

CAMPUS UPDATE

Net '98 transforms world and Andrews campus

To understand the scope of Net '98, maybe a little math is in order. Six continents, 100-plus countries, 40 languages, 12 satellite feeds, 25 broadcast



photo by Richard Dower

BIG EVENT: Crowds filled Pioneer Memorial Church on a five-night-a-week basis.

technicians, five cameras, 22 floodlights, 1500 host site volunteers, 31 programs, 7,600 sites, millions of potential viewers.

All together it equaled a global adventure event that brought the Adventist message to a world audience—and that held the Andrews campus in its thrall. The five-week span, Oct. 9 to Nov. 14, will be a defining event in the lives of many college students. It was a five-night-a-week whirlwind, and an event not to be missed.

"This thing was too big, too important and too unique an opportunity to not take advantage of," said Ehren Turner, a junior elementary education major. "You just felt like history was being made." His part in history was three nights a week teaching 8-to-10-year-olds in a religious education class.

During the "NeXt Millennium Seminar," millions of viewers from around the globe got their first view of Adventism, and much of this view was

of an Adventist college in Berrien Springs, Mich. The voices of the University Singers and Deliverance Choir. The guitar music of contemporary Christian group Plan C. Music professor Ken Logan on the Casavant pipe organ and PMC pastor Dwight Nelson.

"If I had thought about all the people who were watching, I probably would have been even more nervous than I was," said Kelley Wilson, a junior English major who performed several times for the campaign.

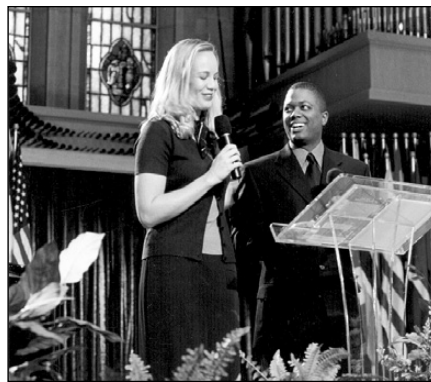


photo by Richard Dower

STAR POWER: Students Shasta Burr and Bernie Anderson warm up the crowd.

But as ubiquitous as Andrews people were in front of the cameras, they were equally prominent behind the scenes. University employees and students filled in as camera operators, ushers, children's ministry coordinators, parking lot attendants, row hosts, song leaders and greeters. All told, more than 1500 individuals filled in during the five-week campaign.

"No matter how big or small the job, everyone did it with the same great attitude in mind," said Skip MacCarty, PMC associate pastor.

Perhaps the best known volunteers were students Bernie Anderson and Shasta Burr. On a nightly basis, the tele-genic series hosts warmed up site audiences with a unique brand of unscripted banter. Chosen for their fresh personali-

ties and Gen X credentials, they quickly became minor celebrities on campus.



photo by Richard Dower

MAKING A POINT: Dwight Nelson, PMC senior pastor, delivered 31 messages.

"Every day I would have someone say to me in class: 'I can't believe you said that last night!'" Burr said.

While the banks of floodlights and TV cameras meant the excitement of the "NeXt Millennium Seminar" was most obvious in the church sanctuary, perhaps the bigger drama was taking place in the basement. It was there that a team translated Nelson's messages into Mandarin Chinese, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese and 33 other languages ranging from Afrikaans to Zulu. Curious crowds flocked to hear the train-like roar of voices and to experience a modern-day Pentecost moment similar to the disciples' polyglot address to crowds in Jerusalem.

The challenge of staffing the translating team underscored how providential the university's selection as Net '98 host site was. More than half of the 39 translators were Andrews students or staff.

Perhaps Nelson put it best: "Years from now, we will call this series a 'God moment,' a time when He was at work around the globe—and at work on this campus as never before."

CAMPUS UPDATE

Andrews masters of social work program accredited

Sharon Pittman was recruited to Andrews in 1996 to establish a master's degree program and then get it accredited. In fall 1998, the professor of social work got the news she was waiting for: Mission Accomplished.

On Oct. 19 the Social Work Department received a letter from the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) stating that the new master's degree program had received a four-year accreditation term—the longest possible for an initial term.

"Of course we're happy that this long, labor-intensive process is over," Pittman said. "But the process of improvement does not end now that our accreditation goal has been reached."



Sharon Pittman

One of the selling points of the Andrews master's degree is its overtly Christian orientation that drives the curricula, Pittman said. "We have done what few said could be done. We kept our Christian focus and still became strongly accredited."

A career social work educator, Pittman came from the University of Tennessee, in Knoxville, where she worked as multimedia director in the Office of Research and Public Service. From 1992 to 1994, she taught at Walla Walla College.

With accreditation now secured, Pittman said her department's biggest challenge continues to be a lack of classroom and office space.

Beyond the university's 50 MSW students, there are 80 students in the bachelor's program. With nearly 130 majors, social work is the largest department housed in Nethery Hall.

