Andrews in San Antonio: The other news

Andrews University, according to policy, had nine delegates at the General Conference Session in Texas along with many others who served at the Andrews University booth in the exhibition hall and elsewhere. From my observation, the delegates faithfully attended the session meetings, represented their colleagues back on campus and participated in the discussion. I am sure they all voted on the issues at hand and some expressed that they had hoped for different outcomes from some of the discussions. That is in the nature of a convention in which more than 2,500 delegates from around the world have voting rights and exercise them.

But Andrews’ participation went beyond the responsibility of delegates. For example, a lot of information was shared with representatives from the world Church about Adventist education, Andrews degrees, distance education, the seminary and School of Education programs in ministry and leadership, all of it available literally around the world.

Along the way a contract was signed between Andrews University (Griggs International Academy) and Ouachita Hills Academy enabling its students to earn Andrews credit. One student present at the ceremony asked me afterward with expectation and pride in his eyes, “Does that mean I am an Andrews student?” “Yes,” I replied, “you will be, now go study hard.” He grinned and promised to do it.

Shortly after that event, I met with the president of Colombia Adventist University (Corporacion Universitaria Adventista), Abraham Acosta Bustillo, about developing a memorandum of understanding between Andrews and his institution. The first part of that agreement is already in the process of implementation. It is a contract between our School of Architecture and Colombia Adventist University. Our sister university wants help with designing an entirely new campus on newly acquired land in the country, away from the city of Medellin, in a much safer location and one that will be more conducive to good quality Christian education.

Meanwhile the Andrews Study Bible in Spanish translation was on display and according to one Spanish speaking pastor, is just what he needed for his Bible study. So the Andrews University Press was on hand with this as well as the English edition, and a new volume on the theology of creation, hot off the press, titled, “The Genesis Creation Account and Its Reverberations in the Old Testament.”

On Friday and Sabbath afternoons, the Andrews University Singers, working with its counterpart at Southwestern Adventist University in Texas, offered the GC participants and people of San Antonio a delightful religious concert in a nearby church, just a block from the hotels. The church was packed to capacity for both concerts. The acoustics were superb, the music was delightful, and the audience was moved almost to tears as they listened to deeply spiritually moving compositions by Charles Gounod (France), Ariel Ramirez (Argentina) and others.

And while speaking of art and music, Andrews University artist Kenneth Logan played the convention (electronic) organ daily and a little historic pump organ, of the kind used by early Adventists, while the conference participants heard stories about Ellen G. White. And of course as you can read in this issue of FOCUS, Paul Kim, associate professor of documentary film, and David Sherwin, assistant professor of photography, were the official videographer and photographer of the session. All told, Andrews brought its skills, gifts and services to San Antonio in a way that represented this first-class Christian university well.
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*On the cover:* Josef Kissinger, one of the photographers for the Adventist Review team led by David Sherwin, kneels on the floor of the Alamodome on the closing day of the 2015 GC Session. Photo credit: Adventist Review/Tor Tjeransen
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In an historic State of the University address on Thursday, July 13, 2015, President Niels-Erik Andreasen announced his upcoming retirement after 22 years at Andrews. Despite the announcement of his upcoming departure, he spent the majority of his address detailing short-term and long-term initiatives to help the University grow and expand in a rapidly changing world.

Andreasen began his address by saying, “Andrews University has an open and promising future ahead of it...however, realizing this promise in the future will take engagement from us all. That’s my conclusion—now let me unpack it.”

This unpacking process began with the issue of the budget. Due to shrinking enrollment nationwide and smaller freshman classes, financial operations were tight last year. To combat this, Andreasen explained, the board voted in a budget for the 2015–16 school year that reduces budgeted expenses for the upcoming year by approximately $2 million, based on a 5 percent reduction in undergraduate tuition revenue and a 2 percent reduction in graduate tuition revenue. He then emphasized that survival in a changing academic world would require a shift in focus to the areas where Andrews is still growing rapidly: graduate programs and distance education. “In times of downturns in one area, the institutions that recover the fastest are the ones that can generate growth in other areas,” he said. “We are not...just waiting for the number of 18-year-olds to return to the old levels.”

Andreasen then discussed the four strategic initiatives that will extend several years into the future and determine Andrews University’s long-term direction: Explore Intentionally, Engage Globally, Learn Deeply and Live Wholly.

While speaking of the final initiative, “Live Wholly,” he announced that newly appointed Health & Wellness Director Dominique Wakefield would be arriving on August 22. “When she arrives, you will know,” he joked. “We will all straighten up and walk a little bit more briskly around campus.”

After concluding his discussion of these initiatives, Andreasen then turned to personal matters, announcing that his current term as president, which began in 2011, will be his last. He will officially leave Andrews in June of 2016. “Some of you may wonder what took me so long,” he joked. “I spent my life on education—I found it exciting, rewarding and extremely stimulating, and I am loathe to give it up.”

In an action that reinforced his commitment to the continuing success of Andrews University, he gave the rest of the time for his address to retiring Board Chair Ben Schoun. Before that, however, Andreasen concluded his address with a reflection on his 22 years serving the University. “It has been a lot of fun and a great run working with all of you in the interests of Andrews University,” he said, and then walked off stage to a sustained standing ovation.

In his short remarks that followed, Schoun emphasized Andreasen’s impact on Andrews, as well as the care and effort that would be put into the search for a new president. “I appreciate Andreasen for his leadership and vision,” he said. “He is a very future-oriented person.”

A search committee chaired by Schoun and featuring student, staff, faculty and board members will meet for the first time in September, seeking to select and interview potential candidates by early 2016. They will ultimately make a recommendation of two candidates to the University Board of Trustees in March 2016, who will select the new president and the new Board of Trustees for the next five years during the quinquennial constituency meeting.

During the new board’s first meeting on June 13, 2016 they will officially re-elect the new president. At that time, Schoun will also step down as board chair, being replaced by Arthur Stele, a general vice president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. “Andrews is an institution with a great heritage,” Schoun concluded, “and we want to make sure we’ll have a leader that will carry forward those same traditions.”
Center for Adventist Research goes digital
A valuable and interesting resource for the worldwide church

The collection of rooms in the basement of the James White Library may seem unassuming to most, but for Juliette Johnson, digitization manager at the Center for Adventist Research, they’re a treasure trove. “There’s some really interesting things here that no one knows we have,” she says, “and there are so many things that we don’t even know we have. We find things every day that were given to us in the 50s, 40s, 30s...and never been processed, so we’re discovering new stuff all the time.”

The Center for Adventist Research, which receives support from Andrews University, the White Estate and the General Conference, is a concentrated effort to collect any and all materials pertaining to the history and legacy of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. These can range from the expected—such as editions of Ellen White’s books and early issues of “Signs of the Times”—to the strange or extraordinary. “We have the cane that [Uriah Smith] used,” Johnson says with a laugh, “and we have his prosthetic. It’s funny, in the collection it says that we have Uriah Smith’s leg in our vault!”

The thousands of items in the archives range from a complete catalogue of the Andrews University “Student Movement” to letters home to GC President William Spicer from his daughter, who was a missionary in China; from William Miller’s pen and Joseph Bates’s pocket watch to the complete DVD series of “Gilmore Girls,” which featured an unflattering portrayal of Adventism in the character of Mrs. Kim. “If it mentions Adventism, it’s there,” Johnson explains. “We’re not [just] trying to promote our church...It’s basically to give someone a view into our history, warts and all.”

Johnson has been working on digitizing and scanning the Center’s contents since 2005, but now she has a new project: the Adventist Digital Library, which will launch January 2016. The library seeks to make a vast number of full-text books, articles, letters and images available online for free to anyone interested in Adventist history. “It’s not just the digitized materials,” she says. “We’re also planning to have articles and that kind of thing to get people interested in going deeper into searching.” She hopes that the Digital Library will be an especial resource for Adventist educators seeking to get their students passionate about the heritage of their church. With this in mind, her personal passion project is to raise $10,000 for the equipment and labor necessary to use a 3-D Digital Scanner to recreate some of the Center’s more unique holdings—like evangelist William Simpson’s paper-mache beasts from Revelation—as fully explorable models on the web. Being able to see these tangible representations of Adventist history, she says, can help it be real for many members. “I’m connected,” she says. “I know who I am now.”

