

ON THEIR OWN TIME

Faculty and staff find **TIME** outside of their work for the university to **INDULGE** some pretty serious pursuits. Our writers examine just a few of these happening **HOBBIES**.

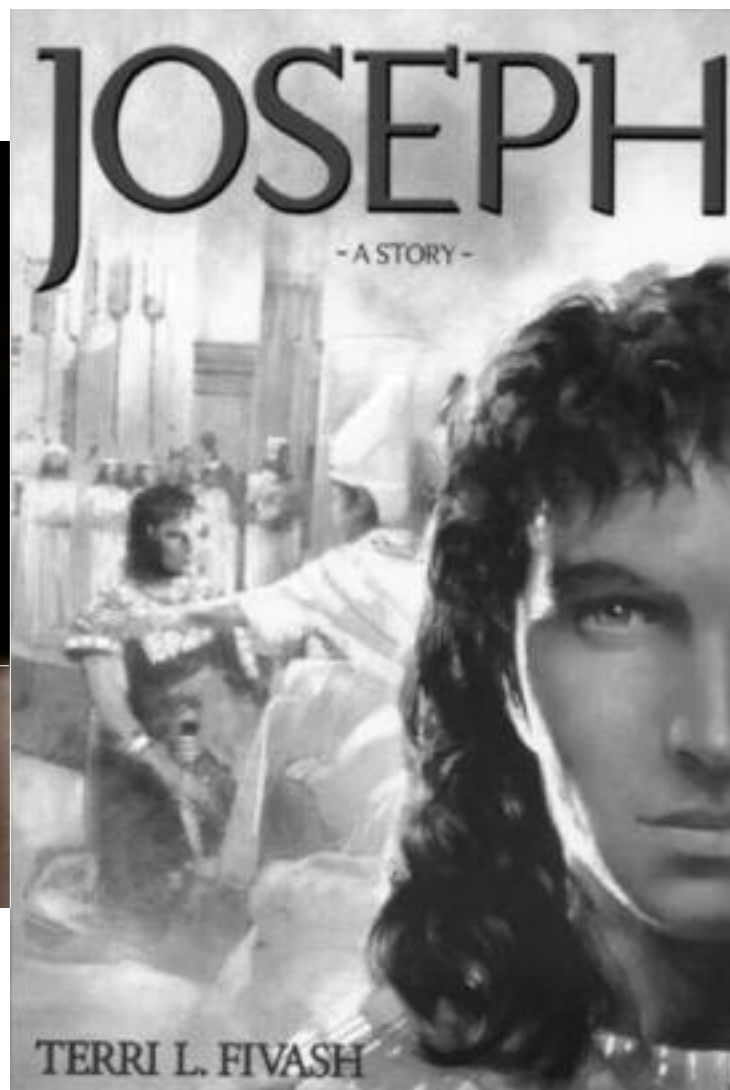
Joseph, Her Story

by Katie Shaw

When she's not managing the history department office, Terri Fivash writes historically accurate and emotionally moving accounts of biblical stories.

"I believe that we can't appreciate what God can and will do in our lives until we realize that biblical characters were imperfect just like you and me." Terri Fivash (BA '84, MA '86 in History), office manager for the History and Political Science Department and mother of two, was tired of reading sermonized and historically inaccurate Bible stories. Instead of resigning herself to frustrated reading, she decided to take matters into her own hands and write a historically accurate narrative of Joseph, which portrayed him as a real person, not an example of sin or virtue.

Research for her story began in the late 1980s and finished



in 1991. Writing was put on hold when she became a mother, and she didn't begin to write seriously on this story again until 2000. "I started the book several times in the mid-1990s," said Fivash, "but it wouldn't come."

In April 2000, the author's husband, Keith Calkins, an instructor in the Intermediate School District's Math and Science Center on campus, told her that Jeannette Johnson from the Review and Herald Publishing Association would be on campus and was looking for individuals with book ideas. She set up an appointment to meet with the Review team during their visit and, after pitching her idea for Joseph, was asked for



Fivash meets with representatives from the Review and Herald Publishing Association

a completed manuscript by August of that year. Fivash spent April and May updating her research and then spent anywhere from eight to sixteen hours per day writing during the summer of 2000. The book's acknowledgement reads: "A very special thanks goes to my husband and boys for their patience the summer Mommy was 'in Egypt.'"

