

Deaths

Robert L. McDaniel (former staff), 86, and his wife, **Ilea A.**

McDaniel (att., former staff), 77, of Berrien Springs, died Jan. 5, 2015, in an auto accident in Newton County, Indiana.

Bob was born Nov. 27, 1928, to Ray and Fannie McDaniel in Petersburg, Illinois, where he graduated from high school in 1947. In 1950 he went to barber college and began barbering in 1951. After losing his job in 1953 because he had become a Seventh-day Adventist and would not work on Saturday, he moved his family to Berrien Springs. He served his residency, wrote the Michigan barber exam and went to work with Charlie Martz in 1954.

In 1959 he was offered the operation of the Barber Shop on the campus of EMC (now Andrews University), which he operated until 2007 when he sold.

Bob liked sports, and while working at the University he played softball, volleyball, basketball, racquetball and golf. As he got older, he gave up the fast sports for golf, which he enjoyed playing well into his mid-80s. He and Ilea both enjoyed gardening and sharing their produce with neighbors and friends. He had two daughters (Sherry and Janice), and he adopted Ilea's two children (Kevin and Karen).

Surviving are Janice (William) Watts of Washington, Illinois; **Kevin** (BA '84, MDiv '87) and **Susan** (BS '84) McDaniel of Montana; **Karen McDaniel** (att.) of California; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Sherry McDaniel preceded them in death in 2009. In addition to his children, he is survived by a sister, Lois (Kenny) White of Petersburg. He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Gerald; and a sister, Carol Haynes.

Ilea was born Feb. 18, 1937, in Madison, Wisconsin, to **Harold**

(att.) and Solane Ahlers. She graduated from Wisconsin Academy in 1955, and shortly after, her father sold the farm and moved the family to Berrien Springs for education. She married Bob McDaniel in 1961. Ilea worked at VM Corporation in Benton Harbor, and later at Andrews University for the James White Library and Custodial Services. She completed her pilot training and earned her pilot's license.

Additional survivors include her brothers, **Floyd** (BA '66, MAT '82) and **Irene** (att.) **Ahlers** of Berrien Springs and Larry Crawford of Owosso; sisters, Joyce Shepard of Owosso and Bonnie McGowan of McLaughlin, South Dakota. She was preceded in death by her parents; her stepmother, Dorothy; and brother, **Lloyd Ahlers** (BA '66, MA '75).

Carole Boothby (BA '54), 83, died peacefully in her home on Saturday, Dec. 27, 2014. She was born in Wisconsin on April 7, 1931.

In 1953 she married **Lee Boothby** (att.), eventually settling in Berrien Springs, where she taught grade school until she started raising her family. Carole was a voracious reader, and for a time enjoyed creating ceramics. She was talented in the kitchen, and her family and friends loved sampling her delicacies.

Carole was preceded in death by her parents, William and Ethel (Smith) Larson; her brothers, Clyde W. Larson and Randolph J. Larson; and only a few short weeks ago by her husband, Lee Boothby. Carole is survived by daughters **Robin** (Clarke) **Allen** (att.) and **Denise** (Sam) **Soranno** (BSELED '85); grandchildren Joel (Kelly) Rayner, **Nicholas** (Valerie) **Allen** (former staff) and Kayla Moran.

Andrew Evan Pearce (MDiv '11), 43, passed away Dec. 26, 2014, in the Philippines.

Andrew was born April 10, 1971, in Grants Pass, Oregon. He attended Blum Elementary, Jefferson Academy, Chisholm Trail Academy, Southwestern Adventist University and Andrews University.

He was a pastor in several churches in Oklahoma, Texas, Delaware and Maryland. At the time of his death he was teaching theology at Naga View Adventist College in the Philippines.

Andrew truly served the Lord in a very unselfish way. His kindness touched many lives; we won't know until we get to heaven how many lives.

