

Sherwin and Hayward given top recognition

Presented with J.N. Andrews Medallion during 2017 spring commencement

TWO COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES FAC-ulty were recognized with the prestigious J.N. Andrews Medallion at the 11 a.m. Commencement service.

First was James L. Hayward, research professor of biology, emeritus, who was recognized for his contributions to the field of biology and the scholarly development of students and faculty.

Hayward said, “I was surprised, stunned, and humbled! Andrews has provided me with amazing opportunities to thrive and grow with my students. I’m truly appreciative and inspired to remain engaged and productive!”

Hayward completed a degree in biology with a minor in chemistry at Walla Walla College in 1972 as an Outstanding Graduate in Biology. In 1975 he received his Master of Arts in Biology at Andrews University, and went on to complete his PhD in zoology at Washington State University in 1982.

Before joining the faculty at Andrews University in 1986, Hayward taught biology at Southwestern Union College, Texas; Walla Walla College, Washington; and Union College, Nebraska.

Over the course of his career, Hayward received 26 faculty research grants from Andrews, and since 2003, has attracted more than 1.2 million dollars in research funding from the National Science Foundation. He has spent 30 field seasons working on Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge in Washington State.

His book, “The Creation/Evolution Controversy: An Annotated Bibliography,”

was selected by the American Library Association’s magazine “Choice” as one of its Outstanding Academic Titles in 1999.

He has also published over 60 peer-reviewed articles, numerous non-peer-reviewed articles, encyclopedia articles (many for the new Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia), and a book chapter. Additionally, he has delivered more than 40 oral presentations at research conferences and has advised more than 20 master’s theses and more than 30 undergraduate researchers.

Hayward won the Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1995, then again in 2002. In 2015, he won the Siegfried H. Horn Award for Excellence in Research & Creative Scholarship and two months later, he received the Undergraduate Research Mentor Award.

The second recipient was David B. Sherwin, assistant professor of photography, who was recognized for his passion for making a difference in students’ lives through the art and craft of photography and his professional contribution to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Sherwin said, “I was blown away by the honor of receiving the J.N. Andrews Medallion. It took me by complete surprise! I feel blessed to be able to serve Andrews University all these years.”

Sherwin completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts in photography at Andrews University in 1982. In 2005, he studied under Michael Grecco, an American photographer, film director and author, and received a Contemporary Black & White Portraits certificate.

He has also earned additional certificates in lighting techniques and portraiture.

Before coming to Andrews, Sherwin worked for six years at the Review and Herald Publishing Co. in Hagerstown, Maryland, as their head photographer. He joined the faculty at Andrews University in 1987 and worked full-time until 1991 as an instructor of photography.

From 1990–2000, Sherwin founded and operated First Light Studios, a commercial photographic studio. He continued to teach a studio class at Andrews until 2000, when he returned to teach full-time as assistant professor of photography.

As the child of missionaries, Sherwin has a passion to provide his students with a broader world view, showing them how they can be of service, as well as exploring other cultures visually. He has taken his students on several international study tours and trips to Egypt, Jordan and India, as well as various national parks and locations in the U.S. Sherwin has also participated in a number of mission trips with his family to the Philippines, Peru and Venezuela.

The Adventist world church recognized Sherwin’s professional and leadership ability by inviting him to manage the team of ten Adventist Review photographers who documented the 2015 GC Session.

He has received more than 15 awards. Recent awards include the Society of Adventist Communicators “Best in Class” Award for Envision Magazine (2016), and American Graphic Design & Advertising “Best of Category” Award for Photography (2012).



*J.N. Andrews
Medallion
Recipients*

*Far left:
James Hayward
Left: Dave Sherwin*

“I’ve already been to heaven”

Alan Mitchell retires after a 45-year career teaching music, 30 at Andrews

IN A SQUARE OFFICE ON THE WEST SIDE OF Hamel Hall, a white-haired gentleman bends over a table covered in CDs, sheet music and stacks of books. On a nearby wall, framed pictures of concert programs and posters, smiling musicians and newspaper clippings hang in even rows. The opposite wall hosts near-floor-to-ceiling bookshelves brimming with music and books—music history, music theory, composers and other reference works.