Ultimately, Johnson hopes that the upcoming digital project—and the Center as a whole—can help Adventist children and adults remember where they come from, and what their purpose is. “I want to highlight artifacts...and say, ‘Look, these are our people who spread the gospel and sacrificed so much, but they were just like you and me. Maybe we can do something like that. Maybe we can change the world.’”

The new Explore Andrews Program was happy to welcome the class of 2019 to Andrews University. In total, 45 students from 20 states have chosen to participate in the program for the year. Program director Aaron Moushon is pictured with students who participated in the “meet your advisor” event as part of the 2015 new student orientation week.
In August 2015 the University hosted its annual Faculty Institute, a time when faculty plan and prep together for the upcoming school year, and Fall Fellowship, an opportunity for faculty and staff to renew their connections as they prepare to serve students for another year. The theme this year was “Engage Globally as an Andrews Community.”

Keynote presenters for Faculty Institute included Barbara Hill on “The Dynamics of Comprehensive Internationalization,” exploring how a university can become a global campus suitable for the 21st century. Hill is currently senior associate for internationalization at the American Council of Education’s Center for International and Global Engagement in Washington, D.C.

Michael Gulker and Bob Barrett spoke on “The Scandal of Subordinating Truth to Love in Christian Scholarship.” They suggested that positioning truth within a context of love holds a potential for acquiring both, while hoping for love to emerge from the pursuit of truth might fail to produce either. Gulker is president and Barrett is director of Forums & Scholarship at the Colossian Forum in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

David Thomas, dean of the School of Theology at Walla Walla University, spoke for both Faculty Institute and the first-ever Staff Plenary Session. He spoke on “Global Engagement of the Adventist Family,” looking at the Adventist system of thought from the ground up, describing what he calls the “distinction of Adventism.”

Fall Fellowship included the president’s State of the University Address (see page 5 for a full report), vespers, and Sabbath services. Ella Simmons, vice president of the General Conference, led the Sabbath School discussion on “Global Engagement as an Andrews Community.” Dwight Nelson, lead pastor of Pioneer Memorial Church, spoke on “Engaged Globally: Blessed Reciprocity.”

Sabbath afternoon was filled with a fellowship meal served on the lawn between the Campus Center and Nethery Hall and group activities for faculty, staff and their families, including canoeing, hayrides, PMC organ demonstrations and a nature walk.
Students and faculty donned graduation gowns and academic regalia during the weekend of July 31–August 2, 2015 for Andrews University’s summer Commencement. In total, 398 degrees were conferred. The highest number of degrees bestowed were graduate-level—152 individuals received master’s-level degrees and 75 received doctoral degrees. Undergraduates were also represented, with 166 undergraduate degrees conferred, including 78 to off-campus students. Five graduate certificates were also conferred.

Graduation events began with Consecration on Friday at Pioneer Memorial Church. Stephen Yeagley, assistant vice president for Student Life, offered the Consecration address titled, “Seeing Greater Things.”

Yeagley, who has worked in the Division of Student Life since 2004, holds a Master of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry from the Andrews University Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, where he also serves as adjunct professor of youth and young adult ministry. A former pastor in the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, his passions are an intersection of mission and ministry, focusing on how young people interact with faith and culture.

The Baccalaureate address on Sabbath morning, “Take Up Your Cross,” was presented by R. Clifford Jones, president of the Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Jones, who served the church in Michigan for 20 years, was named president of the Lake Region Conference last year. His prior experience includes serving as senior pastor of the All Nations Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan, and professor and associate dean of the Seminary. He obtained his Doctor of Ministry from New York Theological Seminary and a PhD from Western Michigan University.

Also on Sabbath were many departmental certification and dedication services, graduation vespers and the President’s reception for graduates and their families.

The commencement address on Sunday, August 2, was presented by Jonathan Duffy, president of ADRA International. Duffy, who has been president of ADRA since 2013, has over 28 years of experience in the public health sector. He has been published in medical journals, developed a health promotion DVD, and worked as a corporate consultant concerning healthy lifestyles. Duffy is passionate about holistic wellness and enjoys seeing the practical results of ADRA’s work in people’s lives around the globe.

On Sunday evening, Merlin Tuttle, who received an honorary Doctor of Science during the commencement ceremony, presented a free public lecture at the Howard Performing Arts Center on his research titled, “Discovering Bats.” Andrews University conferred the honorary degree upon Tuttle—who is the founder of Bat Conservation International—for his outstanding contributions to science and conservation.

Tuttle, an Andrews University alumnus, received his bachelor’s degree in zoology from Andrews University in 1965, and later obtained master’s and doctoral degrees in zoology from the University of Kansas. Tuttle’s 55 years of experience as an ecologist, conservationist and photographer has earned him recognition as a foremost authority in his field. Tuttle’s wildlife research involving bats has received universal acclaim, and his work has been featured at Harvard University, the British Museum and in publications including The New Yorker, The Wall Street Journal and National Geographic.

Clockwise, from top left:
Steve Yeagley, assistant vice president for Student Life, used 3D glasses with the graduates as part of his presentation for Consecration
R. Clifford Jones, president of the Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, was the Baccalaureate speaker
Merlin Tuttle, ecologist, conservationist and photographer, received an honorary Doctor of Science during Sunday’s Commencement
Jonathan Duffy, president of ADRA International, delivered the Commencement address
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Elvin Gabriel receives J.N. Andrews Medallion
For his professional contributions and devotion to his students’ holistic wellbeing

Elvin S. Gabriel, professor of educational psychology and counselor education, was awarded the J.N. Andrews Medallion during the summer Commencement service on August 2, 2015.

The citation honored him as “an individual whose enthusiasm for teaching, outstanding relationship with his students, and dedicated work in the field of guidance and counseling have set him apart from his peers.” The J.N. Andrews Medallion is the highest honor given by the University.

Reflecting on the award, Gabriel says, “I am humbled and deeply honored to receive this prestigious award. This means that I must continue to work tirelessly with fellow educators and stakeholders, to fulfill the worldwide mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, through the advancement of true knowledge.”

Beyond presenting the information, Gabriel seeks to set a godly example in the classroom.


After his graduation from Andrews University, Gabriel returned to Caribbean Union College, where he worked for the next 20 years teaching courses in behavioral and social sciences, counseling, education, research and philosophy. In addition, Gabriel took up many different positions, including professor of education and human sciences, acting vice president for Academic Administration, and chair and dean of faculty for Education and Human Sciences.

In 1997, Gabriel returned to Andrews University, where he taught graduate-level courses in psychology and learning as well as counseling, multicultural issues and other aspects of educational psychology. Additionally, he mentored student research, served on dissertation committees, directed master’s degree projects and theses, supervised master’s-level students on counseling practicum and internship activities, coordinated the Community Counseling program and directed the Andrews University Graduate Extension program in educational psychology at the University of the Southern Caribbean, Trinidad & Tobago, West Indies. Beyond this, he is the coordinator for the PhD program in educational psychology at Andrews.

Gabriel has also been involved in research and his work has appeared in numerous publications, including the “Journal of Research on Christian Education,” “TEACH Journal of Christian Education,” “The Journal of Adventist Education,” and “Heart.”

Gabriel’s record of involvement and success in these academic endeavors is perhaps overshadowed by his outstanding and effective presence in the classroom. His enthusiastic teaching style encourages and builds up those in his classes, as can be evidenced by the overwhelmingly positive student feedback. Gabriel seeks to set a godly example in the classroom, bringing students closer to God by beginning each class with prayer and spending time on religious thoughts and applications.

Re-engineered website launched mid-June
Phase 1 includes new homepage and new program pages for undergraduate degrees

Intentionally timed to be completed by the 2015 GC Session in San Antonio, Texas, the launch of a new look and functionality for the Andrews University website has been met with enthusiasm.

The strategic areas in Phase 1 of the re-engineered website included a completely redesigned homepage, new program pages for undergraduate degrees, new design for academic departmental sites, new pages that communicate the four distinctive strengths of Andrews University, and redesign of the undergraduate admissions site.