He is survived by his wife, **Cecile Mendoza Pearce** (former staff); children, Mia, Adiel and Aaron of the Philippines, and Cherish Pearce of Cleburne, Texas; mother, Carol Ghering and stepfather, George; father, Darrel Pearce; brothers, Darrin and Anthony Pearce; stepbrothers, Christopher and Robert Ghering; stepsister, Jennifer Savage; adopted siblings, Michael and Lana Ghering; aunt, Evie Kinman; and many cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents.

Borge Schantz (MA '74) died on Dec. 12, 2014, at the age of 83.

Born August 3, 1931 in Denmark, he studied in the UK (Newbold College) and the USA (Andrews University). In 1983, he received his doctorate at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California.

Børge Schantz served the Seventh-day Adventist Church for 47 years as a pastor, evangelist, teacher and department head in several European countries, Africa, Lebanon and the U.S. From 1987–1996 he headed the Adventist Center for Islamic Studies at the General Conference.

Børge wrote numerous articles and several books. He was co-editor of the 2009

Festschrift "Exploring the Frontiers of Faith" for the 75th birthday of **Jan Paulsen** (BA '57, MA '58, BD '62, MA '83), former president of the GC.

The book was published by the Advent-Verlag Lüneburg and distributed worldwide. He wrote posts in German for the following church magazines: Advent Echo, Adventists Today, Signs of the Times and Faith Today.

In the 2012 edition of Faith Today he gave a historical overview of the role of immigration in European Adventism. In the May 2011 issue of Adventists Today he clarified through statistics on the growth of the world population and other religions, the size and the challenge of the great commission to go "into all the world." He also wrote the Adult Study Guide about mission that will be used by Adventists around the world for the third quarter of 2015.

Left to mourn him are his wife **Iris** (att.), two sons, **Steen** (MA '77) and Kim, and two grandchildren.

Cedric A. Allen (BA '51) died at the age of 87 on November 2, 2014 in Atlanta, Georgia. Cedric was a native of Jamaica, West Indies.

He received his medical degree from Loma Linda University in Loma Linda, California. He established his medical practice in 1959 in Lufkin, Texas with a specialty in family practice for over 40 years.

Cedric was an active man who enjoyed golfing, gardening and reading poetry. He also enjoyed the spectator sports of boxing and cricket.

He is survived by his wife Elizabeth Allen with whom he shared 52 years of marriage, his children, **Shawn Allen-Forrest** (BS '85) and Dennis Allen, and his grandchildren Ryan Forrest, Maya Forrest and Kingston Allen.

Thesba Natalie (Yeaton) Johnston

(former faculty) passed away on Nov. 27, 2014 in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Thesba was born on November 15, 1918 in Newport, New Hampshire. Her father, Austin McFarland Yeaton, was a literature evangelist in the New England area and her mother, Eliza May Lattie Yeaton, was a normal school teacher. It was Thesba's mother who created her unique first name.

Thesba's mother was ambitious for her education and put together enough money to send her to South Lancaster Academy in South Lancaster, Massachusetts where she graduated in 1936. It was while attending SLA that Thesba met her best lifelong friend, Alice Smith.

Thesba was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church on Sept. 3, 1935, and considered her baptism the most important event in her entire life.

After graduating from SLA, Thesba had to take a job as a maid/cook for a large family in the area. Her folks had only enough money to send one child to college and the decision to send her younger brother was consistent with the mentality of the times that higher education would be wasted on a woman who would only get married and never make any use of it. It was her Aunt Bertha, a schoolteacher in New York City, who offered to pay for her tuition to Burlington Business College where she obtained a two-year college degree. Thesba remained forever grateful for her aunt's gift, which changed the trajectory of her life.

Thesba met the love of her life, Harold Johnston, on an arranged double date and they spent their first date at the Sherbrook Fair. She and Harold married in 1944 in St. Johnsbury, Vermont. She graduated from Lyndon State Teachers College with a BS in 1948.

