

## Changes in the Division of Student Life

*New associate dean, three residence hall deans and international student advisor*

Several new team members have joined the Division of Student Life in the past few months. Following an extensive search of both internal and external candidates, Deborah Weithers was named as the new associate dean for Student Life. She is replacing Paul Buckley, who left Andrews in October 2011 to accept a position at Dartmouth College. Weithers' first day in her new position was July 2, 2012.

"I am thrilled Debbie has accepted our invitation to join the Student Life Team. She has extraordinary experience and service in higher education, and already has strong established relationships at Andrews. In addition to her exceptional management and programming skills, Debbie has a deep

has served on the Black History Committee for three years.

Weithers says, "I am passionate about Andrews and the influence it has not only on graduates, but through them, our wider global community. What a wonderful opportunity in Student Life to help shape the student experience."

Lamson Hall has added A'Lisha Lashley to their team as an assistant dean of women. Lashley was born in Mandeville, Jamaica, but moved to Trinidad at a young age. While pursuing her undergraduate degree at Andrews University, she worked as a resident advisor and ultimately head student dean.

She graduated from Andrews University with a BA in Spanish and secondary teaching certification. After graduation, Lashley moved to Pennsylvania where she spent two years serving as head dean of girls in addition to Spanish and Lifeskills teacher at Blue Mountain Academy. She is currently working on an MA in higher education administration at Andrews. "God has been showing me where he wants me and giving

me opportunities to be in those places," says Lashley. "I am grateful for this position and do not take God's work lightly."

Donnie Keele is a new assistant dean of men for Meier Hall. He has worked in a variety of ministerial roles, most recently as a student dean at University Towers. He has also worked as an associate director of youth ministries in the Central California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and assistant chaplain and worship coordinator at Southern Adventist University.

Keele earned his BS in mass communications/media productions from Southern Adventist University in 2008 and is currently working on an MDiv at Andrews. He loves music and working with young people. "I believe that I have been called to ministry,

**"I am passionate about Andrews and the influence it has not only on graduates, but through them, our wider global community."**

specifically to Adventist youth and young adults," says Keele. "I believe that God has given me the talents, experiences, and drive to challenge our youth to choose vibrancy over complacency and service over self-gratification."

The staff at University Towers, home to Damazo and Burman Halls, is also being re-focused to utilize their team members to better serve the comprehensive needs of both the students who reside there and the guests who utilize Guest & Convention Services.

David Iwasa, dean of University Towers, is also serving as director of Guest & Convention Services. Willyta Wamack, who formerly served as coordinator for Guest & Convention Services, has accepted the position of housing assistant for University Towers. In this newly designed position, Wamack will coordinate housing for all University Towers residents and support Dean Iwasa.

Rachel Keele has accepted the newly created position of assistant dean of University Towers and assistant director of the Office of Guest & Convention Services. Most recently, she worked in the customer service area at Andrews University Press. Previously, Keele has been the guest services director at Camp Wawona in California, a student dean and resident advisor at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tenn., and an assistant girls dean and photography teacher at Highland Academy in Portland, Tenn.

Keele earned her BA in broadcast journalism from Southern Adventist University in 2009. She is currently studying part-time to obtain her master's degree in educational psychology with plans to graduate in December 2013. Her goal is to work in youth and young adult ministries to "lead others closer to Christ through service and personal interaction." In her spare time she enjoys music, photography and playing chess.

The Office of International Student Services welcomes Nancy Ruiz as an international student advisor. Ruiz is replacing Irlacy Rodriguez who served in that role for nearly 10 years before returning to Brazil.



New Student Life staff, L-R: A'Lisha Lashley, Nancy Ruiz, Donnie Keele, Rachel Keele, Debbie Weithers

passion for Andrews University and the students we serve," says Frances Faehner, vice president for Student Life.

