

Births & Adoptions

To **Jason** (BA '02) and **Rachel** (BSW '03) **Maldonado**, a son, Jakobi, born on January 14, 2012, in LaGrange, Ill. He joins 2-year-old brother Jackson.

To **Denise Fournier** (BS '99), a daughter, Michelle Grace, born on June 7, 2011, in Berrien Springs, Mich. Michelle joins big brother Isaac, 8-years-old.

Deaths

Muriel Belle Stevenson Pusey (CERT '32, BA '42) died Jan. 4, 2012, in Niles, Mich. She was born to Robert Bruce and Alberta Stevenson on August 4, 1911, in Ashley, Mich.

Muriel graduated from Cedar Lake Academy in 1929, received a Bible Worker Certificate from Emmanuel Missionary College in 1932 and a BA, majoring in elementary education and biology, from EMC in 1942.

She taught in Cedar Lake, Gobles, Muskegon and Lansing before marrying **Alson Pusey** (BA '42) in 1946 when he returned from serving in the Army at the end of WWII. They lived in Lansing, New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania while Alson was teaching in church schools and Muriel stayed home raising two children. They also spent eight years in Maryland where Alson worked in construction. In 1961 they moved to Muskegon, Mich., and taught in the public school system at Phillips School until their retirement.

Muriel was active in Sabbath School, VBS, Pathfinders and Community Services well into her 80s. She was an avid birder and belonged to the Western Michigan Audubon Society. Her life list includes several hundred birds. She also enjoyed taking nature photography. The past ten years she lived with Alzheimer's and resided at the Shangri la Adult Foster Care Home in Berrien Springs.

She is survived by her daughter **Karen Pusey Mann** (BS '71, MAT '79) and **James L. Mann** (CERT '72, BET '78); son **Galen Pusey** (BS '72) and **Rita (Fox) Pusey** (BS '72, current staff); five grandchildren: **Sabrina (Pusey) Riley** (BA '96) and **Stephen Riley** (BS '01), **Erin Pusey (Arnall) Payne** (BS '01), **Andrea Pusey** (BS '02, NADEI staff), **Lowell Mann** (BT '05), and **Larissa Mann** (BS '06); three great grandchildren: Asher and Josiah Riley, and Emily Payne; her sister, **Laura Maxine**

Mosher (DIP2YR '36, BA '41); and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her brother, Harry Stevenson, her husband, Alson, in 2009, and a great-grandson, Caleb Payne.

James "Jim" I. McNeill (BA '68) of Pasco, Wash., 64, died Sept. 26, 2011, from cancer.

Jim grew up on a small farm in Maryland. His surgeon father died when he was 13 years old, propelling him to the position of man of the house. For his freshman year of college, Jim lived at home, attending Columbia Union College. He transferred to Andrews University the following fall, majoring in physics while taking preparatory courses for medical school.

Two weeks after graduation he married **Margaret "Peggy" Walker** (BA '68) and they moved to Loma Linda, Calif. After graduating from Loma Linda University School of Medicine, Jim took an ophthalmology residency, also at LLU. He later completed a corneal and external eye disease sub-specialty under corneal specialist, Herbert E. Kaufman, at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

Although Jim never planned to be a professor of medicine, he taught in the LLU School of Medicine's Ophthalmology Department for 16 years. At the age of 33, he became chair of the Ophthalmology Department, a position he held for ten years. In 1993, he was invited to join Pacific Cataract and Laser Institute in Kennewick, Wash., and continued as a surgeon there until April 2011 when he became ill.

Jim was an avid pilot and enjoyed giving rides in his Super Cub to whoever liked to see the beauties of the fields and farms of Eastern Washington from the air. He served on the board of Tri-City Junior Academy for many years and also loved the Sabbath School class he helped facilitate at the Richland Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Physics was a lifelong passion. He wrote for *Wavelength*, May 2001: "Andrews University is a very special place to study the sciences. Many academics would say that a school allowing creation to be considered must be painfully narrow. I have been listening to the words of Richard P. Feynman (*The Pleasure of Finding Things Out*, etc.) and I just finished a book by Phillip E. Johnson (*The Wedge of Truth*). It amazes me how scientific giants will choose to limit their consideration of nature by not allowing a creative God. This basic axiom of natural evolution is not

scientifically valid. In addition, no random genetic change has ever been shown to increase information—an essential step in natural evolution. Please value the privilege of a physics education at Andrews."

Jim is survived by Peggy, his wife of 43 years; son James and wife Mendi and granddaughters Rose and Esther of Bellevue, Wash.; son Nathan of Gainesville, Fla.; son Seth and wife Corrairie of Gainesville, Fla.; son David and wife Shaunda of Durham, N.C.; sister Judy Coe of South Windsor, Ct.; brother Don McNeill of Clarksville, Md.; and sister **Jeanine McNeill** (BS '79) of Riverside, Calif.

