

Architecture students city planning for Billings, Mt.

Philip Bess, professor of architecture at Andrews University, likes to give his students real-world experience. The best way to do this is to involve his students in various communities for urban-design charrettes. A charrette is a concentrated, collaborative design process that brings a variety of people together to devise plans or solutions to a given problem.

In September 2003, Bess and eight students arrived in the town of Billings, Mt., to help produce a master plan of proposals for preserving and improving the area within a 10-block radius of Cobb Field, a minor-league ballpark which is also being renovated. The visit was initiated and sponsored by the Blue Ribbon Committee, appointed by Billings mayor Chuck Tooley. Committee member Randy Bishop decided to contact Bess after reading his book, "City Baseball Magic: Plain Talk and Uncommon Sense about Cities and Baseball Parks."

The group stayed in Billings for nine days and began to develop a master plan for the neighborhoods around Cobb Field, approximately 900 acres, which includes a large medical area, half of the Montana State University-Billings campus, and several residential neighborhoods. The students gathered "wish lists" from area residents, the goal of the visit being to arrive at the basic themes that would guide development of a master plan for Billings on their return to Andrews.

A good rapport was built with the committee and residents involved in giving the AU team feedback. "The planning committee was absolutely wonderful, as were the residents who gave feedback," said Brandt Hay, a fifth-year architecture student who was part of the team. "We were received with open arms and a smile, and, as time went on, the reception we received grew warmer still."

Bess and his students made several recommendations to the Blue Ribbon Committee, including implementing the use of roundabouts, converting two main

one-way streets to two-way, and placing a median down a main thoroughfare. After presenting their final suggestions in December, several committee members told the AU team that their plan exceeded the quality of proposals done in the last decade for the city by professional urban design firms.

Last year's Urban Design class focused on a project closer to home, the neighborhoods and streets of Berrien Springs. Plans for improvements to the town's public area were presented at a series of meetings held at the Berrien Springs Community Library. Seeing their suggestions become a reality in either Michigan or Montana would be exciting for the students; however it will be a challenge since the proposed changes will require public funding, most likely through bond issues. "Although the property values, city tax revenues, and tourism would improve with these changes, it's sometimes hard for city residents to realize future benefits and pass the bond," Hay said.

Science complex deluge

Two of the three buildings that comprise the Science Complex sustained water damage following an early morning thaw of a frozen fire hose line on Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2004. The university's plant service and custodial crews began working on the site around 3:30 a.m., when the leak was discovered.

The damaged buildings, Price Hall and Halenz Hall, house the biology department and the chemistry and clinical lab science departments. The frozen fire hose line that broke apart as it was thawing is located at the top of the northwest stairwell.

Plant Services Director Richard Scott



David Alonso (left), associate professor of chemistry, and Max Jardine, master electrician for Plant Service, discuss the damage.

estimated that thousands of gallons of water flowed into the buildings, affecting approximately 80 percent of the third floor, and leaving inches of water

in the amphitheaters located on the lower levels.

In addition to numerous classrooms and offices, the Natural History Museum and several labs (including those for chemistry and biology) are located in Price and Halenz halls. Fortunately, the third building in the complex, Haughey Hall, which houses the Math, Physics, and Engineering Departments, was not damaged.

Although the property damage was unfortunate, the university is thankful no one was injured.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Weekend



The weekend of Jan. 17-19 was spent remembering the incredible influence of Martin Luther King, Jr. in modern society. Seminary student Martin Luther King Lister (above right) presented a sermon oration at the New Life Church titled "Shattered Dreams." On Monday, Dr. David Williams (MDiv '79, pictured above), a professor at the University of Michigan, spoke on "When Good Intentions Fail," addressing how our larger culture undermines living Dr. King's dream and what we can do about it. Later that afternoon, a panel comprised of students and faculty (right) from Andrews presented a workshop titled "Four Decades After the Dream." A musical tribute to Dr. King featured student groups.



Andrews receives grant from SBC Ameritech

Randy Siebold, assistant professor of teaching and learning and specialist in instructional technology, has been working hard to make online courses exciting. After doing research, he concluded that most first-time online courses are boring and static. "Most teachers take their materials from a classroom course and put them online," he said. "When you don't have personal interaction, the lectures tend to be stale."

Siebold and a group of professors and staff got together and outlined what they thought would make a good online course. They called and visited web sites

of several other schools and organizations when doing their research, including the American Federation of Teachers of Distance Education, Florida Gulf Coast University, and the Adventist Virtual Learning Network, for advice as to how to make these courses more stimulating. They then synthesized their findings into something that would work for Andrews students. During this process, the Mission-Infinity Model was created. This model combines the "thinking" and "doing" stages by having the mission as the core purpose.

The group was made aware of a grant through the Michigan Colleges Foundation and SBC Ameritech, and received \$10,000 in late 2002 for an initial

website to help teachers and other universities learn how to implement exciting interactive courses. They have now designed a web site to be a handbook for online courses. Students at Andrews have begun taking these new courses through a web course tool, or WebCT. Currently three nursing courses are being offered this way, as well as a training class familiarizing professors on campus with the implementation of online courses.