Undergirding these changes is an architecture that is fully mobile friendly, faster-loading pages, and an updated Andrews Agenda site that helps drive most of the homepage features, news, events calendar and more.

Visit andrews.edu for yourself to enjoy all the upgrades and let us know how we can continue improving it for you.
John C. Peckham, associate professor of theology and Christian philosophy at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary has unveiled his latest work—"The Love of God: A Canonical Model"—published by IVP Academic, an imprint of InterVarsity Press. Peckham, who has devoted years of his life to the “investigation of God’s love,” says his conviction that “it is the most important issue of the doctrine of God” inspired him to write his latest book.

The source of his passion for the topic of God’s love, Peckham says, results from his “experience in challenging [his] preconceptions of who God is through extensive biblical investigation by way of asking systematic questions of the text as canon.” This investigation led to Peckham having his own misconceptions challenged and corrected, by putting his presuppositions to the test.

His investigation into the topic began as he was doing research for his PhD dissertation. The book originated when he realized that although the topic of God’s love is central to Christianity there are many competing conceptions of love and divine love, both in its broadest and more specific context.

Peckham, who believes that theologians widely differ regarding the nature of God’s love, describes how competition amongst mutually exclusive conceptions of divine ontology is the source of much of the conflict between interpretations. He claims that his recent text uses the Scriptures as a basis to evaluate the competing perspectives. “In turn [it] shed light on the broad contemporary debate over the nature of God and his relationship to the world,” says Peckham.

Initially, Peckham says, “the work was far greater than I envisioned at the outset, but, in retrospect the benefits far outweighed the costs.” The personal benefits, he admits, are among the greatest. “I learned so much beyond what I could have imagined.” What Peckham discovered throughout his research for the text was a model of God’s love that was far better than he could have fathomed—“with huge implications for all other questions of theology.”

He hopes his work will lead readers to a “greater understanding and appreciation of God’s love, and equip readers to discern and evaluate competing views of what God is like” as well as inspire readers to “further contemplation of who God is and how he relates to us.” Peckham admits this is not an easy task, but hopes that his book will “significantly contribute to the ongoing discussion of this pivotal issue.” Moreover, it may serve as an example of how the canonical theological method might prove useful in tackling other crucial spiritual issues.

Peckham is currently working on a follow-up project to this volume, designed to “work out some of the implications of the nature of divine love for the problem of evil, particularly as it is depicted and addressed in scripture.” He is also working on another book with the working title, “Canon, Sola Scriptura, and Theological Method” (under contract with Eerdmans).

The School of Education has undergone some changes in recent months. Perhaps most importantly, the leadership has changed; Robson Marinho now serves as dean. Prior to this position, Marinho served as chair of the Department of Leadership. Born in Brazil, he has taught at universities in Brazil and at Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis, Indiana, before coming to Andrews. Besides serving as department chair, he taught in the Leadership program and coordinated the Higher Education Administration program. Marinho has published on leadership, instructional technology and communication.

Two new department chairs have also been appointed. Duane Covrig is the new chair of the Department of Leadership and Carole Woolford-Hunt is now chair of the Department of Graduate Psychology & Counseling.

Lee Davidson, chair of the Department of Teaching, Learning & Curriculum, is adding to his title Assistant Dean for Accreditation & Assessment.

Due to Marinho’s move to the role of dean, Gustavo Gregorutti, associate professor of leadership & higher education, is taking over primary work with the Brazil program, though Marinho will continue with some of his duties as a consultant and liaison with the Brazil cohorts.
The Quetico: A Family Journey
by Roy Castelbuono (BA ’79, MDiv ’83, DMin ’01)

healthy lifestyles
Facing into the wind, fingers numbed from the cold, back and arms aching from the struggle, we inched our way across the lake!

Of the 600 lakes with their interconnecting portages spread over the 1,180,000 acres of parkland just north of Lake Superior, why had we started out on Saganac Lake, one of the largest of them all?!

What in the world had we gotten into? Why were we even here, the two of us, father and son, fighting our way across this vast lake into the north wind that was bringing fall to the Quetico?

A father and son trip had seemed attractive from the comforts of home. Yes, a coming-of-age trip as Tony turned 12. What a wonderful idea! Let’s head into the wilderness to face our fears, challenge our physical limits, grow boys into men! Sure made sense on paper.

But this was no longer paper! This beautiful wilderness was trying to blow us backwards, fill our canoe with water, send us to its icy depths. On a lake 11 miles long, four miles wide, 220 feet deep, we were a speck lost amidst the whitecaps! School was in session and we had no choice but to be attentive pupils.

To capsize here with no help in sight, not a good thought. To lose focus, let a wave catch us, roll us, dump us, a reality we had to avoid. No spot to rest, no bench to sit down, no way to take a breather, we simply had to find a way.

Two hard hours of physical exertion, no break in stroke, no faltering of rhythm, we finally reached the far shore. Sheltered now from the wind we caught our breath and looked back at the water we had crossed. Our eyes caught each other’s. Smiles grew on our faces. We paddled on.

Five nights and six days of water, water, everywhere, no shortage of drops to drink! Just the two of us in the wild. Only the dripping of water from our paddles to break the silence.

Each day filled with challenges of its own. Nasty portages that drained our strength, explosions of lightning and thunder that lit up our tent at night illuminating each solitary pine needle that lay on its floor with all the clarity of high definition TV.

We huddled together in the rain, felt the sun beat on our backs, rubbed each other’s aching muscles at night, pitched camp every evening only to strike it the next morning.

A common goal, a shared experience, similar needs drew us together as partners without a word needing to be spoken. Our feelings, unhindered by the filters of role or age became easier to see, to share, to understand.

Our conversations, unimpeded by appointments, work or play, gave flow to a deeper discovery of each other. I had seen my son daily for 12 years but now in a matter of days a vision was starting to emerge of the man he was becoming.

Blue sky above, blue water below, intermingled shores of green on every side as we passed. Just Tony and me, some bear, moose, otter, and a half dozen bald eagles.

Just the two of us, alone, in the vastness of the Canadian wilderness. Father and son, alone with each other, each of us coming of age in the Quetico.

Three trips over a span of seven years, one with each son as they turned 12. Three journeys of discovery watching boys becoming men. Each trip different in the challenges it presented, each son unique in the responses they gave. Memories and experiences to savor for a lifetime.

Or perhaps not. As it has turned out not one of the boys has been willing to leave it as a long ago, wonderful, scary memory of a crazy adventure with dear old dad!

No, what has happened is that each has determined to go back, with his wife, with his family, to be renewed by venturing again into that same wilderness of lakes and woods. It is more than a healthy vacation. It is a journey of remembrance and renewal to share with those they love the most.

To clamber up those same rocky portage trails they struggled on as boys. To sink, not alone now but with their wives into those same mucky bogs. To lose footing or to catch it again with each other on those same moss covered logs.

To feel the wind, the cold, the rain on their faces. To strip down to the essentials of life—physically hard work, simply prepared food and just enough cover to stay warm at night. To bask in the glow of a firelight surrounded by faces they both know and trust. To find again an awareness of the fear necessary to both survive the wilderness and enjoy it.

It is a journey they cannot now help but share.

So this past August we went one more time on that same tried and true route, paddling through 21 lakes, hiking over 19 portages so that Michael’s wife Erin could have that same shared experience.

It didn’t take any prodding or twisting of arms to get the band together. Each of us was eager, no matter the change that years had wrought in our face, our frame or our fortune, each were eager to dip once more into that grueling past, take pleasure in the shared present and grow with joy into that future as we continue to come of age in the Quetico.
“People didn’t always understand what we did at the Writing Center,” Douglas Jones remembers, leaning back in his chair and shaking his head. “People would drop off their papers and say, ‘I’ll pick it up when it’s fixed.’” He chuckles. “Then we got a little bit feisty.”

This year, the Andrews University Writing Center—a free resource center where students, faculty and staff can receive tutoring and consultation on their academic writing five days a week—turns 35. For Jones, it’s something of a personal triumph. The professor of English has worn a lot of hats in his time at Andrews, including FOCUS editor and department chair, but founder and director of the Writing Center was his first.