Alfeo Nikundiwe (BA '66) was born in Kihurio, Tanzania, on June 6, 1940. He passed to his rest on June 22, 2011.

After graduating from Andrews with a BA, majoring in zoology, he continued with his studies at the University of Michigan, East Lansing, where he received his MS and PhD.

In 1972, he returned to Tanzania and joined the University of Dar es Salaam where he became a lecturer in the Department of Zoology, teaching embryology, developmental biology and animal physiology. He quickly rose up the ranks to associate professor and then full professor.

Alfeo began taking administrative roles as head of the department in the late 1970s and became the dean of the Faculty of Science in the early 1980s. During his tenure as dean, he established a science workshop, and through grants equipped it to be used for repair of scientific equipment. He was appointed director of the Marine Research Institute located on Zanzibar Island in the mid-1980s.

A few years later Alfeo was given a higher post as the Head of Institute of Lands and Urban Development. He developed the three-year college into a university four-year college and sought collaborative linkages that allowed that university to offer MS and PhD degrees in a sandwich program with a university in Sweden. By the time he retired from administration, he had developed the college to be able to offer competitive degrees and train local architects and other specialists in land and urban development.

He returned to the classroom doing the job he loved most, teaching and supervising graduate students, until he passed away. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, six children, three grandchildren, and a host of colleagues and friends.

Arthur Richards (BA '50), 90, of Arcadia, Ind., died March 13, 2011, at his home.

He attended Cedar Lake Academy and Broadview Academy. His education was interrupted by three years of U.S. Army service during WWII. After the war he graduated from Andrews Academy and then earned his BA in music from Emmanuel Missionary College.

Art worked at Wisconsin Academy, drove semi trucks, and was employed at Worthington Foods. His great passion was music and he was a church pianist and organist for more than 60 years. He taught private piano lessons in his home in Worthington, Ohio, and was an avid composer and writer.

Art is survived by his wife, **Sibyl Partain Richards** (BA '45), one daughter, **Mary Ann (Richards) Smith** (BS '81) and three

grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son, John William Richards.

Leonard Edward Bornstein (BS '58) was born in Cranston, R.I., on March 20, 1936, and died Nov. 14, 2008.

Len was fluent in French and played varsity basketball during high school. At the influence of his brother, Len decided to go to Andrews University in Michigan. He opted for pre-med courses and majored in chemistry. During college he joined the Adventist Church.

Len chose Loma Linda University for his medical training, and spent a summer in Nicaragua serving as a medical missionary. After medical school he joined the U.S. Air Force where he served in a family medical practice in Pennsylvania. After completing his military service, Len moved to California and joined the Bergman Medical Group in

Montebello. He married Bernice Smith in 1966 in Glendale, Calif., and worked with the Bergman Medical Group for 30 years. He and Bernice raised three children, sons Bill and Mark and daughter Krista, in Whittier, Calif.

Through the years he held many church offices including youth leader, Sabbath school teacher and elder at the White Memorial and then Whittier Adventist churches. He traveled to Mexico to do medical work for many years, and maintained board certification in family practice medicine throughout his career.

In 1995 Len and Bernice moved to Texas, where he felt as much a missionary as a physician. Len retired from medicine in December 2005 but continued part-time work through 2006 when he was diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer. He and Bernice moved back to California to be near their children during the last two years of his life.

Valerie Phillips (staff), assistant to the dean for University Towers, passed away in her home on Dec. 18, 2011. The cause of death was hypertensive cardiovascular disease. She was 56.

Dean Phillips dedicated 31 years of her professional career to Andrews University. She joined the Andrews family in 1980, first as an assistant dean and, since 1986, as an associate dean of women for Lamson Hall. In August of 2011, she transitioned from Lamson Hall to serve as assistant to the dean for University Towers.

Born March 7, 1955, in Stoneham, Mass. to Richard and Beth Phillips, Valerie graduated in 1972 from Union Springs Academy in Union Springs, N.Y. She studied behavioral science, religion and English at Atlantic Union College, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 1978. While in school, she was a volunteer at Worcester Memorial Hospital in Worcester, Mass. In 1978, she took an assistant chaplain position at Battle Creek Sanitarium and Hospital where she stayed until 1980.

In 1980, Arlene Friestad, who was then dean of women at Lamson Hall, invited Valerie to speak at the first annual Womanhood Week at Andrews. Dean Friestad was so impressed by Valerie she invited her to join the residence hall staff at Lamson Hall.

Dean Phillips not only ministered to the ladies in her care at Andrews, she shared reflections and insights gained from her experiences as a regular columnist for the *Adventist Review*.

Valerie was known for her warm and compassionate spirit, her quick wit and exceptional wisdom, and care for her students. At the 2011 Faculty/Staff Awards Event at Andrews University, Valerie was



honored for 30 years of service. In her award tribute, Frances Faehner, vice president for Student Life, said of Valerie, "Among her many unique gifts, Valerie makes an intentional effort to note and remember the special interests (favorite food, collections, etc.) of her residents. She is known for countless acts of unexpected kindness that are especially meaningful to students missing the comforts of home and family."

