

New manager for Howard Performing Arts Center

Lynnetta Hamstra hoping to combine her business expertise and love for music in new position

Lynnetta Hamstra began her new role as manager of the Howard Performing Arts Center on March 1. She replaces Erica Griessel, who accepted another position locally in December.

“I’ve always dreamed of somehow combining my business degree and my love for music,” Hamstra says. “Managing the

Howard, Hamstra worked in financial records and plant administration, coordinating firms, accounts receivable and purchasing. For ten years before that she worked for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists as associate director for women’s ministry, a job that gave her the opportunity to travel to five continents and encourage women around the world to do their best with the talents they have. This experience gave her confidence in connecting with people from all backgrounds and cultures, something that is very important at a place as diverse as Andrews.

“I’m looking forward to building positive relationships across campus and within the community,” says Hamstra. “The Howard Center is a community outreach and it’s an important one. I want to continue that. I want people to know that when they come here they’ll get good service and good programming and that they’ll leave knowing this is a

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Howard definitely accomplishes that, and I’m very excited about it.”

Growing up with a piano teacher for a mother, Hamstra is no stranger to music or music performance. She learned to play at a young age and has continued to stay involved in music at church and accompanying performers. She even did some work toward a music minor at Andrews.

Prior to her appointment as manager of the



Lynnetta Hamstra

beautiful place with kind people.”

Managing the Howard Center is a demanding job, and Hamstra admits with a grin that she’s up for it.

“I’m both excited and a bit nervous, as the scope of this job is quite large,” she says. “Comfort will come with time and experience, and that’s a challenge I look forward to.”

Merlin Burt edits book on Ellen White’s ministry

Intended to address several of the major issues often surrounding Ellen White and her ministry

Merlin D. Burt, director of the Center for Adventist Research at Andrews, director of the White Estate Branch Office and professor of church history at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, recently edited “Understanding Ellen White,” a book that builds a foundation for interpreting White’s experience with God and her ministry. The book, while published by Pacific Press Publishing Association, is a product of the Ellen White Estate.

“This has been a project of several years and is multi-authored,” explains Burt. “The original content from many of these authors was quite lengthy; we eventually reduced them to this compact book which contains solid material.”

The book aims to address several of the major issues often surrounding Ellen White and her ministry.

“Some of the attacks on Ellen White are disingenuous and unfair,” says Burt. “We wanted to address issues where people have questions in a substantive and foundational

way. That was the main idea when the book was in the planning stage.”

The book deals with issues that relate to Ellen White, such as inspiration, the Gift of Prophecy in the modern era, as well as some issues that are regularly questioned such as the shut door, Ellen White’s literary use of sources, her statements on science, health reform and more.

Burt says, “All of these questions are addressed in a careful, scholarly way that is readable and widely accessible.”

Plans to translate the book into several languages are in the works. The General Conference Spirit of Prophecy Committee provided subsidy in order to translate the book.

While preparing the book, Burt had three needs in mind:

1. A college or graduate level reader on Ellen White issues for classes on the Gift of Prophecy and Ellen White
2. A resource that helps pastors who are working with church members and study interests to understand Ellen White



Merlin Burt

3. A resource for the world church, particularly where there are limited materials on Ellen White available

Of the various writers for the book Burt commented, “I am grateful we have such solid authors with concise explanations. The authors represent key scholars for the Church.”

Overall, Burt describes the work as “a trustworthy and excellent resource for those trying to understand Ellen White.”

Steve Hansen appointed as new chair

Merged areas forming new Department of Visual Art, Communication & Design

During the 2015–2016 school year, Andrews administration made changes to two of its schools and colleges. As the school year began, the School of Architecture, Art & Design operated with two functional areas: architecture (which included an interior design degree program) and visual art and design. The school’s visual art and design degree programs were transferred to the College of Arts & Sciences’ Department of Communication. With that transfer, a new Department of Visual Art, Communication & Design was then created within the College of Arts & Sciences.

Hansen believes several areas under his new purview will see significant growth in the near future.

Following the transfer of its visual art and design programs, the architecture school was renamed the School of Architecture & Interior Design.

“A number of things that happened in communication and things that happened in visual art and design overlapped,” explains Steve Hansen, newly appointed chair of the new department. “Things like magazines, film and broadcast media programs, and others. It seemed responsible to save monumental effort by joining the two and allowing them to work together better.”

Documentary film, formerly part of VAD, and broadcast journalism, formerly part of the Department of Communication, have what might be a surprising amount of overlap. Both areas require cameras, editing equipment and studio space.

“Someone acting as a producer or cameraman for documentary film does much of the same work as someone producing a news story or short format film,” says Hansen. “While there are notable and important differences between organizational approaches, editing style and purpose, at the nuts and bolts level they do share many of the basics.”

Hansen believes several areas under his new purview will see significant growth in the near future. For example, Hansen feels the recently furnished broadcast media studio will attract more majors, and that partnering photography and graphic design with communication will also make the programs even more appealing.

“Andrews is pushing forward in a very meaningful way in broadcast media,” he says. “Students have the opportunity to explore being in front of the camera or behind it; producing news or developing short films or documentaries. Our Adventist subculture needs things like this for video outreach, and



Steve Hansen, chair of the new Department of Visual Art, Communication & Design, introduced himself to students at a joint assembly on January 5

we’re providing the opportunity for our young people to become involved in even more areas of Adventist ministry.”

A fine artist by trade, Hansen has been teaching at Andrews for nearly 30 years, and spent 12 of those years as chair of the Department of Visual Art & Design. He also studied journalism in college, so is familiar with the workings of the communication side as well.

“In some ways chairing this department isn’t really that different from being chair of the Department of Visual Art & Design,” he says. “In VAD it wasn’t just my specialty—fine arts. There was graphic design, film, art education, etc. So the chair doesn’t necessarily have a degree in every single program under their jurisdiction, but it doesn’t stop them from successfully filling that role. It’s all about managing people and being willing to continue learning.”

CFRE certification earned

By Hebe Soares & Dennis Hollingsead from the Office of Development

CFRE International is an independent nonprofit organization whose sole mission is dedicated to setting standards in philanthropy through a valid and reliable certification process for fundraising professionals.

Those professionals who have a CFRE are highly esteemed in the field of philanthropy, and sought out by nonprofits.

Hebe Soares, senior development officer, and Dennis Hollingsead, prospect management officer, have both obtained CFRE certification in the past two years.

Hollingsead says, “The commitment to study for the exam needs to be taken seriously, and the process of documenting the educational and organizational goals was time consuming. After all was finished, it was a very worthwhile task; although at times it did not seem like it. I have no plans to ever leave Andrews University, but the



Dennis Hollingsead



Hebe Soares

CFRE gives me additional credibility and marketability in this uncertain economy.”

Soares received her certification in July 2014 and Hollingsead received his in December 2015.