In 1980, Jones was just finishing his MA in English at Andrews. He had already taught English at the high school level for seven years, but he was ready for a change of pace. That’s when the current dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, Dwain Ford, approached him and asked him to be director of a new “writing center.” The United States was at the very beginning of an educational movement in English that put a newfound focus on composition and rhetoric, and Andrews was eager to be a part of it. All three of the University’s current schools—the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, the College of Arts & Sciences, and the College of Technology—would contribute a portion of the Writing Center’s budget, and in exchange anyone on campus could come to the center for help.
Things got off to a bumpy start as Center organizers considered different strategies. “We made up a lot of worksheets in the beginning,” Jones remembers, “and there was lots of talk about investing in film strips, of all things!” They also had trouble deciding where to base the Writing Center. “We considered a lot of locations,” Jones notes: “the department [of English], the library—even the attic of the old Griggs Hall. I couldn’t even stand up in there!” Finally they settled on a small room in what is now the Department of Communication. Classes would occur in the morning, and in the afternoon it was the writing center. A few years later, the department would install six huge computers in the room, making it one of the first computer labs on campus, and the Writing Center tutors would find themselves rubbing elbows with budding journalists.

The turning point for the Writing Center came when Jones took a research trip to Purdue University in LaFayette, Indiana, to meet with Muriel Harris, one of the founders of the Writing Center movement. “Look,” Harris said, “put your money into people whose main job is to talk about writing. It’s really a conversation, not a proofreading or editing service.”

Explaining that the Writing Center is not simply a proofreading center, however, has been a struggle for its entire 35-year tenure. “A lot of people felt punished because they were sent here,” Jones reflects. They knew that their grammar was correct—why should they still need to go? Staff members worked hard to make clients understand that they were encouraging them to strengthen their own writing, not correcting mistakes. One of the factors that led to more people enjoying their time at the Writing Center was that they employed student tutors—usually 7–10 of them a year—instead of professors.

“The Writing Center can put you in touch with someone who is your age, who you’re not embarrassed to talk to” explains Bruce Closser, associate professor of English, who has been director of the Writing Center for the last 23 years. Not only is the peer-to-peer relationship helpful to visitors; tutors also find themselves becoming better writers and teachers as they work. “Aside from meeting a lot of great people,” Closser explains, “I think if you asked tutors they’d admit that they learned a lot about writing from helping others.”

Though the core mission of the Writing Center—student tutors helping other students improve their writing—hasn’t changed, some aspects of the Center have. For one thing, Closser says, “we get way more international students than we used to—especially a lot of Koreans.” A reflection of Andrews’ overall diversity, the increasing international population poses new challenges to tutors, who must instruct visitors with the particular strictures of English as a second language in mind. The rise of spell check and the ubiquity of technology have also affected the way that people write. “We’ve had people turn in essays with the numeral ‘4’ instead of the preposition ‘for,’” Jones chuckles, shaking his head. “A lot more of our writing is what you’d call disposable.”

In the face of educational changes, a lot of writing centers are switching over to computer-based systems, but Jones reinforces the value of the human connection. “We have chosen not to go that route, because it’s important to talk about your writing,” he says. Even in a technology-based world, he believes the Writing Center will remain a relevant and useful tool. “It’s campus’s best kept secret,” he says.

Closser also remains confident that the Writing Center has a bright future of serving Andrews students and creating excellent communicators. “Every professional writer you talk to thanks somebody for their work,” he says. “The idea that the best writers do it well by themselves is a myth.”
Two faculty from the Andrews University Department of Visual Art & Design were indispensable to the successful operation of the 2015 General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas. Paul Kim, associate professor of documentary film, served a twofold role. He was the lead producer for all operations in the Alamodome, managing a staff of 75, and also served as Scott Grady’s assistant. Grady was the executive producer of the Audiovisual and Broadcasting Committee for the entire session. Dave Sherwin, assistant professor of photography, was the lead photographer for the Adventist Review, managing a staff of 10 photographers, and meeting daily deadlines for the magazine. Paul and Dave sat down with the FOCUS editor to provide a glimpse of what their experience was like.

**PAUL KIM**

Paul arrived in San Antonio about a week and a half in advance of the General Conference Session and stayed about a week after to wrap things up. Preparation for the big event was intensive, with qualified contractors flown in to install rigging in the ceiling of the dome and lay miles of cable.

Once the convention center was running smoothly, Paul was in charge of all production for the business sessions and the morning and evening worships. He worked with coordinating producers for individual programs, sometimes months in advance, to plan out what their show/report would be. Everything needed to be coordinated and details worked out so things would run smoothly.

Paul was in charge of anything that was related to technology in the dome. He also oversaw the flow of the program—what made a good program, not only for the business session, but ultimately for the Hope Channel. Once the event was produced it was handed off to the Hope Channel for broadcast.

Planning for the session had been taking place for many years, but Paul was officially invited to his role in the fall of 2014.

Warren Judd, the “godfather of Adventist media” in Paul’s words, was unexpectedly diagnosed with terminal cancer and he asked both Paul and Scott Grady to come on board. But this wasn’t Paul’s first GC session. He worked in two previous sessions. In 2010 he worked with Jan Paulsen and the programming produced for the GC presidential office.
A typical day began at 5 a.m. and didn’t end until about 1:30 a.m. the next morning. Kevin Emmerson, his assistant director, and he would often stay in the trailer and work through lunch and supper while the rest of the crew was sent out to eat. Not the best weight-loss plan, but effective. Paul says, “It was pretty insane.”

In the world Paul is familiar with almost the entire event planning is done in advance. There were deadlines for production schedules of May 1, 2015, but most co-producers didn’t meet that deadline. That meant programs and changes often came in last-minute.

Typically, around 10:30 p.m. each night there would be a final pre-production meeting. The team would go over the entire next day, run through the whole program, and hopefully create a final run sheet. In the morning they would prepare, with the graphics team, all the graphics packages that would be going out both for broadcast and for the dome. Invariably, several producers would come in requesting last-minute changes for programs that were just about to launch.

“There is something about operating under the gun that, while incredibly frustrating, I also enjoy. I’m good at fighting fires, and there is something equally sobering and invigorating about the realization that the entire show will go down in flames if we don’t pull off a miracle,” Paul says.

Some of Paul’s current documentary film students were able to assist during the GC Session. “It was great to be able to bring some of my students so they could get more real-world experience,” said Paul. We had Nina Vallado, Christian Ledesma, and a couple of other people in other roles throughout the event.

Paul supervised around 75 people. A lot of Adventism’s best media talent was at the dome, as well as top-notch professionals who were hired for their expertise. Some were hired locally, because it saved money, but others were flown in specifically, like the lead engineer. He is one of the main engineers for CNN, someone whom Paul had worked with in the past.

One of the most challenging technical setups was a live interview via Skype with Robert Folkenberg and Clyde Franz. They even cut a separate feed to Folkenberg that allowed him to see the audience reaction, which was a very meaningful experience for him.

The least favorite aspect of the job was dealing with all the last-minute changes. Paul says, “I really can’t think of another event that had a production set that was this complex. You’re literally dealing with a world church, with so many different divisions, unions and churches with different ways of dealing with things and different standards when it comes to technical standards. You have to be sensitive enough and be able to deftly navigate that and make sure you provide a cohesive experience for everybody, despite the fact that we are all so different in how we approach things.”

That ability to work with so many different
experts in varied fields was a big factor in hiring Paul. He knew almost everyone and they respected him, trusting he would do a good job.

The equipment used was brought in from many places, some was rented, some bought. The equipment that was bought was earmarked by other church entities such as divisions, churches, universities, etc., who purchased it at a discounted price after the event. The production truck was a multimillion-dollar sports truck, rented through a subcontractor who also provided some of the crew, including the drivers and seven production cameras that come with the truck.

There were three studios set up for television purposes, one in the dome and two in the Convention Center. They used mobile “flight-pack” camera packages that contain everything needed to build a studio. Scott Grady was in charge of all the logistics of that. “He’s probably engineered all of the Adventist media centers in existence today,” says Paul.