The door to the governor of Vermont's office opened to Thesba early in the 1950s during her high school teaching career at Barton Academy, where she taught Governor Lee Emerson's two daughters. The governor's wife was so impressed with Thesba that she recommended Thesba to her husband when he became in need of a personal secretary. Within a year he appointed her "Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs," a position she held for

seven years. She acted as an "assistant governor" traveling the state as the governor's "eyes and ears," writing proclamations and speeches, and attending all legislative and gubernatorial functions.

Governor Emerson relied on Thesba as his chief advisor, counselor and confidant and she was very humbled when he asked to borrow her Bible for a weekend so he could read the passages she had marked as having special meaning to her.

Governor Emerson and Harold encouraged Thesba's thirst for higher education and with their support she obtained her MA from the University of Vermont in 1955 and EdD from Boston University in 1962. Within months of receiving her doctoral degree, Thesba received an invitation for a position as full professor in the graduate school of education at Atlanta University where she taught for 15 years and received the Trustee Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1967.

It was during her Atlanta years that Thesba co-founded the Concerned Christian Council in an effort to bridge the racial gap and facilitate integration in local Seventh-day Adventist churches. Thesba also helped found the Atlanta Christian Counseling Center, designed to offer counseling for all in need without regard for ability to pay.

In 1978 she joined the faculty of Andrews University, where she was instrumental in establishing a doctoral program in counseling psychology. Thesba also had a private practice as a licensed psychologist in Berrien Springs and was the first female licensed psychologist in Berrien County. She also helped establish the Counseling Center at the University Medical Center.

Central to Thesba's identity was her strong desire for social justice and her advocacy for racial and gender equality inspired numerous achievements and awards. She was a charter member and first female elder at All Nations Seventh-day Adventist Church in Berrien Springs. In 1983, she founded the Michiana Chapter of the Association of Adventist Women, who honored her with



Thesba Johnston in the classroom, c. 1985

a Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999. The General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists established the Thesba Johnston Scholarship Fund and was among other entities that also presented her with Lifetime Achievement Awards. The YWCA and local Women's Community Association also recognized her accomplishments.

It was after her retirement at age 70 from Andrews University that Thesba traveled to Nizhny Novgorod, Russia to teach spoken English at an Adventist language school from 1993–1994. She also spent a year teaching English from 1997–1998 in Shijiazhuang, People's Republic of China. Thesba celebrated her 80th and 82nd birthdays in China.

While awards and tributes for her leadership, teaching, advocacy or academic contributions certainly deserve mention, anyone who really knew her would tell you that her single greatest gift or talent was her enormous capacity to love—to love deeply, unconditionally and faithfully. It was her soft-spoken, tenderhearted extraordinary ability to love which transformed the lives of countless others on her life journey.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother, Austin Yeaton, and her husband, Harold Johnston. She is survived by her son, Andrew H. Johnston; her two daughters, **Alyce E. Flanders** (att.) and **Sheila A. Smith** (att.); grandsons, Christopher Grant, Benjamin Smith, and Aaron Smith; and three great-granddaughters, Layla, Kylee and Jaelyn Smith.

Excerpted from life sketch by Sheila A. Smith

Dolores (Parker) Slikkers

(Hon LLD '07, board member) was born June 22, 1929, and died in a car crash on Dec. 18, 2014, in her hometown of Holland, Michigan.

Dolores played an active role in Adventist leadership over the decades, including as a member of the Executive Committee of the General Conference, the top governing body of the Adventist world church. She was serving as a member of both the Andrews University board of trustees and the executive committee of its Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at the time of her death.

Born in Monterey Township, Michigan, Dolores grew up on a farm six miles from her future husband Leon's family farm. Living near Hamilton, Leon went to Holland High and Dolores attended Allegan High.

Leon met Dolores at a sleigh ride party. Each was "dating" someone else—but two years later he sought her out. The couple dated for a year and half, and married Dec. 6, 1947.

