speaking responsibilities associated with it. How are you holding up under the pressure?

God has been gracious. He's kept me from totally grasping the magnitude of the responsibilities we're facing. People come up to me and say, "Pastor, how are

you surviving? Are you afraid? Are you healthy?" I think it's been the many prayers offered on my behalf that have kept me healthy and free from undue worry. I'm sure the pressure will intensify as we get really close, but right now I'm fine.

The North American church increasingly relies upon satellite evangelism, but does satellite evangelism really work?

Net '95 and Net '96 changed everything. Prior to these events, it was felt by many within our church that public evangelism no longer worked in North America, particularly among Caucasian populations. But thanks to Mark Finley and Adventist leaders who had a vision for evangelism, we saw incredible numbers respond to the gospel and join the Adventist fellowship. In most cases, satellite evangelism is actually better suited to reach the secular, urban, professional mind. Since a single satellite message is backed by the financial and technical resources of the North American Division, it can feature a media-savvy approach a local church or conference sometimes can't afford.

After Net '98—perhaps the equivalent of climbing public speaking's Mount Olympus—where does Dwight Nelson go from here?

Are there other challenges beyond Andrews and Pioneer Memorial Church?

We all face the same challenge. As long as there are six billion souls in this world that need to know Jesus, the challenge to Adventists everywhere will be to proclaim the gospel. As for where do we go after Net '98, I guess I can only say this: No team preparing for the World Series talks about what they're going to do after the big event. Net '98 is our World Series, and we are totally focused on "winning" this campaign for the glory of God.