

New controller hired

Glenn “Chip” Meekma, a native of Northwest Minnesota, graduated from Union College, in Lincoln, Neb. with a BS in business administration and an accounting emphasis in 1991.

In 1992, Meekma and his wife, Gina, moved to Columbia, Md., where he began working for the General Conference Auditing Service as assistant staff auditor. During his time there, he worked up the ranks and became district director of auditing. In 1998, Meekma relocated to Berrien Springs where he became the



director of the Lake District. A new job working in the finance department of Shawnee Mission Medical Center, took Meekma to Shawnee, Kansas in 2001, but in 2003 he returned to Berrien Springs and the General Conference Auditing Service where he stayed until November when he became Andrews’ new controller.

“I came to Andrews because of the excitement of a new challenge and trying something a little different,” Meekma states. “It would appear that God was leading me to come this way.”

In his position as controller, Meekma is responsible for overseeing the university’s budget process, making sure that it is communicated to all interested parties and dealing with all of its “nuances.” “I’m really enjoying meeting all of the new people and discovering the interests that they have,” he comments.

When he’s not on campus crunching numbers, Meekma enjoys spending time with his wife, Gina, and their two children, Victoria, 5, and Mitchell, 2, watching NASCAR, playing golf, fishing, hunting, and basically anything that involves the outdoors.

Two vice presidents teach honors class

It’s somewhat peculiar that, although university administrators work on behalf of students and students study as a result of administrators, the two don’t interact on a daily basis. All that changed in the Fall 2005 Materialism and Idealism honors class, which was taught by not one, but two university vice presidents: Patricia Mutch, vice president for academic administration, and Stephen Payne, vice president for enrollment. As part of the innovative J. N. Andrews Honors Scholars track, the class explored the tension between the philosopher’s traditional wariness of wealth and modern society’s glorification of it. Students had the opportunity not only to cast a critical eye on their inherited cultural values, but also to rub shoulders with the powers-that-be. As Junior Tenesha Patrick observes, “Being taught by two VPs takes away the air of mystique that so often surrounds university administration—it reveals that they are real people with genuine interest in the academic lives of the students.”

That’s not to say that the educational trenches were entirely foreign to the VPs—Payne has actually taught the class twice before, and as vice president for enrollment, works closely with current and prospective students every day. Mutch is a former professor with 18 years of classroom experience and ten more as a student mentor. And both are uniquely qualified to address the material covered, Payne bringing an intimate knowledge of marketing, advertising, and teen culture in relation to material values, and Mutch contributing her expertise in the study of logic and critical thinking. The two VPs admit that administration and education come with a different set of challenges. However, for Mutch and Payne, the rewards make teaching well worth it, particularly “the interaction and mutual learning that occurs with teaching” and the opportunity to “see young minds being opened to new ideas and perspectives.”

Ranko Stefanovic

Professor of Religion

WHAT HE’S TEACHING:

Daniel and Revelation, The Gift of Prophecy, Scripture (honors course), and *Revelation* (for the SDA Theological Seminary).

ON TEACHING RELIGION AT AU:

“I see changes in students as a result of what they learn in class. We’re bringing them to God and making differences in their lives.”

WHERE HE’S FROM:

Croatia, but “grew up in Bosnia and Herzegovina.” Stefanovic worked as a pastor in various parts of the former Yugoslavia before coming to the U.S.

FAVORITE SOCCER CLUB:

Hajduk (in Croatia).

YOUTH VS EXPERIENCE:

“On the soccer field,” according to Stefanovic, “experience prevails.” But he adds that playing soccer with young people makes him “feel young.”

A REVELATION:

His Revelation of Jesus Christ (Andrews University Press, 2002) has sold over 5,500 copies to date.

HIS BOOK’S THEME:

According to Stefanovic, the Bible’s last book wasn’t written to satisfy our curiosity about the future. Rather, “it provides us with the assurance that God holds the future, and that Jesus Christ will be with his people until the very end. He will not take us from trials of life but He will walk with us through trials of life.”



\$324,000 research grant received

If you've chased your runny nose to the drug store recently in search of Tylenol Cold & Flu to alleviate the seasonal sniffles, you might have noticed that cold remedies have now joined ranks with tobacco and other behind-the-counter controlled substances.

State laws restricting the sale of over-the-counter medications have come as part of a national movement to reduce the availability of drugs containing chemicals like ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, two of several so-called precursor chemicals used to create methamphetamine in small, clandestine labs found in trailers, barns, and homes around the country.

In order to study the impact of these laws, the National Institute of Justice, the research arm of the Department of Justice, recently awarded a team of researchers from Andrews University and The MayaTech Corporation a \$324,000 grant to document state methamphetamine precursor laws and analyze the relationship between state precursor drug restrictions and the reduction of small toxic labs (STL), homegrown meth labs.

Methamphetamine, a highly addictive central nervous system stimulant, poses a "significant threat to public safety" according to the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) and specifically endangers children living in close proximity to STLs.

While many states have already passed legislation meant to curb over-the-counter methamphetamine precursor availability, similar laws remain pending in several other states. Similar legislation is being considered in the U.S. Congress as well.

Duane McBride, chair of the Behavioral Sciences Department and director of the University's Institute for Prevention of Addictions, will serve as the principal investigator of this 20 month-long investigation. Also on the research team are Curt VanderWaal, Andrews professor of social work, and Jamie

Chriqui, co-principal investigator, and Jean O'Connor of The MayaTech Corporation, an applied social science research firm with expertise in state-level legal research and analysis located in Silver Spring, Maryland. The team submitted a proposal for the project in March of this year and received news of its approval in mid-August 2005.