The couple started their own boat company in 1955—SlickCraft—financed by selling their first house. Dolores did the bookkeeping for the new company.

Niels-Erik A. Andreassen (MA '65, BD '66), president of Andrews University, expressed "deep sadness" about Slikkers' death in an email message to faculty and staff. He said Slikkers and her husband took an active role in campus life starting in the 1960s and noted that the University had recognized their business accomplishments and philanthropic endeavors by giving them honorary doctorates in law in 2007.

"Dolores Slikkers was strongly committed to Seventh-day Adventist beliefs and values," said **Benjamin D. Schoun** (BA '70, MDiv '73, DMin '82), general vice president of the General Conference and chair of the Andrews University board of trustees.

"Her special interest was in Adventist education, which she promoted strongly," Schoun said. "She was currently on the Andrews University board and is the longest-serving member of that group. She was active in that responsibility, asking pertinent questions at nearly every board meeting."



Dolores Slikkers

Dolores and her husband, Leon, also contributed financially to many church projects from revenues made at their successful boating manufacturer S2 Yachts, Schoun said.

"From the success of those efforts, they were able to generously give financial gifts for various church projects, including assisting students with tuition costs for Adventist education," he said.

Perhaps the highest-profile project that Dolores helped initiate was Maranatha Volunteers International, a non-profit Adventist-affiliated organization that she co-founded with her husband and John Freeman in 1969. Today, Maranatha mobilizes volunteers to construct urgently needed schools, churches, orphanages, clinics and houses around the world.

"Dolores and Leon were part of the original group of pilots who flew missionary trips to the Caribbean and Central and South America," S2 Yachts said in a statement in 2007. Additionally, Dolores was a member of the S2 Yachts Board of Directors.

Since its inception, Maranatha has constructed more than 3,800 "One-Day" churches, 600 "One-Day" schools, 115 education and evangelism centers, and 760 water wells, according to its website. It mobilized more than 2,400 volunteers in 2013 alone.

Dolores also served on the boards of It Is Written television in California and Griggs University in Michigan.

More recently, she was a member of the Theology of Ordination Study Committee, which was formed at the request of the General Conference to find out whether a group of Adventist theologians, scholars and laypeople could reach a consensus on women's ordination. The committee was unable to reach consensus during a two-year study.

Dolores was "quiet and kind-hearted," said Ingo Sorke, a professor of religion at Southwestern Adventist University who sat with her on the Theology of Ordination Study Committee. "She had a sincere love for her church and a genuine expectancy of the Second Coming."

Dolores was a member of the Holland Seventh-day Adventist Church. She was involved in personal ministries, women's ministries, the church board, projects for the Holland Adventist School, church treasurer, Community Services Center director, and Sabbath school teacher for many years.

Dolores also had a fondness for celebrating birthdays and skiing. She sent out more than 2,000 birthday cards every year and went skiing regularly with her husband in the U.S. West.

She is survived by **Leon** (Hon LLD '07, board member), her husband of 67 years, and four children: **David** (att.) and **Mary Slikkers** of Holland; **Robert** and **Barbara Slikkers** of Holland; **Susan Slikkers** (AS '76, BS '78) and **Mark Ringwelski** (BS '79) of Green Bay, Wisconsin; **Thomas** (AS '82) and **Barbara Slikkers** of Holland; grandchildren: **Leon II** (BA '97), **Steven** (BS '95), **Kelly** (att.), **Timothy** (att.), **Samantha** (BS '12, BA '12) and **Alexander Slikkers**; 10 great-grandchildren; brothers: **Bill** and **Jan Parker** of Holland; **Ted** and **Stella Parker** of Zeeland; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Dolores was preceded in death by her parents, **Allen** and **Evelyn Parker**, and her sisters, **Marjorie** and **Lela**.

Excerpted from Andrew McChesney/Adventist Review and Amy Biolchini/Holland Sentinel