Fivash finished *Joseph: A Story* at midnight of Labor Day,

2000. She submitted the final manuscript to the Review and the book was published in 2002, nearly two years after she had met with Johnson and her team to pitch the idea. The book sold 5,000 copies its first year and a second printing has been run.

But she hasn't stopped there. Two other Bible stories have been researched and writing has begun, including a book about Ruth and Boaz, and a series on King David.

Fivash has a network of helpers for her writing. Dr. Leona Running, former Seminary professor, checks her Hebrew and historical accuracy; Dr. Alice Williams, director of academic assessment

and Fivash's sister-in-law, serves as an advanced reader; and her boys are eager listeners to her stories. "They serve as my barometer as to whether the story is moving or not," she said. "If they get restless, other readers probably will too!" In the evening, she reads aloud from her current writing project. "It's a good way to catch awkward sentences and word combinations that don't immediately make sense."

A Friend in High Places

by Helen Robinson

Robert Schwab, professor of management, has been county highpointing all over the Midwest.

Mt. Shasta, Mt. Whitney, Mt. Rainier, and Mt. Hood. These are just a few of the hundreds of mountains Robert C. Schwab, professor of management, has climbed in his lifetime. "Mountains are my passion," he says. "That's where my heart is."

But when Schwab began working at Andrews University more than 30 years ago, he left the mountains behind to move to Berrien County where the highest point is 938 feet above sea level. At first, all he could do was wait for summer when he could travel to the mountains, but more recently, his love for high points has led him to a new hobby and a new passion—county highpointing.

About three years ago Schwab joined the County Highpointers Association, a group of amateurs nationwide who are interested in county highpoints. Since then he's become the third most active member in the organization. County highpointing is exactly what its name implies: get-

Schwab at the highest point in Macomb County, Michigan.

ting to the highest natural point of a county. This isn't as easy as it may sound. In the West, it means serious mountain work. And even in the flatlands of the Midwest, county highpointers face numerous challenges, such as access issues, hunting reserves, and cold temperatures.

Schwab tells about a county highpoint located inside a military base in Indiana. It took three months of correspondence before he finally obtained permission to enter the base with proper identification. Once inside, an escort of soldiers accompanied him as he went searching for the highest natural mound.

Before Schwab became involved with county highpointing, most of the Midwest remained uninvestigated. Geared with topographic maps, a hand-level instrument, and his Global Positioning System (GPS). Schwab has done careful research and analysis in search of the highest point in each county. He's knocked on numerous doors to ask permission to wander through bean fields and cornfields. Currently, Schwab has mapped 154 virgin counties—counties no one else has done before. For each one of those, he's written up a trip report posted on the organization's website so that other county highpointers can refer to the groundwork he's already done.

Schwab has many stories to tell about his adventures. His most memorable experience in Michigan occurred in Macomb County, where the highpoint is located inside the Ford Automotive Proving Grounds. "I think they probably decided to let me in because this was the last county I needed to complete the state of Michigan," he writes in his trip report. "After signing liability waivers and clearing the security gate, I met Barney, who has been a test driver there for 23 years. We hopped into his van and headed out onto the track, where we encountered several drivers testing new and experimental vehicles.

"Barney took me up the 29% grade track that they've built up to a circle on the top of Twombly Mountain. This circle connects to three other tracks. Looking down the 60% slope is



like looking down a ski jump. Only the most rugged 4WD and military vehicles are tested there.

"Barney waited in the van while I quickly surveyed the area. The top has been altered, but the highest remaining ground

appears to be on the south side of the hill, right next to the guardrail. Barney then took me on a brief tour of the grounds and of

course a lap around the banked oval at a modest 95 mph. (He said some of the cars out there were running around 150 mph!) Obviously roaming pedestrians do not belong within these grounds, so my experience was very special."

Schwab was the first county highpointer to complete all of Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, earning him the title "Midwest Highpoint King," and he is recognized as an expert in Midwestern highpoints. He has completed 907 counties, more than 28 percent of the 3,142 counties in the United States, and the counties he's completed stretch from coast to coast. "I've taught for more than 30 years," Schwab says. "But the thing I'll probably be remembered for is something weird like this."

“Mountains are my passion...
that's where my heart is.”

Be-Fore There was Tiger

by Katie Shaw

Art professor Greg Constantine (and *FOCUS* cartoonist—see back cover outtake) brings history and folklore to life with his reproduction of original golf clubs.