All of the business sessions were archived for the GC Office of Archives, Research, and Statistics. Engineers from the Adventist media center in Germany, Stimme der Hoffnung, put together a server for all the other events. They were immediately uploaded to an Amazon server that all the other Adventist media outlets around the world could utilize in their time zones.

Looking back at his time in San Antonio from a distance of a couple months, Paul reflects on what he liked best about the experience. “I do it because there’s nothing like working under really intense circumstances that makes you bond with the production crew. In the end you become like family.”

Although Paul Kim and Dave Sherwin work in the same department at Andrews University and see each other almost every day during the school year, they saw each other a total of only three times in San Antonio: in an elevator, walking down a hallway and coaching Ted Wilson on teleprompter use.

**DAVE SHERWIN**

Dave also arrived in San Antonio in advance of the event. His crew was set up in an office above the Convention Hall floor and that area quickly became his home for the duration of the session.

Merle Poirier, technology projects coordinator for the Adventist Review, called Dave and asked if he would be interested in being in charge of all the photographers at the GC session. Bill Knott, editor and publisher, backed up the request in an email. He ended up with the title of lead photographer for the Adventist Review.

Dave was responsible for 10 photographers who were going strong all day, every day. Dick Duerksen, retired photographer and storyteller, was also based there and had several special assignments.

Three former Andrews photography students—Pieter Damsteegt, Joseph Kissinger, and Ellen Musselman—were part of the group. Dave says, “I had such a fun group. I got to choose half of them and the other half were assigned to me. Only four were paid, the other six were volunteers.” Josefat Zemleduch, who hailed from Germany, was the enthusiastic cheerleader of the team.

Dave’s day also started very early—about 5:30 a.m. He had to attend a 7:15 a.m. meeting with church administrators, and then met with his photographers at 8:15 a.m. to prep them and give out schedules for the day.

One especially timesaving feature was a list of preprogrammed keywords compiled by Tor Tjeransen. Dave said, “He saved us a lot of time and helped maintain accuracy so that we could take morning and evening shifts downloading and keywording images.”
Dave spent most of his daytime hours in the Convention Center office. The Adventist Review produced a daily magazine, and he was responsible for coordinating the images that came in during the day so that production deadlines were met. All the photos were backed up, redundantly; with only certain people being able to use the top starred photos, although anybody could access and use the non-starred photos.

Daily assignments were given to each individual, but the photographers were also encouraged to share specific shots and angles they wanted to pursue. Dave even obtained permission for Seth Shaffer, from Southern Adventist University, to go up into the catwalks. “We ended up with some really cool images,” Dave says.

Each photographer shot more than 10,000 images. Everything was ingested into Photo Mechanic, tagged and then eventually culled further. After they were keyworded they were ripped down to JPG format and sent to Ellen Poirier, who was the picture editor for the Adventist Review. She went through and starred the photos that she felt were really cool images,” Dave says.

Dave also ended up shooting a lot of portraits in a studio set up over in the Alamodome, including official portraits of Ted Wilson and his wife, any of the vice presidents that were elected, plus dozens of division personnel and secretaries.

Because Dave is a member of Canon Professional Services, he was able to rent a lens with a list price of just under $20,000— for free! He also added a rider to his personal insurance business policy to ensure that all the rented equipment was covered. As far as he knows, there were no equipment malfunctions during the entire time. Dave made sure that all of the photographers had the equipment they needed, including long lenses and a second camera body.

Dave says of the overall experience, “It was very good. It was very intense. Because it was my first time I did make one major mistake. I missed sending a photographer to get photos of two treasurers being elected on Friday afternoon, after misreading a memo from Andrew McChesney. Luckily, though, I was able to get photos from Dan Weber’s [NAD Communication] group of photographers. After that I made sure I always had a photographer on the floor.”

The most challenging aspect was all the keywording—making sure everyone’s name was correct—and obtaining model releases for all minors. Getting photos of children was a really complicated process, especially since the children weren’t always with a parent. It was also frustrating when the security teams on the main floor kept changing personnel and his photographers kept getting kicked off the floor because the new security people didn’t recognize them.

Dave’s favorite part of the session was the opportunity to experience life behind the scenes. “Seeing Ted Wilson and his family interact together. It was really nice to see all the top leaders firsthand, to me they were real Christians.” he says. “To see Ted Wilson pacing behind the scenes praying with his wife on the phone, to see him always willing and open to take a selfie with someone, or schedule an interview with anyone who requested it. I was just really impressed with him.”

Dave and his team worked in conjunction with the social media team, who were led by designer Clayton Kinney and Carlos Medley from the Adventist Review.

Producing a huge event like the quinquennial General Conference Session requires hundreds of skilled professionals. Paul Kim and Dave Sherwin represented the worldwide church and Andrews University very well.
Even before Esther Borrowdale and Leonard N. Hare were engaged, the General Conference was urging them to sign up for missionary service to Burma.

Esther says, “They’d heard that we were dating, and wanted to get it settled down!” Leonard was the son of Eric B. Hare, the first missionary to the Karen, beginning in 1915. Esther was the daughter of missionary parents in India.

Leonard graduated one Sunday, the next Sunday he and Esther were married, and the following Sunday they were scheduled to set off for Burma. Both of them were missionary born, both knew another language, so the General Conference “felt we were kind of a cheap deal,” Esther remembers.

Leonard’s grandfather, J.E. Fulton, came over the day before they left for the mission field and prayed with them. He said, “As long as God has need of you, you’re safe, don’t worry.” Esther says, “So we didn’t worry. That was all. I never was scared that way. I was scared of the snakes, sometimes, but I didn’t worry.”

While waiting in Takoma Park, Maryland for their travel orders, they were told that instead of going across the Atlantic, which was dangerous during war-time, they would be sent on a neutral vessel, sailing from New Orleans, Louisiana.

“Things are so different now. You just get on a plane and zip...you’re there. It took us two years!” They left in 1944 and arrived in 1946. While they were en route they never received a regular paycheck.

They made it to Buenos Aires, Argentina, on a refrigerator ship carrying beef to the soldiers in Europe, but the government had requisitioned their next ship. They were stranded for quite awhile with other missionaries. During the war, normal ships sailed with all their lights out, but on a neutral ship the name was lit up with lights.

Penny relates, “Even when they got on the ship, it was lights out at night, and they traveled in a zigzag pattern. Some of their crew members had been torpedoed two or three times.” Their path took them up through the South Atlantic to the Mediterranean. Just before they got to Sicily, there was a lot of radio chatter. They thought they had been torpedoed. It turned out that the ship ahead of them had been hit. Esther recollects, “We picked up all the guys that had gotten torpedoed floating in the water! Real exciting!”

When they arrived in Italy the war was still on and Mussolini had just fallen. They could only book as far as Gibraltar on the next ship. They made a booking in faith and then the ship went on to India—a trip of ten weeks at sea. That was followed by a boat trip from Calcutta to Rangoon, followed by a riverboat to lower Burma.

They were asked to survey Nyong U to see if the area was safe to work in. Japanese soldiers had totally stripped the house before they could arrive, even some of the floor, but the Karen people were very nice to them, especially since Leonard spoke the language fluently, having grown up there.
The first year there were two people at the school and the second year there were a hundred. The students were very poor and they hadn’t been able to get any cloth during the Japanese war so clothing was scarce. British officers brought a 240-yard bolt of cloth to the school, Esther taught sewing and they made clothes for all the children with the sewing machine she had brought with her. “It was a very primitive time, a very different time,” she says.

All their supplies came by boat, including their pay. The cash came in a linen envelope, sewed shut with linen thread and sealed with wax. Unfortunately, that pay didn’t arrive very often and many times there was no money to buy food. God provided for their needs in unique ways. A Chinese carpenter brought them a big gold chain, representative of his family’s wealth, and said, “You can use this as credit at the Muslim grocer’s and then give it back.” The grocer was deeply insulted when they presented it and assured them that he would have given them credit.

Another time when their money ran out, a local government official said, “I have a thousand rupees you can use till the money comes.”