Following Valerie's passing, students and alumni alike recalled her infectious happiness, continual smile, and endless devotion to the students in her dorm. Michaela Jeffery, an alumna who returned to Lamson Hall in 2011 as the Womanhood Week speaker, remembered her genuine care for the well-being of her girls: "She was able to see what was good in people,

celebrate that, and help refine the other stuff." Current student Sonia Perez wrote that Valerie "could touch both your heart and mind with the wit and wisdom of her words. She could make you laugh, smile, blush or cry. In the memorable beauty of her life she will leave a hole in the hearts of many. I was honored to have her as a mentor and friend."

Dean Phillips is survived by two sisters and one brother.

A celebration of Valerie's life was held at Pioneer Memorial Church on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012.

Donations may be made to the Valerie Phillips Scholarship Fund at Andrews University, c/o Mary Nell Rosenboom, Office of Development, 8903 U.S. Hwy 31, Berrien Springs MI 49104-0660. Online donations may be made at www.andrews.edu/services/development.

Elly Helen Economou (former faculty), 83, died Thursday, Feb. 9, at Lakeland Regional Medical Center in St. Joseph, Mich. A private burial service was held on Thursday, Feb. 16, at Rose Hill Cemetery in Berrien Springs, Mich. A memorial service in celebration of her life was held on Saturday, March 24, at 4 p.m., in Pioneer Memorial Church on the campus of Andrews University.

She devoted her entire life to serving the Seventh-day Adventist Church and provided exceptional teaching at Andrews University full-time for 31 years and part-time for an additional two years after her retirement.

Elly Economou was born May 6, 1928, in Thessalonica, Greece, to George and Helen (Vrettopoulos) Economou. Most of her primary and secondary level studies were acquired at home under the guidance of private tutors. She spent six years in the Greek-French “Ecole d’Etudes Secondaires et Supérieures” of her native Thessalonica, where she graduated with special awards. She began higher education at the Anatolia Greek-American College and finished with honors. She came to the United States in 1962 and earned a BA in 1966 from Pacific Union College, Angwin, Calif., majoring in biblical and modern languages.

For graduate studies she came to Andrews University, where she earned a master’s degree in biblical languages in 1967. In 1972, she began post-graduate studies at the University of Strasbourg, France, where she deciphered a number of papyri dating back to approximately 300 B.C. for the National Library of Strasbourg. Before completing her PhD in December 1975, she also did research at the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey, Switzerland, and the archives of the World Council of Churches in Geneva. The title of her dissertation was “The Greek-Orthodox Church and her Relations with the Heterodox Churches.” It was characterized as a monumental work by the jury, which unanimously voted for its publication as a valuable contribution to the Ecumenical Movement.

Elly was fluent in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish as well as modern Greek. She also had knowledge of 10 other modern and ancient languages. She began her teaching duties at Andrews as an instructor in the University’s modern languages department and joined the Department of Religion & Biblical Languages in 1976.

She was a member of many professional organizations, including the Society of Biblical Literature, the Adventist Language Teachers Association, the American Association of University Professors, the American Academy of Religion and the International Religious Liberty Association. Economou was listed in a number of publications including the *Dictionary of International Biographies*, *World Who’s Who of Women in Education*, *World Wide Academy of Scholars*, *Community Leaders and Noteworthy Americans*, and *Who’s Who of Women*.



As a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church of her native Thessalonica, Elly served as an interpreter, youth leader, secretary, treasurer and writer. During her lifetime, Elly translated into Greek several religious books, including the *Conflict of the Ages Series*, and a number of other publications. She also wrote *Beloved Enemy*, her life story, published in 1968.

Elly was known for her exemplary generosity, evidenced by her legendary hospitality to thousands of students, community members and international guests over the years. She was an inspiring combination of the biblical Mary and Martha, known for both her love of learning and her joy of feeding guests in her home. She traveled extensively around the world, visiting 80 countries; observing and studying the cultural and historical backgrounds of other peoples, as well as their languages. She also enjoyed reading, writing, embroidery, photography and music.

Elly was predeceased by both of her parents. Her father George was an officer of the Greek Army and her mother Helen lived with her for many years at their home in Berrien Springs until her death in April 1994. Her brother Andreas, who still resided in Greece, died in October 2011. She is survived by her cousin Vasileios Papageorgiou, his wife Charikleia (Stergiou), and their son Dan Paris and daughter Evdoxia. A large host of former students, faculty and staff colleagues, and friends will miss her. “Rest well, until the resurrection morning.”

Donations may be made in Elly’s honor to the Elly Economou Endowed Scholarship Fund at Andrews University, c/o Mary Nell Rosenboom, Office of Development, 8903 U.S. Hwy 31, Berrien Springs MI 49104-0660. Online donations may be made at www.andrews.edu/services/development.