

# CAMPUS UPDATE

## Social work in the city and other places

The Andrews University Department of Social Work is working in conjunction with several partners in the war against violence, to expand urban ministry opportunities for AU students, and to create and support a web site that will provide on-line counseling for church members.

Project C.A.R.E. (Christians Achieving Restoration through Empowerment), a shared ministry with the Family Ministry Department of the North American Division, offers a virtual support-and-information system for hurting church members.

"We conducted a three-month phone survey assessment that asked church leaders what were the most significant psychosocial problems they have faced over the past six months," explained Sharon Pittman, chair of the department. "Leaders who were randomly called were pastors, elders, Sabbath school teachers, deacons and deaconesses. Not surprisingly, depression and family problems were the most commonly reported problems that church members had talked with their church leaders about," she said. "Project C.A.R.E. was developed to better serve the emotional social needs of church members, while building caring resources for church leaders." Christian counselors may be contacted through the site at <<http://www.project-care.org>>.

More than a quarter of a million dollars was granted by the Teagle Foundation of New York to the Department of Social Work, the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, and Goshen College, both in Indiana, to

develop an interfaith project for the prevention of violence. Reaching Common Ground, an Elkhart County, Ind., antiviolence group, is also providing funding. The grant provides funds for a major symposium to explore other antiviolence needs. Future scholarships may reach outside the area to train students for international work. The center will be built around a public-health model through input from local governmental, law-enforcement, judicial, social-service, medical, educational and religious groups.

"We will be able to educate for violence prevention and promote peace and reconciliation through our Mennonite partnership. Students are provided an opportunity to develop interfaith programs for helping churches to work in their communities," Pittman explained. A global-peace symposium is being planned for fall 2001.

Andrews University and Columbia Union College, Takoma Park, Md., have developed a new metro ministry focusing on urban issues and expanding opportunities for Adventist students to gain hands-on experience in urban settings. Working from a CUC base, students practice novel approaches for addressing the social and spiritual needs of hard-to-reach urban masses.

"The core premise of social work is to 'serve' those with needs," Pittman said. "We will be better able to educate for serving the 'least of these' with our urban-ministry focus of the CUC program."

For more information about the Andrews University Department of Social Work and the above programs, contact the department at 616.471.6196 or Sharon Pittman at <[spittman@andrews.edu](mailto:spittman@andrews.edu)>.

## Alter at Andrews

During January, Andrews was graced with a visit from Jonathan Alter, political analyst, columnist and senior editor for *Newsweek Magazine*. While on campus, Alter gave a lecture about the recent presidential election.

He saw three themes working through the election of this year. "Authenticity counts, spirituality counts, the votes don't necessarily count," Alter said.

Alter talked about how in politics the press walks a fine line between private and public life, but argued that the press is no substitute for our own judgment. "It's a



Jonathan Alter

very, very difficult area for all of us and every journalist has to make the decision for themselves. I didn't think we needed to know all of the details of President Clinton's egregious sin," he said.

Since 1991, Alter has written the widely acclaimed *Between the Lines* column, which examines politics, media and society at large. He is also an originator and author of the weekly *Conventional Wisdom Watch* which uses arrows pointing up, down, and sideways to measure and lampoon the news. For the current week's *Conventional Wisdom* Alter said, "Bush should enjoy his inaugural ball because the honeymoon for him will end at midnight."

Alter joined *Newsweek* as an associate editor in the *Nation* section in March 1983, becoming media critic the following year. He was named a senior writer in February 1987 and a senior editor in September 1991. He has been the editor for *The Washington Monthly* and has done freelance work for such publications as *The New Republic*, *Esquire*, and *The New York Times*. A native of Chicago, Alter received his BA in history with honors from Harvard in 1979. He is co-author of *Selecting a President* (Farrar, Strauss & Giroux) and the coeditor of *Inside the System* (Prentice-Hall).

## Kept connected

Although they once were considered merely a flashy toy, cell phones can now be found in nearly every part of mainstream business throughout the world. Andrews University is no exception to the cell-phone fad, having recently purchased a world cell phone.