The early missionaries stuck together, whether they were Adventist, Catholic or whatever. Since the population was animist—they believed in the spirits of inanimate things—the first step was to introduce them to Christianity.

By 1949 the country was in the midst of a civil war. General Aung San was fighting to gain independence from Britain. The mission was right in the middle of the fighting, it didn’t matter what your political affiliation was, the revolutionaries occupied the mission center.

Esther and Penny were evacuated in 1949. The Karen came to Leonard and said, “Look, it’s really bad—you can take it, but we don’t want your wife and child to get killed, so you should send them away.” They were separated for nine months and Esther really missed her husband. She was scheduled to take a flight from Calcutta to Bangkok, but they were rerouted to Burma. She called their supervisor and asked to return to her husband. He said, “I don’t want you to go back, it’s not safe. I will write a letter to your husband telling him to find you a house in Bangkok.”

Esther took the letter, put it at the bottom of her suitcase, and went back to join Leonard. Penny was too young to remember that time period, but it was quite the journey, trekking for four days on an elephant through the jungle.

Shortly after they returned, the Burmese leader told all of the missionaries and foreigners they had to leave. The Hares rented a truck, but the truck wasn’t reliable and soon broke down. While they were stranded on the road, “Who comes along but Ba U Gyi [the leader of the Karen rebellion] himself,” Esther says. He offered to take them to his place to stay overnight while they found another ride. Leonard took pictures of this historic trip and Esther says that the Karen people still love to see those photos when they visit.

Esther and Penny were both thrilled to see so many of the Karen at the centennial reunion at Andrews University. People kept coming up to Esther with stories of their connections to her family. One of them told her that his mother was the first little girl in their school. The missionary legacy of the Hare family continues to live on.
Hundreds of Karen Adventists gathered at the Howard Performing Arts Center during the weekend of July 24–26, 2015, to celebrate 100 years of Adventist mission in Burma, now Myanmar.

The celebration drew between 650–700 Karen from more than 15 different states plus a few from abroad. Some Burmese delegates from the recent General Conference Session also attended.

The Karen Adventist Centennial Reunion was supported by members of the Andrews faculty and staff, Global Care Partners, North American Division Evangelism Institute, Pioneer Memorial Church members, the Southern Asia and Southeast Asian communities, the Lake Union Conference, Adventist Frontier Missions, and ASAP Ministries. Some helped with expenses, others provided lodging, and still others food.

One special guest was Esther Hare, the 94-year-old daughter-in-law of Eric B. Hare who served as the first missionary to the Karen group in 1915. Pastor Hare’s books and stories are legendary to Adventist mission, as Karen people have responded to the gospel in large numbers.

“How often do you get to celebrate a 100-year anniversary of something in your lifetime, and not only that, knowing that the history part is still alive!” said Trudi Starlin, ASAP Ministries board member and one of the event’s organizers.

Esther Hare, a Berrien Springs, Michigan resident, and her late husband Leonard N. Hare served as missionaries in Myanmar from 1946–1951. It was a tumultuous time in the country, located in Southeast Asia bordering China, Laos, India, Bangladesh and Thailand, as the Karen people, an ethnic tribe comprising seven percent of the population, began a movement to gain independence from Myanmar. The conflict created a civil war and a multitude of Karen were killed, or fled to places such as North America where 70,000 refugees now live.

During the centennial reunion, titled “God’s Plan, Our Purpose,” Karens had a chance to reconnect with family and friends, gain spiritual strength, and learn of opportunities for Karens in the Adventist family. Most Karens now living in North America spent years in refugee camps before being able to relocate under a UN sponsored program within the past decade. Having lost everything, they are grateful to have freedom, but often struggle to adjust to a new culture and language while making a living among neighbors who may not know the difference between Karen and Korean.

There are currently an estimated 5,000 faithful Karen Adventist refugees scattered throughout North America, worshipping in 45 groups.

Above left: Eric B. Hare, who served as the first missionary to the Karen people in 1915
Above right: Janet [Penny] Tkachuck and Esther (Borrowdale) Hare at their country home near Berrien Springs

Above: The Karen mass choir performed in the Howard Performing Arts Center during the centennial reunion event. Below left: The Karen young people enjoyed playing volleyball on the playing fields next to Lamson Hall. Below right: Trudi Starlin, center, one of the event’s organizers, poses with visitors to the centennial reunion with PMC in the background.

Photo credit: Daniel Hamstra
Photo credit: Ramond Kyaw
Photo credit: Ramond Kyaw
Corpus

Mens

Spiritus
Alumni Homecoming
September 24–27, 2015

Honor Class Reunions

Highlights of the weekend will include:
Wes Christiansen Memorial Golf Outing
Harvest Picnic and Wagon Rides
5K/10K Run and Fitness Expo
Homecoming Gala Concert

Honored Alumni 2015
Byron Lynn Blagburn (BS ’75, MA ’78)
Garren Dent (AS ’85, BBA ’90)
Eurydice Valenis Osterman (BMus ’72, MMus ’75)

For up-to-date information, visit alumni.andrews.edu/homecoming

Alumni calendar of events
For more information visit us online at andrews.edu/alumni or contact the Office of Alumni Services at 269-471-3591 or alumni@andrews.edu.

October
14 Alumni Board of Directors Meeting
4:30 p.m.
Alumni House, Andrews University

November
1 Maryland Regional Event
11 a.m.
Sheraton Columbia Town Center Hotel, Lakeview AB
10207 Wincopin Circle, Columbia, MD 21044

4 New York City Regional Event
6 p.m.
Nick’s Pizza
1814 2nd Avenue, New York, NY 10128

13 Alumni Board of Directors Meeting
4:30 p.m.
Alumni House, Andrews University

15 Bermuda Regional Event
11 a.m.
Window on the Sound, The Fairmont Southampton
101 South Rd, Southampton, Bermuda

16 Bermuda Institute Parent Reception
6:30 p.m.
Bermuda Institute
234 Middle Rd, Bermuda

December
9 Alumni Board of Directors Celebration
6 p.m.
Location to be determined

Please Note: Locations and times are subject to change. As the date of the event you’re interested in gets closer, be sure to double-check the alumni website or call the office for updates.

RSVP for an event: RSVP for the above gatherings online at AU&ME, our alumni community: alumni.andrews.edu/rsvp

Who are alumni?
If you’ve attended, worked or taught at Andrews University we consider you alumni! And if you’re a parent or a potential student considering Andrews, you’re invited to be our honored guest at any alumni gathering.

Artwork by: Katerina Jo Adams
Katerina Jo Adams, a San Francisco Bay Area native, attended Andrews University from 2008 to 2013 before graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in visual communication—graphic design. She began her time at Andrews as a journalism major, before realizing that she liked designing better than writing and reporting, and changed to graphic design. She also completed a minor in French and the Undergraduate Leadership Certificate.

After interning with ModCloth, Katerina accepted a position at John McNeill Studio, a design and ad agency in Berkeley, California.

As an artist, Katerina’s goals include learning more about user experience and human-computer interaction, creating more illustrations, and starting her own business. You can learn more about her work at katerinajo.com.
Camp meeting regional events
Hundreds of people across the Lake Union Conference enjoyed fellowship and strawberry shortcake at camp meeting events held this summer. Andrews alumni were served at the Indiana and Michigan camp meetings on Saturday, June 13, the Lake Region and Wisconsin camp meetings on June 20, and the Northern New England camp meeting on August 15. It was a pleasure to see all of you!

Camp Wakonda, Westfield, Wisconsin
Saturday, June 20, 2015
A group of happy alums enjoy the fellowship and strawberry shortcake at the Andrews University cabin.