Harold Lang awarded J. N. Andrews medallion

Harold Lang, a 35-year teaching veteran, was awarded the J. N. Andrews Medallion in September.

"Without the contributions of Harold Lang, a whole generation of our students would not have had opportunity to pursue engineering as an academic career," said Patricia Mutch, vice president for academic administration.

The medallion is the highest honor that the university awards to recognize outstanding academic and professional achievement.

Lang was a principal catalyst in the creation of Andrews' engineering technology program and one of the main founders of the College of Technology.

Lang graduated from Walla Walla

College in 1954 with bachelor's degrees in physics and mechanical engineering. He completed a master's degree in engineering in 1967 and then in 1977 a doctorate from the University of Michigan.

He worked as a research engineer with the Rocketdyne Division of North American Aviation Inc. in California and for the Bettis Atomic Laboratory in Pittsburgh, Penn.

Lang also served in the Army from 1956 to 1958.

Lang stepped down as engineering technology chair in 1997, but has continued teaching full time.



Harold Lang

Seminary faculty address women's ordination

Will a new book by Andrews faculty members signal a shift in Adventist opinion toward women's ordination?

Women in Ministry: Biblical and Historical Perspectives is the first major address by SDA Theological Seminary faculty on the controversial topic.

Seminary professors contributed to the 20-chapter book, and the work was edited by Nancy Vyhmeister, professor of world mission.



Contributors Vyhmeister, Dudley and Fortin at on-campus book signing.

During the 1995 General Conference meetings in Utrecht, no issue was more dominant than was women's ordination. Despite the general support of North American Adventists, delegates voted to deny the request for the ordination of women pastors within the North American Division.

After the vote, NAD church leaders approached the seminary faculty with a request for a thorough examination of the following questions: "May a woman be legitimately ordained to pastoral ministry?" and "If so, on what biblical basis?" This set in motion a period of study that led to the book's publication.

Whether the pro-ordination work will change many minds is uncertain. Time or Toronto will show.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Women in Ministry* will be reviewed in the winter 1999 issue of FOCUS.

CAMPUS UPDATE

Campus Ministries' "Dynamic Duo"

Chaplains are pastors who labor without a church, spiritual leaders who sometimes work without a well-defined congregation. And maybe the challenge is even greater for an Andrews chaplain.

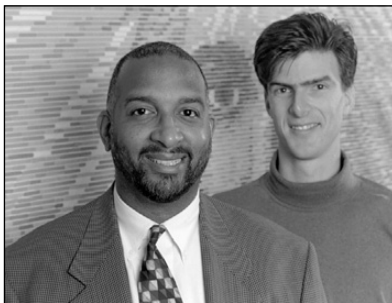
With 3,000 students from nearly every part of the world, you'd have to have an anthropologist's understanding to know what makes students' tick—and a superhero's energy to get all your work done.

If it sounds like the Campus Ministries Office needs a "dynamic duo," fear not: they've already landed. Since their summer 1998 arrival, new campus chaplains Laurence Burn and Timothy Nixon have already made significant spiritual inroads on campus.

"I've seen in both of them a desire to do whatever it takes to facilitate spiritu-

ality on this campus," said Matthew Gambel, director of BRANCH, the campus' student-led ministry organization.

South African-born and raised, **Laurence Burn** is a natural strategist. Recognizing that ministry on a college campus is geared toward the sometimes-jaded and always time-pressed, his outreach initiatives are relationship-based and user-friendly.



Chaplains Nixon and Burn

"Saved. Shepherded. Skilled. Sent." This is the progression

the chaplain envisions for a student's spiritual journey.

A pastoral ministry graduate from Weimar College, Burn worked four years as a youth pastor in Roseville, Calif., before coming to Andrews in 1996 to study at the seminary.

"College is no time for students to be spiritual *couch potatoes*," he said. "These are tomorrow's leaders, so we have to

train them accordingly."

Though his work has been confined to the continental U.S., **Timothy Nixon** has done plenty of work among disparate people groups. Any pastor with experience among both the salty habitants of New York City and the laid-back denizens of southern California is eligible for "cross-cultural" merit badges.

In both training and experience, Nixon has seen a lot in his 17 years of pastoral work. After theology studies at Oakwood College and a 1991 MDiv from the SDA Theological Seminary, Nixon pastored churches in his native New York, in California and, most recently, in Maryland.

What does it take for a college campus to stay spiritually on track? The key is a focus on the Divine.

"Sometimes it's too easy to become complacent and say: 'This is the Lord's school' and not do anything to make it this way," Nixon said.

Sounds like these two chaplains are every bit the match for spiritual complacency. Or, to put it another way, the Andrews Dynamic Duo has arrived.

SM editor stays up for the story

Want to experience the "glamorous" life of a college journalist at Andrews? Try hanging out till 5 a.m. and enjoying a weekly repast of stale pizza, washed down with flat soft drink.