University faculty and students regularly travel to remote areas of the world and have limited ways to contact the outside world.

The world cell phone works in every country to which Andrews generally travels and is available for Andrews academic tours, mission trips, and faculty or administrators who travel abroad on Andrews business. The first expected use of the phone abroad was during Andrews Academy's trip to Nicaragua in December.

Departments that use the phone will be responsible for the phone's base monthly rate and any phone calls made.

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## Online options

One of the newest features offered by Andrews University Student Financial Services (SFS) and Andrew's Information Technology Services is the ability to pay school fees via the AU website. Available since October 31, the new system has already saved a lot of time and effort not only for those who have utilized the new capability, but also the SFS staff. Payments can be made by credit card on academic, housing and tour accounts as well as room and housing deposits.

"A lot of people will benefit from this because more transactions can be made outside of office hours," explained Katie Johnson, SFS cashier. Also, clients who make payments online won't have to call in and wait for long periods of time.

Every precaution has been taken to ensure

that this method is safe. The security of the site is guaranteed by VeriSign, the leading provider of internet trust services which provides authentication, validation and payment needed by websites. The credit card numbers that are entered are instantly verified.

According to Johnson, one inconvenience of the pay online method is that "parents won't be able to use the system or view their student's account online without their AU ID and personal identification numbers. Due to confidentiality requirements we cannot divulge this information without the student's permission. If the student gives the parent his or her identification numbers, it authorizes the parent to view the account," she explained. Each month the account statement will be mailed to the address stipulated by the student.

## Honorable advice

Andrews Honors students received advice from the experts at their annual church service. Kent Seltman, director of marketing at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, shared his thoughts about the challenges Christians face working in the secular world. He noted that with the new technology of the millennium, this generation will make ethical decisions that no other generations have faced.

"The Bible doesn't provide a lot of slick, easy answers for the challenges you face in your life," Seltman told students. "However, the ethical principles articulated in the Scriptures are timeless." He encouraged students to recognize the difference between the principles put forth in the Bible and mere conventions of religion.

"It was encouraging for me to hear a Christian who has reconciled his thinking and his faith," said Alex Carpenter, a junior religion major. "I felt inspired by his integrity. He showed me that I can be a thinking, successful Christian even after I leave Andrews."

Seltman also addressed the changing relationships that students encounter both with their parents and with the church. College students live in a state of transition, on the

dawn of independence and adulthood, he said.

"As surely as your relationship with your parents is changing, you need to expect a revolution in your relationship with Jesus and the church," said Seltman.

Malcolm Russell, AU Honors program director and professor of economics at Andrews, believes that advice from experts such as Seltman is a vital part of the university experience. "We professors can't hope to know everything, and we're not



Kent Seltman

always very knowledgeable about conditions in the working world," said Russell. "I see bringing in experts as something very valuable for our students to understand the outside world. . . I think these sorts of contacts are very important for students to make."

## Air wave improvement

WAUS 90.7FM just received a challenge grant for \$7500 from the Frederick S. Upton Foundation in St. Joseph, Mich. The grant will be used for mobile recording equipment to record local classical and acoustic concerts, and eventually to train Andrews University (AU) students to record concerts. The Upton grant was matched by PVT and private donors. PVT is an operation of Andrews University and comprises the major part of Physics Enterprises(PE).



WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE? **LISA (YI-LIAN HSU) DEWITT (BS '95)** does and she was given the opportunity last October when she and husband **STEVE (BS '95)** traveled to New York for her appearance on the highly-successful game show. The segment aired Nov. 21 on ABC. A teacher at Andrews' Ruth Murdoch Elementary School, the Andrews alum walked away with \$16,000. She is shown above with her biggest fans, her grades five and six class at Ruth Murdoch.

## Performing arts to the tune of millions

At press time, a substantial gift was given to the university for a new Performing Arts Center. The center, to be completed in 2003, will be used for campus and community musical performances and showcasing the artistic talents of Andrews faculty and students. David Faehner, vice president for University Advancement, stated, "This is the largest single gift ever received by the university." Further details will be featured in the next issue of Focus.