Northern New England, Maine
Saturday, August 15, 2015
L–R: Arnet C. Mathers (CERT ’76, BA ’80, MA ’85), Hebe Soares, senior development officer, and Ernest N. Yap (BS ’70, MBA ’72)

General Conference San Antonio regional event
Sunday, July 5, 2015
This summer 300 alumni and friends from all over the world met at Sea World San Antonio during the General Conference Session. Those who attended the soldout event enjoyed a hearty vegetarian buffet at the Ports of Call private picnic area. Upon arrival, Andrews staff handed out Andrews promo packs, including a string backpack and miniature fan to keep cool for a day at the park. Tami Condon (BS ’91, MA ’13) welcomed guests and President Niels-Erik Andreasen (MA ’65, BD ’66) shared campus updates and offered a blessing. Throughout the day guests were able to enjoy a variety of shows and educational experiences, but perhaps most importantly, had the opportunity to reminisce with friends they hadn’t seen in years.
New student orientation

Alumni Lend-a-Hand Move-In
Sunday, August 16, 2015

Local alumni came out once again this year to help new students carry their belongings into the residence halls. Local alumna Lianne Pitcher (MSW ’92) baked homemade goodies for volunteers, incoming new students and parents. Thank you to everyone who showed up to support this great tradition!

“Get the Scoop” Ice Cream Social
Sunday, August 16, 2015

Members from the offices of Development and Alumni Services teamed up to serve new students and their families at the annual “Get the Scoop” Ice Cream Fair. M&M toppings were served, along with the opportunity to capture this momentous occasion with a silly photo at the alumni photo booth.

Legacy Parents Reception
Monday, August 17, 2015

Legacy parents enjoyed paging through yearbooks and reminiscing over their Andrews experiences. This was an opportunity to support each other during this exciting time of transition and change. Alumni staff enjoyed meeting new students and their parents.

Alumni Barbecue and Mentor Event
Friday, August 21, 2015

As part of the New Student Orientation program for incoming students, roughly 30 local alumni served as mentors during the annual Alumni Barbecue and Mentor event. Alums were as recent as August graduates, chosen to inspire new students as they begin their college journey. They ate with their mentor group, joined icebreaker activities, and shared thoughts on how to be successful in college. It was a win-win experience for all involved.
Roughly one-quarter of new students coming through FIRST STOP during New Student Orientation identified themselves as Legacy students, or students with a sibling, parent and/or grandparent who attended Andrews. The Alumni Association celebrated this legacy connection in several ways—by taking photos of the family, providing Alumni Benefit Cards to Legacy parents, and providing Legacy ID holders and lanyards to Legacy students.

Photo credit: Jessica Condon
1950s
John Burns (BA ’56, MA ’62) and Barbara Byrd (BS ’56) wed on April 20, 2015 in Gobles, Michigan. Both of them lost their spouses and reconnected over the past year.

1960s
Martha and Thurman (MA ’66) Petty celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on August 21, 2015. Thurman served for 30 years as a pastor before retiring because of health in 1990. He wrote 18 books, among them five books on the Babylonian captivity of the Jews, known as the “Gate” series—“Gate” is in the title of each book. These are still available as e-books from Pacific Press.

Martha was a registered nurse before retirement, and served in many different venues during her career. She is also an artist, selling many paintings in the early years. Thurman was a pastor in a number of U.S. states—Maryland, New Jersey, Wyoming, California, Missouri and Texas. The Pettys also served as pastor and nurse on Pilcain Island in the early ’80s (see National Geographic, October 1983). Currently they live in Trout Creek, Montana, in the mountains, just 30 miles east of Idaho. They have three children and 10 grandchildren.

Gladys (Sydnor) Crider (BS ’68) and her daughters Kimberly Crider (BSW ’96, MSW ’97) and Stephanie (Crider) Guster (BS ’98) recently released a new Vacation Bible School kit on the sanctuary. The kit is titled, “Radical Rescue: The Sanctuary and God’s Awesome Plan to Save us from Sin,” and its aim is to introduce the biblical sanctuary and the plan of salvation to children, ages 4–12.

1970s
Miroslav (MDiv ’77) and Brenda (MA ’93) Kis retired June 1, 2015—Miroslav from the Department of Theology & Christian Philosophy at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, and Brenda from the recruitment department of Adventist Frontier Missions. They are both thrilled to have completed the mission God gave them and look forward to a new pace and new activities.


1980s
Peter Marquez (BS ’88) has been appointed vice president of product management at ServiceRocket, a Palo Alto-based software company with offices in Australia, Malaysia, Chile and the United States. He has studied Technology Strategy and Product Management at MIT’s Sloan Executive Education Program, and is an associate member of the American Bar Association.

2000s
David Solomon Hall (MAYM ’00) is now serving as the Youth/Family Ministries director for the Nevada-Utah Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Sarah Cleopatra Wilson (AT ’97, BS ’03) returned to school at the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising and received an Associate of Interior Design, professional designation. She has opened her own interior design firm in Redlands, California, where she resides with her son, who is in his senior year of high school.

2010s
Filip Graovac (MSA ’10) has been appointed as Deputy Country Representative for the Asia Foundation in Vietnam. In this capacity he will provide leadership support and will focus on designing, implementing, monitoring, evaluation and reporting program activities. Most recently, Graovac served as the Country Director in Vietnam for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), where he oversaw all aspects of ADRA’s operations in Vietnam.
Alma Jewell Hanson (BS ’82), 78, of Berrien Springs, Michigan, died Tuesday, July 21, 2015, at Hanson Hospice Center in Stevensville, Michigan.

Alma was born Sept. 23, 1936, in Campbellsville, Kentucky, the daughter of James T. and Mollie J. (Robinson) Morris. She earned an RN degree from Glendale (California) Sanitarium and Hospital in 1958, where she ranked in the top 2 percent of the state board candidates. In 1982 she graduated with academic distinction from Andrews University with a BS in nursing.

Her hobbies and interests included bicycling, walking, traveling to visit family, and she was passionate about her children and grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband, James D. Hanson (former faculty); two sons, Craig Hanson (BS ’86) and his wife Rachelle (att.) of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Jon Hanson (AT ’91) of Berrien Springs; daughters, Janel McKee (att.) and her husband Christopher of Collegedale, Tennessee, and Julia Dobias (BS ’89, MSPT ’90) of Fishers, Indiana; twelve grandchildren; and a sister, Crystal Morgan of Nashville, Tennessee.

Alma was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers, James and William Morris.

Eldyn Laverne Karr (BA ’67, MA ’74), 68, of Newbury Park, California, and formerly of Shinglehouse, Pennsylvania, passed away on Saturday, July 18, 2015.

Born Aug. 31, 1946, he was a son of Willard and Ella Austin Karr. Karr was a graduate of Oswayo Valley High School, Class of 1963, in Shinglehouse. He held degrees in biology and religion from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Karr was the public relations director for the Voice of Prophecy radio ministry from 1974 until his retirement on Dec. 31, 2014. He was a talented writer and editor of the Voice of Prophecy News.

He was a member of the Thousand Oaks Seventh-day Adventist Church and regularly attended services at The Place Adventist Fellowship in Newbury Park. Karr enjoyed travel, was a professional photographer, and loved to read. He faithfully returned to Shinglehouse for his class reunions.

Karr had an incredible ability for organizing and remembering the history of almost everything, especially his beloved Voice of Prophecy. He kept personal and professional archives of the Voice of Prophecy, spanning a period of 40 years.

Surviving is an uncle, Perry (Ellen) Austin of Shinglehouse, and many cousins.

Roy Branson (MA ’62) died July 6, 2015, at the Loma Linda University Medical Center in California after suffering from a sudden heart attack. He was 78.

Branson most recently served as associate dean of the LLU School of Religion, and director of the Center for Christian Bioethics. He joined the university in 2008.

Throughout his career Branson was a fervent activist for various causes, from the civil rights movement to anti-smoking legislation, anti-poverty initiatives, and social, political and medical ethics. He received his undergraduate degree from Atlantic Union College and earned graduate degrees at the University of Chicago and Andrews University. He received his PhD in religious ethics from Harvard University in 1968.

He established the Christian Ethics program at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary while teaching at Andrews University and has held faculty positions at Georgetown University and Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University). Branson testified before the U.S. Congress, and led student and professional groups advocating for improved health and safety here in the United States and internationally.

Branson co-founded Spectrum magazine, an interdisciplinary quarterly journal, and served as editor for many years as well as a member of its board of directors. He was a past president of the Adventist Society for Religious Studies.

