

Doug Jones retires

After a 44-year career in Adventist education

DOUG JONES DIDN'T ALWAYS ASPIRE TO BE an English teacher, but his initial desire to be an orthodontist lasted halfway through his first algebra class.

He had always liked stories and was positively influenced by two high school English teachers: Gerald York at Columbia Academy and then Ellen Dunston at Laurelwood Academy. "I liked the way they introduced me to a lot of great stories and possibilities," he says.

Doug earned his BA in English with an art minor and secondary teaching certification from Walla Walla College in 1972 and spent the next seven years teaching English, speech and art at schools in the Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

His biggest personal goal in life was to have a happy family. Doug married Janell Larson in 1972 and they have two sons, Ethan and Nicholas, both of whom have settled back in the Berrien Springs area. Ethan and his wife Carolina work for the School of Distance Education & International Partnerships and have two children, Zeke and Lulu. Nicholas is a freelance artist and contractor.

Professionally, Doug's goal was to be an effective English teacher. As multiple students attest, he definitely accomplished that goal. "I've stayed in Adventist teaching because I wanted to offer a different angle to classroom and student/teacher relationships relying on each other."

To that end, Doug moved to Berrien Springs, Michigan in 1979 and earned an MA in English from Andrews University in 1980. Right after graduation he began teaching in the Department of English and starting the Writing Center. He received his PhD in English from Michigan State University in 1990. He expanded his resume as director of public relations for Andrews University from 1995–2000 and also edited FOCUS magazine. Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) honed his skills as vice president for academic administration and professor of English for two years, but he missed teaching at Andrews and returned to work in the



ABOVE LEFT: *Teaching at Andrews University, circa 1985*



ABOVE RIGHT: *Visiting with a former student at his retirement farewell held Oct. 1, 2016*

School of Education. Influencing the next generation of teachers was a fulfilling job from 2002–2006, then he returned to the English department. Doug served as chair from 2007–2014 and retired as professor of English this year.

As he reflects on his career, the things he is most proud of are the many good student and colleague friends he's made and introducing people to great stories. His favorite book is "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee. "It's told from a child's perspective. I love that—the innocence, the irony and the intuitiveness of Scout," he says. Doug also directed three theater productions at Andrews University: "A Raisin in the Sun," "The Glass Menagerie" and "To Kill a Mockingbird."

"I've had some great opportunities as a professional, as a teacher. Andrews has given me a much broader worldview, and that's been very meaningful to me."

During his time at Andrews, Doug was able to travel a lot. "Thanks to Andrews, I love the Serengeti. I've been there three times with the interdisciplinary study tour," Doug said.

He's also been to London several times, to Jordan for the 30th anniversary of Hesban, Trinidad, South Korea and Brazil. He even swapped places with Andrea Luxton as English professor at Newbold College in England. "I've had some great opportunities as a professional, as a teacher. Andrews has given me a much broader worldview, and that's been very meaningful to me," he says.

Doug enjoys spending time in nature and sees God best in a natural environment, especially looking out over the Pacific Ocean from the Coast Range in northern Oregon, his favorite state. Emily Dickinson's nature poetry also inspires his walk with God. "I teach a grad semi-

nar in Whitman and Dickinson. They're so similar yet so different. They're both pivotal characters in American poetry. Without them we wouldn't have Frost, Eliot, Stevens. American lit is what it is because of those two. Whitman all about himself and Dickinson all about being nothing. I find God in their work," Doug reveals.

When asked what message he'd send to his younger self, Doug laughed, "Wise up! Think before you start talking. If anyone reads this they'll say 'yup!'"

The one thing he'll miss most about teaching is his students. "Really! I'll miss that. That's also part of why I'm retiring (haha) and my colleagues. People. I'll miss them. I will miss Nethery Hall. It has a lot of character. You can still hear the footsteps of

students long gone. There's a hallowed hall effect here," Doug reflects.

He plans to continue honing his impressive skills in gardening, painting and grandparenting during retirement and is looking forward to a more flexible schedule.

