

The way we were

EMC up close and personal

by Michael Constable and Kari Gibbs

Sylvia Fagal (BA '65) grew up with Andrews University and has seen it go through its metamorphosis. She has seen the campus without Chan Shun and Harrigan Halls. She has been inside Birch Hall; she has seen Pioneer Memorial Church without its prized pipe organ.

She has lived at Andrews when she was forbidden to wear slacks; and then she could wear slacks (but only if she was also wearing a dress over them). And then she was allowed to wear a pant suit (but only if the jacket went below her thigh).

She has shivered through many a Michigan winter, most of them like the blizzard of 1978 when the women of Lamson Hall were trapped in their dorm by the blowing snow and escaped to the cafeteria by forming a living chain of women.

But Andrews University also holds a special kind of nostalgia for Sylvia—it was in some of these same buildings that her parents went to classes and ate meals. It was on these sidewalks where Frank and Alice Marsh walked and talked and laughed. They prayed in the church and lived in the dorms.

At that time, in the 1920s, Andrews University was still Emmanuel Missionary College, and things were very different. All lights went out in the dorms at 10 p.m. No radios, no televisions, no conversations (except maybe Alice whispering to her roommate about her man, Frank).

Frank was a pre-med student at

the time and served as the head nurse at the college when he attended. "My father used to work in Sutherland, or as they liked to call it, Pest-House," Sylvia said. "You would go to the Pest-House for a cough, if you were feeling ill, or if you just wanted to get out of class." (Some things never change at Andrews!)

Since Frank was the head nurse, he also had to help with any surgeries that took place at the Pest-House, and during the 1920s, there was a craze over tonsillectomies. Apparently, people were excited to have their tonsils out. Sylvia says they did thirty to forty tonsillectomies a day. "He told me that once they did so many that he almost slipped and fell from the blood on the floor."

Frank is also the man for whom Marsh Hall is named. Sylvia said, "At first, when my mother came outside and saw the workers jackhammering the name of the building" (using the same lettering that appears above the doors of Pioneer Memorial Church) "she wondered if the name would be 'Marsh Hall: An House of Prayer for Old People.'"

It was life as usual at EMC in the 20s, but when Alice and Frank announced their engagement, Frank decided to be daring and break the rules. "So he sat next to my mother during the Sabbath worship service," Sylvia said. "The dean walked up and down the aisle during the service, and my mother sat straight up in her seat with her arms right at her side, afraid to move. The next week in chapel, the dean announced that there would be

no more courtship during the Sabbath morning service."

The days of tonsillectomy fads and "lights out at ten" and "forbidden courtships" are over for Andrews, but the stories of Frank and Alice continue to live on in Sylvia. She is a result of their stories, and in turn, she has stories of her own. And she knows that Andrews isn't done evolving yet, but she's confident that as time goes on, one thing will always remain the same: Andrews will continue to be a place that brings people together.



Past
&
Present
Future

Andrews tuition (talk about wanting to live in the past!)

1875 – \$75 per year
1900 – \$157.50 per year
1930 – \$216 per year
1945 – \$350 per year
1955 – \$912 per year
1965 – \$1668 per year
1975 – \$3570 per year

Full and focused. These are the words that best describe the busy lifestyles of Andrews single-parent students. Beyond the hours of child care, cooking, cleaning and exam cramming, single-parent students of the Genesis Program find time in their busy schedules (cramming and childcare often compete with working 20 hours per week) to offer spiritual and emotional support to each other.

The Genesis Program (with offices located on the lower level of the administration building) offers an internal support system in a spiritual environment, allowing parents to help each other while pursuing college degrees. The current 61 students are at least 21 years of age and are custodial parents of one or more minor children.

Genesis is designed to serve a variety of single-parent needs. Parents receive free services which include social and recreational activities, field trips, peer counseling, and classes relevant to issues faced in single-parent families. The program also encourages students to apply for scholarships to help with their education.

How focused are these single parents? Carol Shade, Genesis director, says, "The GPA of single-parent students is higher than average students'." So focused are they, in fact, that many students continue in master's programs at Andrews before making the transition to work.

Self-sufficiency. That's the goal for this new generation of single parents. And the Genesis program is definitely helping. "If I see a person doing what they can," says Shade, "I'm gonna go an extra mile to do what I can."

Beyond the countless hours that Andrews' students spend burning the midnight oil, highlighting bold words, and sweating over exams, a new generation of students embraces an exciting vision of excellence. Honors students, always looking to step above and beyond the requirements, are chal-

lenging the new century with innovative ideas.

One-person dramas seem to be a big hit among some Honors' students. Chris Small, a senior religion major, undertook a solo drama last quarter. He played Abraham Lincoln in a dramatic monologue by Herbert Mitgang. The three-hour discourse on the life of the great president was sponsored by the Society of Andrews Scholars and Student Activities, with three performances in the University Towers auditorium.

Kevin Hahn, president of the Society of Andrews Scholars and a junior, represented Andrews by presenting an essay on computerizing honors records at the National Collegiate Honors Council which met in Atlanta, Ga., in October. Hahn, a part of the National Collegiate Honors Council panel, was among five Andrews scholars who attended.

Developing websites is fast becoming another popular Honors pastime, and the Internet is just one of many ways Honors students seek excellence in new areas. Jeremy Johnson, despite a busy schedule, is in the process of developing a website for the Honors program. Once the website is complete, *Selections for Scholars*, the newsletter for Honors students and faculty, will be posted there.

But when excellence demands a physical and emotional price, what keeps these students going? Forsyth, a home away from home with plenty of fun and fellowship potlucks.

Busy is the word for the Honors house. Forsyth—previously known as Forsyth Apartments on the edge of campus—is reserved every weekend by different individuals and groups. The recently remodeled house offers a formal living room, dining room, full kitchen, and the large Ogden Fellowship Room with a kitchenette for student use. Two study rooms are also available for Honors students.

At Forsyth, in the dorm, or nestled away in personal study coves, Andrews scholars feast on meeting the challenges of the new century. What's the word for this new generation of excellence? *Contagious*.



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