It’s a room full of memories.

After 30 years teaching music at Andrews University, and a career that spans 45 years, Alan Mitchell is ready to retire.

“I was going to become an archaeologist,” he says. “That was until I took an archaeology course in college and then that was out of my system!”

Music was just something he always did.

“It was always in my life and was the best thing I did,” Mitchell says softly.

He treasures memories of rubbing shoulders throughout his formative years with musicians whose names were familiar to him from textbooks and recordings. It wasn’t until he switched to pre-med that he

“I do what I do because I love it and I’ve wanted to instill that in other people who are now teachers doing the same thing for their students.”

got far enough from the music department to realize he needed it in his life.

“Well, that and the constant headaches from memorizing information for my practicum exams,” he snickers and shakes his head. “It was too much. I missed music.”

And so began a career that led Mitchell around the country and allowed him a chance to explore the world. Mitchell studied in Ohio, California and Nebraska. He has worked in Michigan, Washington State, Nebraska and California. He has toured with ensembles to Italy, Spain, Germany, France, Switzerland, England, Puerto Rico, Canada

and various locations across the U.S.

His favorite memory from his time at Andrews happened just last year, when the Wind Symphony toured in Europe.

“The Basilica di Sant’Ignazio in Rome had a 7–8-second echo,” Mitchell recalls. “Watching the kids’ faces when we played our first note in that space was a big kick. Their eyes got huge.”

That trip to Italy was the culmination of seven international music tours Mitchell led from Andrews, and he looks back fondly on each of them for the opportunity to experience different cultures and performance spaces with his students.

However, the Howard Performing Arts Center on the Andrews campus outshines them all.

“It’s like I’ve already been to heaven, playing in that hall,” says Mitchell with reverence. “It’s a beautiful space with fantastic acoustics, and allows many different groups of people to come together and share musical experiences. That’s important to me.”

Music isn’t the only area in which Mitchell has experienced profound and passionate moments. Mitchell recalls a summer as a young man that he attended Bible camp in Thousand Oaks, California.

“I was by myself with God out in the hills,” he says quietly. “I made a commitment there that has stuck with me for life: I believe. If I could offer any advice to my young-adult self, it would just be to stay true to my beliefs.”

Mitchell believes music is powerful. The science of its effects on brain development, language acquisition and math skills aside, music also teaches influential life lessons.

“Music has taught me self-discipline, how to work effectively with others—basically how to live with other people,” he says. “And it has given me an expressive outlet and an activity I can enjoy the rest of my life. I hope I passed at least some of those lessons on to my students.”

On April 23, 2017, Alan Mitchell conducted his final concert as director of the Wind Symphony at Andrews University. Following



Following Alan Mitchell’s final concert as director of the Andrews University Wind Symphony, he was presented with a Bach 42B trombone

the performance, the Department of Music presented Mitchell with a very special gift.

“It’s a Bach 42B trombone,” Mitchell says proudly. “Forty years ago, I ordered a trombone with an F attachment like this one, but when it still wasn’t available six months later I gave up. I never did try again.”

The Bach 42B is a professional instrument Mitchell always thought he’d grow into. It took him 45 years as a professional trombonist, but he finally has his prized possession.

“Every morning I look at it and smile,” he says, grinning. “I play it every day.”

That trombone will serve Mitchell well in retirement, as he plans to continue offering private lessons and substitute teaching for area schools. He also intends to dive more deeply into photography—a hobby he never really found the time to develop as much as he wished—among other things.

What is Mitchell most proud of?

“I’m proud of all my students who are now doing what I do. Hopefully I had some part in the inspiration of their work. I do what I do because I love it and I’ve wanted to instill that in other people who are now teachers doing the same thing for their students. I’ve turned the battle over to them, and I love seeing them carry that flag forward.”

The only way to live

Carlos Flores looks back on his career with appreciation and no regrets

IN 1971, WITH NO SPONSORSHIP, NO scholarship, and no understanding of Michigan weather, 17-year-old Carlos Flores left his family in Mexico and enrolled at Andrews University.