Greg Constantine (BA '60), artist in residence and professor of art, is a golf enthusiast. Not in the spend-every-waking-minute-on-the-course kind of way, although he does enjoy his time on the links. His love affair with the sport began as a 12-year-old caddy in Windsor, Canada. But lately, his life seems to be filled with this pastime in the form of handmade shepherds' crooks and aged paintings of Scottish sheep herders. Being a true artist at heart, he has taken his hobby and his talent, and made them one.

Legend agrees that the game of "golfe" began in Scotland around the eleventh or twelfth century. Folklore from that time period tells of shepherds playing a game with either a stone or a carved wooden ball which they hit with their crooks, aiming for rabbit holes. Similar games have been documented around the same time period in Holland, France, and Italy. However, they lack the key element: the hole.

Golf was outlawed in 1457 in Scotland by King James II because he believed it posed a threat to national defense; archers were putting down their bows and taking up their clubs. Not until almost fifty years later with the Treaty of Glasgow was the ban lifted, with King James IV himself taking up the sport. Golf was reserved for the wealthy then because clubs and balls were so expensive. Early golf balls were made out of sewn leather stuffed with wet feathers and took a long time to make. The first set of clubs consisted of longnose playclubs for driving, grassed drivers (or fairway



clubs) for medium-range shots, spoons for short-range shots, niblicks (similar to a wedge), and a putting cleek.

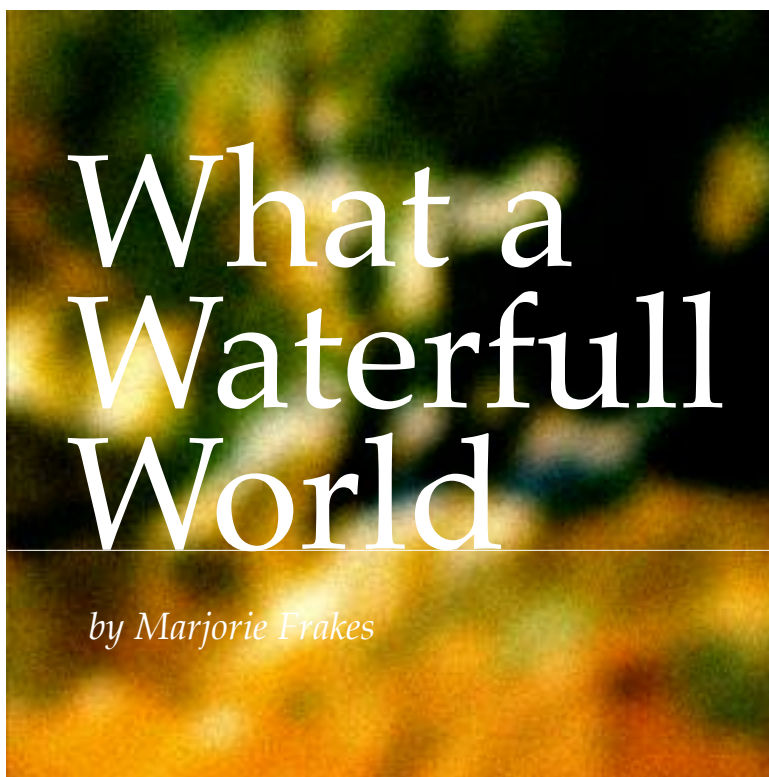
Constantine has given his imagination free reign of his hobby and about four years ago, he began experimenting with "shepherdsticks," shaping them into his idea of the first golf club. The stick sports the curved crook that most are familiar with, but a bulge, much like a club head, is carved into the crook. "My theory is that, perhaps, one day a shepherd was carving himself a new crook," Constantine mused. "There could have been a knot in just the right place, forcing him to carve around it. Maybe he was embarrassed by the bulge when he went to play with his buddies, but they weren't laughing for long when his stone would go farther and straighter."

Constantine has created around twenty of these "shepherdsticks," as he calls them. He patented the design in 2000 and on each stick he writes the name of a Scottish links course, the patent number, and then signs it. The sticks have been shown by Constantine at the PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando, and A. J. Bonar of AJ Golf School in California and North

Carolina bought several to aid in his instruction of the history of golf. Barney Adams, CEO of Adams Golf in Texas, also has a Constantine shepherdstick. "I saw him at the show and he was very intrigued with the club," Constantine said.

Constantine has also used his artistic ability to create a series of ten paintings, some of Scottish shepherds playing golf. He even painted King James II at St. Andrews golf course issuing his proclamation banning golf. While visiting Scotland, he researched traditional shepherd dress from that time, and sketched landscapes of famous golf courses. His paintings are created to look as if they're from the 14th century and then antiqued by using a crackled technique.