Siebold and graduate students working on curriculum and instruction degrees plan to continue doing research to make this website as user-friendly as possible.

CAMPUS UPDATE

10th annual Creative Arts Festival, Feb. 23-28



The Creative Arts Festival showcased campus and community artists. The library hosted many of the gallery shows and demonstrations, one of which included basket weaving with Janet Helsley of St. Joseph, Mich. (left).

The 'ol Korean Dance Company from Chicago performed in the Howard Performing Arts Center on Monday, Feb. 23 (right).



Other concerts at the Howard Center included a Wind Symphony Vespers Concert on Friday evening (bottom right), and the Lake Union Choral & Orchestra Music Festival concert on Sabbath afternoon (middle left).



The English department performed Robert Harling's *Steel Magnolias* (bottom left). The play featured (l-r) Mindy Berlin, Marjorie Susens Frakes, Beverly Stout, Laura Whidden Wetterlin, Kyla Marden Steinkraus, and Kari Gibbs Prouty (not pictured).



Mennonite artist displays paintings



Abner Hershberger, a Mennonite artist from Goshen, Ind., displayed his prints and paintings at Andrews University, January 8-29, 2004. The "Heritage Works" exhibition is an attempt to remember, express and record Midwest rural communal life. Having grown up in a Mennonite family on a farm near Fargo, N.D., Hershberger's life and worldview were strongly influenced by farm work, reliance on family, and a strong identity with the church community. Hershberger taught art at Goshen College in Indiana for over 30 years and is now a professor emeritus at that institution. He is the recipient of numerous grants and fellowships and has lectured and exhibited extensively throughout the United States.

Record attendance expected for 2nd annual Passion Play

During the 2003-2004 school year, Andrews University began a new tradition on their campus. After months of preparation, memorizing lines, garnering support from businesses in the surrounding communities, and getting more and more excited about the potential for witnessing, the First Annual Easter Passion



A PASSION TO SHARE CHRIST: More than 200 attended the first general information meeting held Friday, Feb. 20, in the PMC Youth Chapel.

Play debuted on Sabbath, April 19. The play's participants were amazed by the community's response to the event. Over 2,500 tickets had been reserved ahead of time and nearly 700 VIP tickets had been distributed, but the university did not expect the crowd of about 1,800 that showed up for the last performance, open to those without tickets. In all, an estimated 5,000 showed up to experience this interactive, real-life version of the Passion Week events.

Planning for this year's play has been under way for several months and, because of the large volume of attendees that Andrews expects this year, the play has been adapted to run for two days instead of one. Individuals, families, and

church and school groups are encouraged to reserve tickets early and plan to attend this free event.

Ron Whitehead, director of the Seminary's Center for Youth Evangelism and the Easter Passion Play faculty sponsor, is excited about the second year of this endeavor. "We see this as our Easter gift to the community," he said. As head of Pathfinder camporees, Whitehead has facilitated several passion plays in the past. "We seek to make this experience as

real as it can be."

Nearly 450 youth are currently preparing and practicing to be guides, beggars, angry mobs, disciples and government officials. The outdoor scenes will include an authentic Middle Eastern marketplace, the betrayal in Gethsemane, Pilate's judgment, and the crucifixion. A sound-and-light show in the

Johnson Gymnasium will end the play with Jesus' resurrection. Six students and two staff members have been cast in the role of Jesus. Kareem Shaw of Florida, and David Oakley and Bryan James of Berrien Springs were cast in this role last year and will return this year along with John Hood and Jason Calvert of Berrien Springs; Jay Oetman of Michigan; Rodrigo Correa of New York, and Ben Juhl of Elkhart, Ind. "Because we are fortunate enough to be blessed with an international student body, we are able to present a diverse representation of Christ," Whitehead said.

Performances on Sabbath, April 10, will begin at 3 p.m. and continue every 30 minutes until 7 p.m. On Sunday, April 11,

performances will begin at 10:30 a.m. and continue every 30 minutes until 6 p.m. Free tickets can be obtained now by calling 800-YOUTH2U or 269-471-8380, faxing 269-471-8355 or e-mailing passion-playtickets@hotmail.com. Include your name and the number of tickets you will need. The play will only be cancelled due to weather if there is lightning; otherwise, bring your umbrella just in case and enjoy the performance.

The Easter Passion Play is sponsored by the Center for Youth Evangelism, the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, Andrews University, Pioneer Memorial Church, the Lake Union Conference, the Adventist Book Center, WAUS 90.7-FM and WFRN 104.7-FM.

For information about and pictures of last year's play, log on to: <http://passion-play.andrews.edu>.



Ron Halvorsen, Jr., delivered meaningful and practical presentations during the Winter Week of Spiritual Emphasis held Jan. 26-31. After the final presentation, over 150 students rededicated their lives to Christ, and several have indicated they would like to be baptized or rebaptized.