Most recently, Weithers was a senior development officer for the Office of Development. Prior to that, she served for seven years as manager of the Howard Performing Arts Center. At the Howard, Weithers was responsible for programming and frequently interfaced with various entities of Student Life and student clubs hosting events. "These skills will serve Debbie quite well in her role as associate dean as the position has major programming responsibilities, including University Forum," says Faehner. As associate dean, Weithers will also serve as chair of the Black History Committee and the Martin Luther King Jr. Planning Committee. Weithers

## Baldwin retires after 25 years of service

*Plans to continue research into the area of geomorphology*

Colleagues gathered in the Seminary Commons on Thursday, Sept. 13, to celebrate the retirement of John Baldwin, professor of theology, at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. Baldwin's retirement

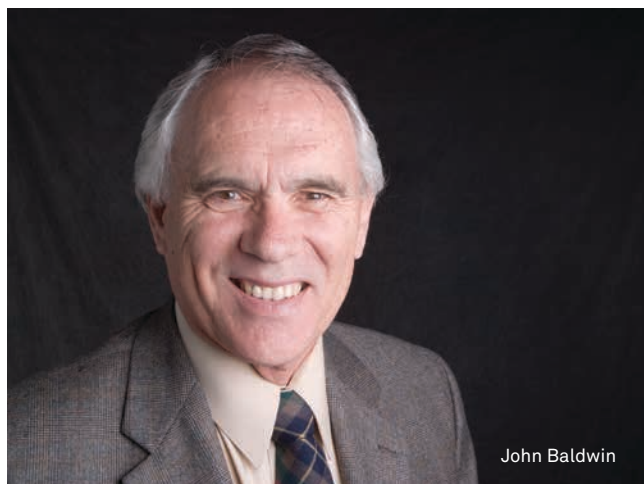
comes following 25 years of service at Andrews University.

Baldwin holds a PhD in philosophical relation of science and religion from the University of Chicago. He has specialized in teaching issues in origins, along with fellow professors Randall Younker and Martin Hanna. His publications have appeared in journals such as the *Harvard Theological Review* and *The Christian Scholar's Review*. He contributed to and edited the book *Creation, Catastrophe & Calvary*.

Baldwin says his shift into retirement is simply moving into a new enterprise of deep interest: geomorphology, the study

of the cause(s) of the shape of present landforms. As a continuing member of an interdisciplinary team jointly funded (2012) by the Andrews University Faculty Research Grant Program and the General Conference Faith and Science Council, Baldwin plans to participate in future data-gathering field trips in the coming years. His formal teaching career was capped this summer by the geomorphological data the team identified in northeastern Arizona including channels carved in bedrock flowing around a mesa, scores of erratic boulders with one over 20 tons, and streamlined landforms.

John says he and his wife, Sylvia Ann, are grateful to God for the privilege of teaching at the Seminary. "We deeply appreciate Andrews University and the Seminary, but most of all we'll miss the people and students but hope to keep in touch." Baldwin plans to fill his retirement with writing, speaking and traveling.



## Linda Mack leaves Music Materials Center

*Retiring in the mountains of Colorado*

Linda Mack, music materials librarian and associate professor of library science, has retired after 25 years of service at Andrews. A retirement reception was held for her in the Howard Center lobby on Sept. 5.

She received her Bachelor of Music with an emphasis in organ performance from Andrews University in 1971 and completed a Master of Music a year later. She earned a Master of Library and Information Science from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, in 1987.

Mack joined the faculty at Andrews University in 1987 as the periodicals librarian before taking the position of music librarian, which she held from 1993 to 2012. More than 20,000 musical scores, recordings and musical books have been cataloged under her direction and she is responsible for establishing regular music and English guest lecturers on campus. She oversaw the renovation of the Music Materials Center; was instrumental in developing the Youth Reserve Collection in the Media Center, and the Piano Pedagogy and Piano Proficiency Reserve Collection in the Music Materials Center, all part of the James White Library.

Mack has been an active performer in both professional and informal venues, including the Twin Cities Concert Series, in which she was a regular performer in addition to holding a position as an executive committee member. She served as the director of the Andrews University Early Music Ensemble for Michiana children and volunteered as the music director at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Dowagiac, Mich.