On his bucket list is writing a book. "That's hard work though, and I'm kinda lazy," he says. "But I'd be happy to sit down and write one day a week." The proposed YA autobiographical book would be set in a small-town church and take place between Idaho and Oregon (Hells Canyon) where his father's family grew up. "I've got ideas. I just need to settle down and write. I gotta practice what I've preached to all my comp classes. Just do it! Just write."

"It's been fun to see Andrews evolve and change. It has had some huge challenges, but it's been fun to be a part of that history."

Henson elected editor-in-chief

Of “Natural Resource Modeling,” a U.S.-based research journal

SHANDELLE HENSON, CHAIR OF THE Department of Mathematics, was introduced to the board of “Natural Resource Modeling” in mid-June 2016 during meetings in Arizona, where she presented a plenary talk on climate change.

“I look forward as editor-in-chief to doing my part to address the ecosystem problems that are associated with climate change and urbanization,” Henson remarked.

Catherine Roberts, professor of mathematics at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, is the current editor-in-chief. She and Henson began graduate studies together at Duke University in 1987 and have remained friends.

“I view this as a natural ‘next step’ in my career, as I devote more time to service for the profession,” says Henson.



“Natural Resource Modeling” is one of only a few research journals that dedicates itself to using mathematics in order to help conserve natural resources.

Everything humans build or do requires natural resources, thus, humans inhabit an important part of the earth’s ecosystem.

“The thoughtlessness and greed of human beings continually works against

conservation of nature, and many of the resulting problems are scientifically and socially complex,” Henson added. “I want to do my part to benefit humanity and this gorgeous world that we’ve been given for a home. It is the wise thing to do, it is the ethical thing to do, and for a Christian, it is the right thing to do.”

Henson has served on the editorial board of the journal since 2004, as well as the editorial board of the “Journal of Biological Dynamics” since 2006.

Henson hopes to increase the amount of issues per year from four to six. She also wants to connect with natural resource managers and policymakers, and see “Natural Resource Managing” become a standard journal for many managers.

“I enjoy seeing new additions being made to the worldwide fund of learning. Research is an incredibly energizing experience,” Henson remarks. “It works against that ‘jaded’ feeling that creeps up on us as we reach our 50s. We are all surrounded by such amazing things, and it is a miracle that human beings have the ability to figure things out and parse out cause and effect.”

Ray McAllister wins prestigious award

As member of the Semitic Scholars, a group of three blind academics who created a Braille code for ancient biblical languages

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY ALUMNUS RAY McAllister became the first Adventist to win the prestigious Dr. Jacob Bolotin Award at the ninth annual awards event during the 2016 convention in early July. The award comes from the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) and includes the highest possible cash prize totaling \$20,000. In addition to being a fully licensed massage therapist, McAllister is an adjunct teacher for the School of Distance Education & International Partnerships.

The Jacob Bolotin Award is a cash award program to recognize individuals and organizations working in the field of blindness that have made outstanding contributions toward achieving the full integration of the blind into society on a basis of equality.

This accomplishment is known in many circles as the Nobel Peace Prize of Blind-

ness. McAllister, along with Sarah Blake LaRose, professional Braille transcriber, professor of Hebrew and fellow Andrews alumna and Matthew Yeater, current president of the NFB in Michiana, comprise the Semitic Scholars.

The Semitic Scholars are a group of three blind academics who created a Braille code for ancient biblical languages so that source documents of religious texts can be studied independently by blind students in their original context—a task that was previously impossible.

In 2010, after becoming the first totally blind person to earn a PhD in Hebrew Bible, which he earned from Andrews University, McAllister began this project by utilizing his resources which included computer-code-style files which used letters, numbers and punctuations to rep-



resent Greek and Hebrew symbols.

McAllister developed coding for the symbols not already established in Braille. Hebrew has accents which help one know when to pause while reading and which can be used to inform readers how to chant or sing the text, but these symbols were not previously charted in Braille Hebrew.