“It was cold,” he says, shaking his head. “My wife and I swore we’d never come back because the weather was just too harsh. Its funny; now that we’re retired and can go anywhere, we’ve chosen to stay here. Friends make the weather tolerable.”

Though Flores has only been a faculty member at Andrews since 1998, his teaching profession goes back to 1975. In 42 years, Flores served at four Adventist institutions of higher education, in roles spanning professor, chair and dean.

Andrews students have always impressed Flores. He notes that his colleagues at other schools complained about the disrespectful, lazy nature of their students, but he never experienced that here.

“One thing that has made being at Andrews so special is the character of the students,” he says. “They are respectful, kind, caring and fantastic academically, too.”

Following the final recital of his Theory IV students’ compositions at the end of spring semester, Flores’ students presented him with a soccer ball, on which they had written what they appreciate about his teaching.

“It’s a trophy,” says Flores. “Things like this remind me of how fortunate I have been to work here.”

Looking back over what he’s proud of in his career, the first thing that comes to mind is the textbook he wrote in both English and Spanish, “Principles of Melody & Harmony.” The book is used in many places across Latin America.

“I am also proud of my teaching,” he admits. “Just recently I got a note from a student saying classes won’t be the same without me. It makes me feel like I’ve done a good job in my contributions to the field of music.”

Like most professional musicians, Flores was involved in music from an early age.

Though his family encouraged him to become a pastor or a doctor, Flores dedicated himself to music, a choice he admits took great sacrifice, as he had to leave his family at a young age to pursue that dream.

“I couldn’t have made a better decision,” he says.

Flores specializes in piano and cello, and has performed numerous times with his brother, Hector, who followed him to the U.S. and currently teaches music at Andrews Academy.

“I grew up in a very close family,” says Flores. “My favorite memories center around playing tennis. My father, my brothers and I would play any chance we got.”

God has always been at the center of Flores’ life. He followed God’s call to live a life teaching music, and he followed the call to every place he’s lived, learned and served, including Mexico, Puerto Rico, Massachusetts and Michigan. And he saw God’s hand in a real way when he was seriously injured in 1973.

“I have absolutely no regrets... I am positive that every decision I’ve made was God’s way for me.”

To pay his way through college, Flores worked at a foundry in Stevensville, Michigan, about ten miles west of the Andrews campus. While at work one day, Flores seriously burned his right foot.

“I was faced with the most likely scenario that my foot would be amputated,” he says quietly, remembering the fear and disappointment. As a pianist, the prospect of losing his right foot meant he would need to re-learn with his left foot an important part of playing the piano: Using the pedals.

Flores spent eight weeks in the ICU. With no one but each other during this difficult time, the newly married couple of two months turned to God.



Carlos Flores

“God responded positively,” says Flores. “I did not lose my foot.”

As he faces retirement, Flores smiles as he considers what he plans to do with his time. In addition to increased time with his wife, two children and five grandchildren, Flores looks forward to short-term mission trips serving schools around the world. He and his wife also hope to travel, exploring the U.S., Mexico and Europe. First on the list is Mt. Rushmore in South Dakota.

“I have spent the longest time of any of my posts, 19 years, at Andrews,” Flores says. “Somehow that time went faster than any of the other periods of my life, and I believe it’s because it was such a pleasure to be here doing what I love.”

Flores shakes his head when asked if he would change anything.

“I have absolutely no regrets,” he says. “I am positive that every decision I’ve made was God’s way for me.”

In the last class of his teaching career, Flores’ students asked him for one final bit of advice. He read to them Psalm 37:5.

“I like the way it reads in Spanish,” he says, translating as he reads aloud. “Put your life in the Lord’s hands, trust in him and he will deliver.’ That’s what I would have told myself as a young man, that’s what I’ve told my children and that’s what I tell my students. It’s the only way to live a regret-free life. It’s the only way to live.”