In addition to her work as a librarian, Mack has used her knowledge of music to construct the program notes for classical concerts performed at Andrews University since 1991. The program notes are archived on her website: [www.andrews.edu/~mack/pnotes/](http://www.andrews.edu/~mack/pnotes/). Mack is also the author of several articles for *ASDAL Action*, the professional publication of the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Librarians, plus several book reviews and professional papers.



Linda Mack at her retirement reception held Sept. 5, 2012

After retiring, Mack moved to Denver, Colo., with her husband Ed. She will continue working on some of the research projects she started at Andrews, including a biography being written on Blythe Owen, an American musician and former professor at Andrews.

She plans to continue her involvement in the music community and find volunteer opportunities in the fight for social justice, as well as spend time with her family and do lots of hiking with her husband in the Rockies.

## Seminary dean to return to full-time teaching

*Search committee formed to identify Denis Fortin's successor*

Denis Fortin, dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, has announced his plans to return to full-time teaching effective with the 2013–14 school year. Fortin has served as faculty at Andrews since 1994 and the last six years he has served as dean.

“I have come to the conclusion that after serving in academic administration for the better part of the last 14 years, as director of the Master of Divinity program for three years, as associate dean for four years, and now as dean for six years, it is time for me to take a break,” Fortin said. “I have therefore asked President Niels-Erik Andreasen and Provost Andrea Luxton that I be permitted to return to full-time teaching in the Department of Theology & Christian Philosophy.”

Fortin was appointed dean of the Seminary in 2006. Since joining the Seminary faculty in 1994, Fortin has served as director of the Master of Divinity program (1999–2001), associate dean (2000–2004), and chair of the Department of Theology &

Christian Philosophy (2006). Prior to coming to Andrews University, he served as a pastor in the Quebec Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

“The Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary has been very well served by Dr. Denis Fortin, both as a professor, program director and dean for the past six years. The number of students, programs and services has grown under his leadership, and we have all been blessed,” says Niels-Erik Andreasen, president. “I am happy to note that he will return to his first love: teaching Seminary students. We are delighted to welcome him back full-time to the faculty.”

The Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary has grown into one of the largest Seminaries in the country, with a national and international faculty and student body,” says Andreasen. “It serves the Seventh-day Adventist church in North America and around the world. Its educational work is of critical important to the faith and ministry of the church.”



Denis Fortin

A search committee will be established, overseen by President Andreasen, to identify Dean Fortin's successor. The search committee will include representation from the Seminary faculty, Andrews University administration and Seventh-day Adventist Church leadership.

## Judy Nelson retires after 28 years of service

*Plans to participate in short-term mission trips, volunteer and spend time with family*

The staff of the James White Library held a retirement party for reference specialist Judith Nelson on Thursday, Nov 29. Nelson retires after 28 years of service at the James White Library and Ruth Murdoch Elementary School. A long-time Michigan resident, Nelson graduated with a BS in home economics and minors in secondary education and library science from Andrews University in 1970.

Soon after graduation, she married Dave Nelson, now retired manager of arboretum and grounds at Andrews University, and moved to the Lansing area. In the early 70s she worked as a librarian at Dansville High School in Michigan and then at Campion Academy in Loveland, Colo.

After almost ten years working as a homemaker, she became the librarian at Ruth Murdoch Elementary School, where she remained for the next 10 years. She was first exposed to computers at Ruth Murdoch, where

she was responsible for digitizing the library there. In 1994, Nelson became a reference associate and later specialist at the James White Library where she expanded her knowledge of technology using the library's computer system.

After retirement, Nelson plans to spend more time with her family. She hopes to travel, including participating in short-term mission trips and camping trips. She also wants to continue volunteering in the church and community and to spend more time gardening and sewing.

“The great staff at the James White Library has made working there a great experience,” says Nelson. “Experiencing how technology has



Larry Onsager, dean of libraries, presented Judy Nelson with a farewell gift

changed our world has been very challenging and rewarding and helping patrons and students on a one-on-one basis gives me the greatest satisfaction. I have been truly blessed.”