"Wake me up when it becomes glamorous," says Matt Lee, this year's *Student Movement* editor. In the meantime, the man has some deadlines to meet.

The position of editor of the campus weekly student newspaper has always required a degree of persistence and phenomenal nocturnal staying power.

"It's fun, but it's a whole lot of work," said the sophomore religion-communication-English major who hails from Paradise, Calif.

He said the biggest challenge is seeing that all sectors of the student body get represented in each week's paper. The next biggest challenge is finding writers to write each week's paper.

So far this school year, Lee has managed to find enough people to broadly chronicle the good, the bad, and the unusual from the Campus Safety Department.



SM editor Matt Lee

Here's a sampling of headlines: "Campus Safety reviews parking issue": (too many cars, too few slots, resultant tickets); "Senate Still Falls Short": (student apathy means several Student Association senator slots remain unfilled); "AU to Impact Benton Harbor Children": (ongoing street ministry); "Remodeling of Riffel": (construction project); "NET '98 Commences": (campus mobilized for satellite evangelism event); "Tooth Decay in High Places": (columnist working after midnight grasps for any topic to write on.)

CAMPUS UPDATE

McVay named associate dean of seminary

John McVay, former chair of the Department of Religion at Pacific Union College in Angwin, Calif., has served as associate dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary since August.

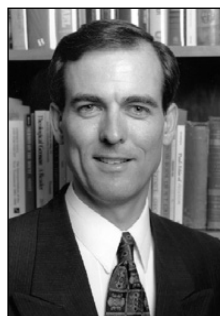
McVay succeeded Benjamin Schoun, who left Andrews to become president of the Northern New England Conference.

An Andrews alumnus, McVay earned a master's of divinity from the SDA Theological Seminary in 1983. He earned his bachelor's in theology from Southern Adventist University and a doctorate from the University of Sheffield in England in 1995.

From 1977 to 1985, McVay served as a pastor, first in the Iowa Conference and then in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. He left pastoral ministry in

1985 to become a professor of religion at PUC.

He has authored numerous scholarly papers and publications, including two recent Adult Sabbath School quarterlies, works that centered on the Pauline books of 1 and 2 Corinthians.



John McVay

An accomplished teacher, he was selected as PUC "Educator of the Year" in 1996.

After an initial period of administrative transition, McVay said he expects to

return to the classroom on a part-time basis to teach.

"There's nothing more exciting than helping students as they grapple with the eternal truths of the Bible," he said.

Going postal at Andrews

Even if the powers that be don't call it a post office (officially it's a U.S.P.S. "contract station"), the Andrews post office is still the site of some major-league pressure.

Every day the small contract station sorts 3,000 to 5,000 pieces of mail, ships and receives 15 to 30 packages (even more at quarter's end), and delivers more than 500 pieces of inter-campus mail.

"You try doing this and tell me you won't have some stress," said Ruth Gardner, Andrews post office manager.

Adding to their pressure is the fact they don't have a whole lot of space to work in. While full-service post offices can be downright spacious, Andrews still gets by on a

"shoe box"-sized room tacked on at the end of the bookstore complex—this for a community of 4,000 people. The problem is most evident when the lobby is stacked with outgoing mail: college bulletins, packages to Korea, letters to home (requesting money?).



POSTAL PRESSURE: Academy student Brennan Frazier takes a break from the daily onslaught.

But either Providence or general good humor has kept anyone from getting too stressed out. "We just laugh a lot," Gardner said. "And when it gets really hectic, we just laugh even more." Sounds like no one is "going postal" at Andrews any time soon.

Graduate and undergrad fall enrollment drops

Fall quarter enrollment at Andrews dropped from last year's record-high level. After posting the institution's highest enrollment ever in the 1997-98 school year—3,152—enrollment levels dropped to 2,901 for the 1998-99 school year, a drop of 252 students, or an 8 percent difference.

Undergraduate enrollment for fall quarter 1998 is 1,650, down from 1,723, a drop of 73 students or 4.2 percent. This year's class of first-year students numbered 291 compared to last year's 318, and the number of seniors this year was down by 66 students.

Graduate enrollment is 1,118, down from 1,305 students, a drop of 187 students or nearly 15 percent.

Enrollment services personnel have identified one factor that could have impacted this year's downturn in enrollment. The world financial crisis, which has seen significant devaluation of currencies among Pacific Rim and South American nations, has likely affected international student enrollment at Andrews.

"More than most schools, our enrollment is sensitive to world economic downturns," said Emilio García-Marenko, university registrar. During the 1997-98 school year, there were more than 800 international students at Andrews, constituting almost 20 percent of the student body.

Enrollment for the last three years at Andrews has exceeded the 3,000-student level, and this year's enrollment marks a return to the sub-3000 level last seen during the 1994-95 school year. Enrollment for the last four years has been 3,152 in 1997; 3,132 in 1996; 3,015 in 1995; and 2,952 in 1994.