Golf has been a relaxing pastime for Constantine and his friends. He says that his love of the game is "fifty percent social interaction and fifty percent sport. Even though I want to improve my score and skill, I like the Scots' attitude toward golf. When asked how their game scored, they would answer either 'The course was good to me today,' or 'The course was not good to me today.'" He sees his paintings and his shepherdsticks as a creation of historical fiction, but also a kind of therapy. "My father was a carpenter by trade, so I often thought of him while I worked," he said. Painting for him is effortless and golf is therapeutic. "Art is a result of the life you have lived."



At first one might think Tilstra is merely an avid collector of watercolor paintings, but they are actually his own. "I've been involved in drawing and stuff like that since



Development officer Dan Tilstra sees his world through watercolored glasses.

Walking into Dan Tilstra's home, one is immediately confronted by a collection of paintings. A painting depicting a pink house stares down from one wall of the living room and a somewhat impressionistic depiction of a California landscape graces another. In the dining room, Christmas scenes line the walls.

preschool," says Tilstra. His mother noticed an early interest in art and an unusual clarity in his drawn figures at an early age. At Rio Lindo Academy in Calif., however, Dan had his first introduction to watercolors. The first year, he had a class in oil painting. The second year, the class focused on watercolor painting. Dan took an immediate liking to the watercolor



Tilstra gave a watercolor demonstration during the recent Creative Arts Festival.

class. While at Pacific Union College, Angwin, Calif., Tilstra took a watercolor class from Vernon Nye. This further sparked Tilstra's interest in watercolors and taught him new processes.

Tilstra's current projects certainly keep him busy. He is working on future plans to teach a watercolor class every other Thursday night with another watercolor artist in the area. He has also displayed his work in local galleries and exhibits (one currently in Saugatuck, Mich., a small tourist town an hour north of Berrien Springs). Tilstra says he is trying to paint more than he has in the past. He doesn't want to say when he gets older, "I wish I painted more. Now is as good a time as any." The more Tilstra paints, the more confident he becomes.

As often as possible, Tilstra and his family spend part of their summer at the Mendocino Biology Field Station, a two-week program that focuses on biology and art. Tilstra enjoys going to the Mendocino seminar because his preferred method of inspiration is painting on location. The quaint little town of Mendocino is used in many of his paintings. Tilstra says he finds it more inspiring to work on location because he has access to all the senses and a lot of input.

Tilstra uses two basic techniques in his paintings. One form follows a mixed-media format, and is created using watercol-

ors and then tracing over the completed picture with pen and ink, creating shadows and definite lines. His other method is a straightforward watercolor approach. The brushstrokes are loose and free, and the created scene has indefinite borders.

The thing Tilstra finds most rewarding about his hobby is feeling good about a finished project. It is exciting to achieve the goal he intended to accomplish. Tilstra says there is always a moment when he realizes, "I think this is going to work." At that point, the project becomes a painting, not just a random collection of colors. Even if its value is not completely realized at the time, the

image has been captured.

Tilstra always saves his paintings unless they are sold or given away. Once, while painting in a field in Mendocino, Tilstra had finished a realistic painting, and noticed bushes beside him with light and dark contrast. Wanting to capture the colors, he quickly created a painting with lots of pigment and

The brushstrokes are loose and free, and the created scene has indefinite borders.

rich color. The entire painting took ten or fifteen minutes. Although he didn't immediately like it, he didn't throw it away. He eventually ended up painting on the other side of it. Some time later, while preparing for a show, he was getting ready to mat the painting on the other side. His wife, Karen, suggested that he put the painting of the bushes in the show instead. After matting and framing, it became his favorite painting of the group because it was so different from all the rest.

So, Tilstra continues to sharpen his pencils and capture scenes. "I've got to put the paint down in such a way that you look at it and say 'That's a house.' It's not a house, it's a piece of paper. But I've got to fool your eye to make you think it's a house.

Armed & Decorous

by Marjorie Frakes

English professor Bruce Closser pursues his Arthurian interests beyond the classroom.

Bruce Closser doesn't remember exactly how he became interested in his craft. He remembers looking at the screen of a fireplace, made up of a series of rings, and thinking it might be interesting to try different methods of attaching rings together. He experimented with a variety of strategies and materials. Washers were too thick and too big. Washers attached to cloth were both expensive and heavy. After completing one sleeve of what he later intended to be an entire shirt, Closser found that it weighed about ten pounds and had cost quite a lot. Finally, however, he hit on a much more workable method.