"This is an opportunity to work with state and national policy makers to help define the best policy approach to reduce the number of clandestine labs across the United States," stated McBride.

VanderWaal looks forward to participating in this nationally significant research project. "This grant allows Andrews University to play an important role in answering a question that really matters to the nation—namely, is there a relationship between tougher state methamphetamine laws and changes in the number of STL seizures and children found at lab sites?" he stated.



Curtis VanderWaal and Duane McBride



Dennis Woodland

Woodland attends IBC-2005

Dennis W. Woodland, professor of botany, was a delegate to the International Botanical Congress (IBC-2005) from July 12-23 in Vienna, Austria, representing Andrews University and the Andrews University Herbarium (AUB—the plant collection part of the biology department's Natural History Museum). The first week of the conference was five days spent in the "Nomenclature Session," where delegates from botanical institutions from all over the world dealt with suggested proposals to add to or modify the current International Code of Botanical Nomenclature.

This code is the book of principles, rules, articles and examples that govern the naming of most plants. Proposals for change or modifying the wording of a code article are published in advance of the meeting by botanists in the

journal *Taxon*, the journal of the International Association of Plant Taxonomy. Then at every botanical congress, which comes around every six years, the proposals are discussed in an open forum pro and con and voted upon by the delegates present. Passage must be by at least 60 percent in favor. Many proposals are defeated with the vote between 50 and 59.9 percent. "It is the most democratic process I have ever been privileged to be part of," said Woodland. "Every proposal is thoroughly discussed before the vote is taken. Each comment is recorded with the name of the person making the comment for a permanent record of the proceedings."

The previous congress was in St. Louis, Mo., in 1999 and the next one will be in Melbourne, Australia in 2011. Zoologists have similar things in their code of nomenclature. By common consensus all meetings are conducted in English.

John Banks co-authors anatomy atlas

It's been a busy couple of years for John Banks, Andrews University professor of anatomy and physical therapy. On top of his already busy schedule teaching classes like gross anatomy, neuroscience, and pathophysiology to physical therapy students,

he managed to squeeze in 600 hours in the dissecting lab, working on the *Atlas of Clinical Gross Anatomy*, the textbook he recently coauthored with fellow Andrews graduates, Kenneth Moses, staff physician and assistant professor at Loma Linda University, and Darrell Petersen, biomedical photographer and architect in Elkhart, Ind., and the chair of the pathology and human anatomy department at Loma Linda, Pedro B. Nava.

Published in May 2005 by London-based Elsevier Publishing, the world's largest publisher of medical education materials, the atlas can already be found in the classrooms of Harvard Medical School, the University of Connecticut Medical School, and the



John Banks

University of Southern California's physical therapy program. It's the first book of its kind to be published in 20 years, and the first-ever to also include text. It is also being marketed extensively for international distribution.

About seven years ago, Moses, a former student of Banks, approached him with the idea of putting together a new anatomy atlas. Though somewhat skeptical at first, Banks agreed to work on the project, and the two began putting together a sample chapter that they then took around to several different publishers. Two companies showed interest in the project, especially Mosby, who gave Moses and Banks funds to put together a second, more professional, sample chapter. Nava and Petersen joined the team, and after much negotiating, Mosby, who had now been bought by Elsevier, offered them a contract and a \$314,000 grant to cover production costs.

The contract was signed in May 2002, and the crew got to work dissecting immediately. Banks put together the section on extremities, which makes up 20 of the textbook's 47 chapters. Moses focused on the trunk, Nava on the head and neck, and Petersen took all of the book's photographs.

Banks spent many late nights and weekends working in the Andrews dissecting lab. "I was even there on New Year's Eve," Banks notes. "But I didn't mind the hours. I would go into the lab, and before I knew it, two or three hours had passed." For Banks' portion alone, he clocked 600 hours dissecting, 200 working on labeling and text revisions, and 100 with photography. "I enjoyed the extensive personal review I experienced learning the details."

The work for the book was completed in February 2004. "I feel a tremendous sense of accomplishment at seeing my name listed as a co-author on a piece of work of this magnitude," comments Banks.

AU studio spreads good news

In 2003, thanks to a flurry of student donations, university and community support, and a stiff tab generously picked up by Melchizedek Ponniah, communication department faculty member, broadcast media training was launched at Andrews University and headquartered in a small studio inside Bell Hall: International Learning Systems (ILS). Along with Ponniah, ILS recognized the need for broadcast media education at Andrews and volunteered to provide a training venue and studio, despite the lack of existing infrastructure and available finances. Ponniah, along with students, family, and friends, raised and donated the money to purchase necessary equipment. Since then, he has acted as mentor to enthusiastic students and executive producer of several student-staffed media broadcasts aired on local TV and radio channels.

Ponniah and his students pioneered the TV version of the Bible study program *Scriptural Pursuit*, long a staple of radio station WAUS programming. In addition to *Scriptural Pursuit*, Ponniah and his students produce two other programs meant to target a non-Adventist audience. *Circle of Faith* features Adventists involved in improving their communities, and *Focus*



Student production team, under the guidance of Melchizedek Ponniah, tape video interview of President Andreasen

on Michiana highlights noteworthy people, places, and goings-on that enrich the community. Additionally, *Focus on Michiana* is expected to air on local public television stations next semester.

In the future, Ponniah anticipates creating more communication-oriented programs to provide advanced training for both students and interested community members. He also hopes that soon, he and his students, along with university and community support, will begin producing daily news broadcasts on WYGN, a local television station entrepreneured by Andrews University alumnus Fred Herford.