The search for the Sabbath-keeping Waldensians

Gerard Damsteegt, associate professor of church history, conducts research to provide clarity

FOUNDED BY THEOLOGIAN PETER WALDO in 1173, the Waldensians are admired for their bravery across Protestant religions and gain high bidding in Adventist writings. “The Great Controversy” states, “Their religious belief was founded upon the written word of God, the true system of Christianity” during the Dark Ages, when biblical truth was hard to come by in the pervasive Roman Catholic Church. Though their beliefs and teachings are considered to be forerunners of the Protestant Reformation, a question that is a bit harder to answer is if they kept the seventh-day Sabbath.

“The Great Controversy” implies that they did, introducing its chapter on Waldensians with, “In every age there were witnesses for God—men who cherished faith in Christ as the only mediator between God and man, who held the Bible as the only rule of life and who hallowed the true Sabbath.” However, the historical confirmation is elusive, since most Waldensian work was destroyed in its day for being heretical.

According to P. Gerard Damsteegt, professor of church history at the Seminary, several historical documents refer to Waldensians

worshiping on the Sabbath, though the sources that did, being primarily inquisitors and Catholic historians, wanted it otherwise.

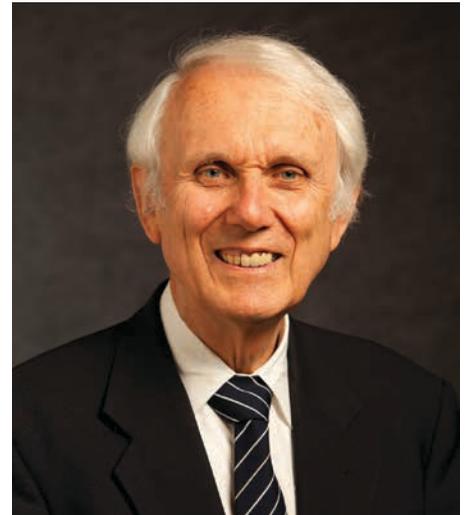
The Waldensian historian Emilio Comba in 1821 stated that northern Italy included many Christian groups that defected from the Catholic Church in the Dark Ages, who were associated with the Waldensians and kept the Sabbath.

For some, this information may not come as much of a surprise, since Waldensian practices and Sabbath worship are often closely associated in the Adventist church. However, the historical community has had a hard time solidifying the concept because of other defining characteristics which set the Waldensians apart, earning them names such as “sabbatati,” “sabatatos,” “xabatati” and “insabbatatis.”

Damsteegt clarifies the religious implications behind the name “insabbatatis.”

“What I have discovered is that the name ‘insabatati’ was being used both for the rejection of all the Catholic traditions and holy days, and also for those that reject Sunday as a tradition,” he says.

In May, Damsteegt took his research to



P. Gerard Damsteegt

the Waldensian church headquarters in Italy for review, which will hopefully result in more religious and historical clarity on this important topic.

“Though it has been nearly one thousand years since the formation of the Waldensian religion,” Damsteegt muses, “their influence has been an important part of both the history and theology of Protestant religions.”

Burnack named Advisor of the Year

For her knowledge, motivation and availability

CAROL BURTNACK, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR of public health, nutrition and wellness, was named Advisor of the Year at the annual Awards Assembly on April 25.

The award is given by the Student Success Center after evaluating hundreds of student comments about their advisors.

Burnack’s students provided the following comments: “Being Ms. Carol Burnack’s advisee is a one-of-a-kind experience since she can both be accurate and clear about academic processes as well as be there to listen when you have something on your mind that’s bothering you.”

“My advisor has been amazing. She is always available to meet with me. She projects

a friendly, caring, Christian interest in me. She is always ready to listen and help with any problem I may have. She made sure I understood what classes I needed to take. I appreciate everything she has done for me.”

Burnack says, “My mission has been to focus on serving the students since they are why I am here. I had such a great student experience in my undergraduate studies at Andrews. My professors and advisor made me feel a part of the Andrews family and took the time to talk and pray with me, and I try to replicate that for my student advisees as best I can. I am truly grateful for my advisees and the opportunity to do what I do in helping them succeed in their studies.



Carol Burnack