He found that by wrapping wire around a metal rod he could then cut the wire into rings. He developed a frame to wind the wire around and experimented with bigger and smaller rings, finally settling on 1/4-inch rod and 17-gage electric fence wire. For about ten dollars, he could purchase half a mile of wire. He has since attached the rod to a drill motor, making the job easier and faster. And what, you may well wonder, does Closser make? Paying homage to days long gone by, Closser fashions his collection of rings into chain mail.

The term "chain mail" suggests lengths of chain laid next to each other with interlocking links. To make these interlocking links, Closser winds wire around a rod, clips it off, and removes

it from the rod. He ends up with something that resembles a long screen door spring. He then clips the wire into

rings with tin snips. He can make 500 rings in approximately ten minutes. In 45 minutes to an hour, he can use all the rings. Five hundred rings will make an 8-by-8 inch square. Obviously, an entire garment takes a tremendous amount of rings. Closser has not successfully taken an exact count of the rings required for a shirt, but he



guesstimates that one shirt contains 16,000 to 18,000 rings. The time commitment is also tremendous. The construction of one shirt, including winding up the rings, can take 120 hours and the finished product weighs between 20 and 25 pounds.

Closser's chain-mail craft has sparked the interest of four or five kids in the area. He has also enticed one or two college students to learn his trade. Closser says it's kind of like a master/apprentice relationship and gives him the chance to experience what it must be like to share a craft. He says his projects make for great show- and-tell opportunities with kids. He has also worn his chain mail while playing in an early music ensemble and has loaned his garments to other people when the occasion was appropriate.

Closser taught himself this unusual craft, because, he says, "I'm somewhat impatient and there is something fun about figuring it out yourself." He merely tried different things and found that they worked. Later, he confirmed some of his processes by reading. Intuitive learning did provide occasional challenges. Aside from determining what product worked best to create the rings, Closser also had to determine how to get the garments to hang



Closser confesses that he considers his hobby to be something of “a male version of knitting.”

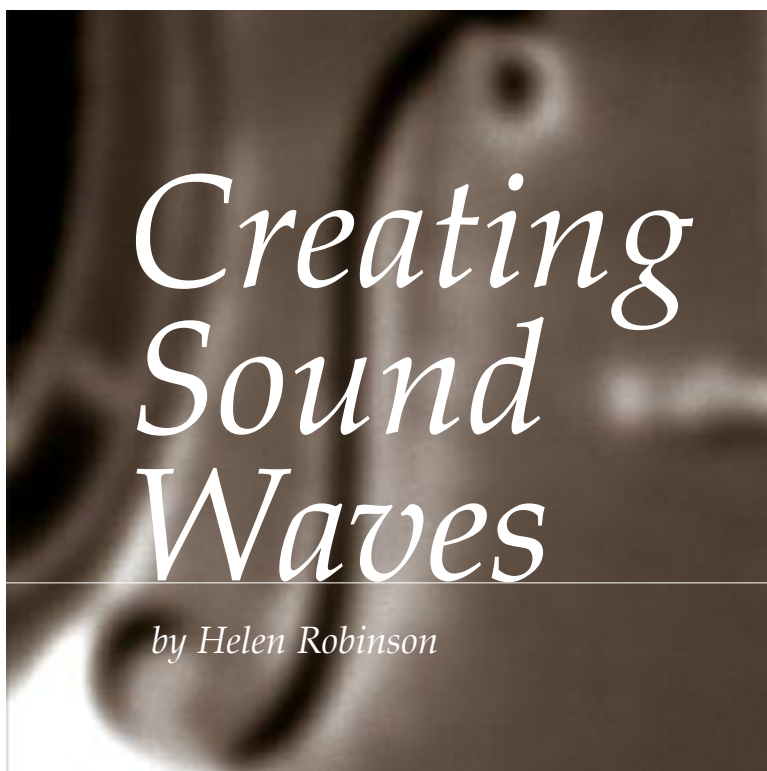
properly. To make a properly fitting shirt took some adjustments. On traditional garments, most armholes are made in circles. Metal, however, is hard to form in circles. So, Closser determined that he could either leave a gap under the arm and fill it in with a square turned in a different direction or he could make the sleeve longer, wrap it under the arm, and fasten the gap together. It took trial and error to make it work. One of his early patterns was formed over the shape of a T-shirt.

Although shirts have been his main projects (he’s made a total of 6 or 7), Closser has also made other items. He once made a “purse” for an individual who noticed one of his shirts at a Renaissance fair. It was made of fabric with an outer lining of chain mail and a drawstring. He has also made a coif—a garment that fits over the head and shoulders like a mantle. He had to work from pictures and modified his garment from the

design. It was pieced to-gether using concentric circles that gradually grew larger.

Closser confesses that he considers his hobby to be something of “a male version of knitting.” He enjoys having something to do with hands while watching TV or listening to music. He especially enjoys watching medieval programs while working on chain mail and considers it a form of transportation back in time.

Although he does not know many people who also embrace his hobby, he does find many interested crafters at Renaissance fairs. The quality and use of their chain mail may vary, but the interest is certainly there. And, although Closser’s craft is a bit of a novelty and he realizes he’s not likely to pad his retirement fund from its thrilling profits, it is something he enjoys and appreciates. “Maybe it’s just justification for daydreaming,” he confesses.



A musician and craftsman, Physics professor Mickey Kutzner is so much more than a one-hit wonder.

A familiar Christmas tune floats through the air, the melody carried by one instrument and then the next, the harmonies coming together to create a rich Celtic blend. It’s Christmastime at Fernwood Gardens, and the Kutzner family is giving a mini-concert to those who’ve come out to see the Christmas lights.

Musical performances are not unusual for the Kutzner family. Mickey D. Kutzner, professor of physics, plays the guitar and the bagpipes while his wife plays the accordion and the penny-whistle. Their oldest daughter plays the hammered dulcimer and the cello. The second daughter plays the violin—or, more precisely, the fiddle—and the youngest son plays the fiddle and the guitar. Together they play arrangements ranging from Celtic to old-time folk to bluegrass to cowboy style. Sometimes Kutzner’s



Mickey Kutzner and his children. The violins were fashioned by Mickey.

father-in-law, DeMonte Chrispens, who grew up on a ranch in western Oklahoma, joins in with voice. "The best thing about music is that it's created a bond between generations—three generations," Kutzner remarks.

Music has always been an enjoyable pastime for Kutzner. As a child, he took piano lessons and in the sixth grade took up the trombone, but when his kids grew older and could play with him, he says it became a lot more fun.

The family has been playing together for about five years now. They perform at local churches, weddings, open-mikes, charity organizations, and other social functions. They've played at the Shady Grove Fiddle Festival in Berrien Springs, and more recently the family presented a Celtic-style Christmas concert at Fernwood Gardens. The children have also appeared on the show "Kids' Time" on 3ABN. "To me, the best way to have your kids involved in music is to be a participant—not just vicariously," Kutzner says. "I would encourage any parent to do that."

At the Kutzner home, everyone is responsible for practicing on their own, but when they have a family performance to put together, Kutzner finds the music or sometimes makes his own arrangements. He says it can get pretty noisy, but the

smile on his face shows that he doesn't mind at all. He remarks that "the sheer joy of beautiful music and creativity is a rush."

Although most people see music and physics as unrelated fields, Kutzner sees a connection. One of the classes he teaches at Andrews University is Acoustics, and he remarks that his background in music helps him teach the science of sound. That's also the reason he became interested in trying his hand at building instruments.

About four years ago, Kutzner purchased a violin kit and built his first violin. It ended up having a nasal sound to it, and Kutzner determined that the problem was with the thickness of the wood. Since then he's built four violins from scratch, applying his knowledge to improve the quality of sound, and currently he's working on a cello. His children get to play the finished instruments.

“...the sheer joy of beautiful music and creativity is a rush.”

Kutzner is highly involved at school, at church, and in the community. During the school day, he can be found in the Science Complex, lecturing in class-

rooms or overseeing experiments in the science labs. On Sabbath mornings, he usually helps lead song service in one of the children's Sabbath school classrooms. And on special occasions, he and his family provide music for various social functions.

Music is an important part of the Kutzner family, and their love and talent for music have given them a way to serve God and the community.

Marjorie Frakes, almost-graduate of Andrews and (semi) recent bride of Joseph, works in the English department.

Helen Lee Robinson is working on her master's in English. Her love for traveling has taken her to 28 countries and most of the continental U.S.

Katie Shaw (BA '00), is news writer and office manager for the Office of University Relations. Her hobbies include crocheting and reading.