Branson was a widely published author, with articles in Christian and secular magazines and journals, as well as several books on a variety of topics including ethics and health policy.


She was born in Brice, Missouri, the second daughter of William H. and Mollie Massie Clayton. Vera graduated from Lebanon High School in Missouri, Missouri State College, and Andrews University in Michigan.

Her teaching career spanned 34 years in the states of Missouri, Michigan and Florida. She often said there was never a day she didn’t want to go to work!
She was married to Shelvey Jones of Windyville, Missouri, for 22 years until his untimely death at age 49. Her second marriage to Bill Dunigan continued into their retirement to Florida for 27 years until his death.

Vera was active in the Seventh-day Adventist Church wherever she lived. Traveling was fun for Vera. Trips to the Pacific Northwest, Mexico, Hawaii and England were highlights. The last several years she appreciated the activities at White Oaks Assisted Living and the “pretty little girls who wait on us hand and foot!” Her greatest joy was her friends and family.

She is mourned by her six children: Barbara Randall (BA ‘68) and her husband Chuck (att.); Ronald (Teresa) Jones; Deryl Jones (att.) and his wife Shirley; Vivian (Steve) Scott; Randy Jones (BSW ‘81) and his wife Cindy; and Cathie Dunigan (att.) and her husband Rand. She is also loved by 13 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, a brother-in-law, uncle, nephews, nieces and many friends.

Her sisters, Zelma Medley Pumphrey, Wilma Atkinson (BS ‘75) and Nadine Clayton, all preceded her in death.

After a five-year battle with Parkinson’s, Boris Tabakovic (BA ’80, MA ’81, MDiv ’83) passed away on June 3, 2015 at the age of 77.

Boris was born on Jan. 24, 1938 in Zlot, Serbia. He became an Adventist when he was 18. After serving his requisite time in the Serbian military, he attended Rakovica School of Theology and served as an intern pastor.

He began corresponding with Helen Celeketic (att., former staff), who had moved to the United States. In 1965, after exchanging letters for a year, Boris obtained a visa to attend the World’s Fair in the U.S. and took a detour to Chicago, Illinois, where he married beautiful Helen.

He quickly learned English and several trades, including a degree in electronics. He moved his family to Berrien Springs, Michigan in 1978, and went back to college at Andrews University, where he earned three degrees.

He served with the Illinois Seventh-day Adventist conference as a pastor in Chicago and was ordained as a minister of the gospel in 1987. In 1988 he accepted a call to the Southern California Conference, serving as a pastor for two churches and completing his Doctor of Ministry in marriage and family in 1994 from Fuller Theological Seminary.

Boris was a dynamic speaker and excellent church leader. He was respected and well-liked by all his congregations. His patience, ability to listen, and thoughtful demeanor was instrumental in his ability to lead with wisdom and resolve conflict.

Upon invitation, he went to Europe to give seminars on the subject of marriage and family and was repeatedly invited to return, which he hoped to do upon retirement. Throughout his life, Boris always led by example. He instilled in his family good values, a strong work ethic, and the importance of education. He enjoyed intellectual pursuits such as chess and reading, and was also fond of playing soccer when he had the chance. He was a good handyman. As a trained electrician he enjoyed helping out with repairs for the church and his home. After 23 years of service in the ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Boris retired and along with his wife, spent the next 10 years helping to care for her parents who were living with them.

In 2010, Boris and Helen moved back to Berrien Springs to be near their daughters. They celebrated 51 years of marriage in May 2015.

Boris is survived by his wife Helen, two daughters, Elizabeth Tabakovic Oakley (BS ’87, MSPT ’88, current faculty), and Esther Tabakovic Lonto (BBA ’92, current staff), and their grandchildren, Alicia (att.) and Nathan Oakley, and Matthew and Anna Lonto.

Thomas Lawrence Brown (BA ‘49) died peacefully in his sleep on Sunday, April 26, 2015, in the care and presence of his loving wife and surrounded by the prayers of his family and faithful friends.

Tom was born and raised on the family farm near Oshawa, Ontario, Canada, where he learned many life lessons and exceptional work ethic.

Tom went on to earn his doctorate in medicine from Loma Linda University in 1953 and then returned to practice family medicine in Willowdale for over 40 years.

His commitment to his patients and their families is still recognized by many today. Tom was active in the medical community serving at both North York Branson Hospital and St. John’s Rehab Hospital.

Upon retirement Tom turned his attention to travel and amateur photography. He was the unofficial photographer at many events in the Swan Lake community in Markham and at Markham Missionary Church.

He was predeceased by his parents and his siblings Reuben, Wesley, Lucy and Elsie. Tom was blessed by the love and support of his wife Betty of 15 years.

Along with Betty he is survived by his two daughters Rhonda Taylor and Lora Horsley and his three grandchildren Thomas, Lauren (Jeremy) and Brooks.

Tom also leaves behind his extended family by marriage John Ballantyne (Brenda), Cathy Farndon (Barry), Cheryl Holmes (Steven), eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Alice Lankford (BS ‘67, MA ‘72), 97, of Berrien Springs, Michigan, passed away at home on Thursday, April 16, 2015.

Alice was a very dedicated member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and she taught in their church school systems in Illinois and Michigan for 37 years. She was an inspiration and a friend loved by many. She loved her parrot, Quacky, who survives her. Alice also enjoyed watching her roses bloom and her hummingbirds feeding.

Alice is survived by her nieces and nephews: Bill Gloyeske, Imogene Abad, Nancy Wallace,
Dorothy Jenkins, Barb Vraska, Donna Grimes, and John, Charles & Ray Lankford; great and great-great nieces and nephews; three caregivers: Dina (BT ’00, former faculty & staff) and Ana (att.) Simmons, and Margaret Michel (MA ’04, former staff).

She was preceded in death by her parents, John W. and Alice Ruth (Martin) Lankford Sr.; a sister, Edidie Gloyeske; and four brothers: Tom and John W. Lankford Jr., and Clyde and Ben Jensen.

Joseph Roger Hagan (MA ’73), passed away April 13, 2015, in Kansas City, Missouri. He received his Master of Arts in church leadership from Andrews University.

Joe served as a pastor in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Massachusetts, Missouri and Texas, and was retired in Missouri where he waits for the resurrection.

He is survived by his wife, Emma, and two children, Abel and Paula, all of Nevada, Missouri.


She was born in New York City on Jan. 6, 1941, and moved with her parents, Edward and Helen Cross, to College Place, Washington in 1947, where her father began the School of Engineering at Walla Walla University. Marilyn attended Rogers School, WW Academy, Walla Walla University and graduated in 1962 from Andrews University in Michigan, majoring in English and secretarial science.

Through the years she worked at Southern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, the music department at WWU, the School of Business and Economics at WSU, La Sierra University Church Counseling Center and as records analyst and student adviser in La Sierra University’s Division of Continuing Studies.

She and her husband, Edwin Karlow, met while they both were working during the summer of 1963 at Camp Cedar Falls in the San Bernardino Mountains of Southern California. After marrying the following summer, they moved back to College Place where Ed finished college at WWU in 1966.

Marilyn’s activities before her retirement in 2008 included writing for the WWU Collegian for three years, working as a certified thesis typist at WSU, serving as a church pianist, and preparing lessons and lesson plans for a typing course under the auspices of Griggs University, an international correspondence school.

Her family and friends will remember Marilyn for her graciousness, abiding cheerfulness and welcoming spirit.

She is survived by her husband Ed; a brother Carlton Cross of College Place; two sons Marvin of Plano, Texas, and Norman of Tehachapi, California; nephew Jeff Cross of Salt Lake City, Utah; niece Tara Cross of Puyallup, Washington; and granddaughter Karys Karlow of Plano, Texas.

Augustine C. Cortez (MDiv ’65), 95, of Loma Linda, California, died Nov. 18, 2014. He was born May 5, 1919 in Lindsay, California.

Augustine was born into a family of typical farm laborers working the vineyards and fruit and nut orchards of the Fresno area in the Central Valley. In his teenage years a colporteur directed by an angel came and gave Bible studies to the family, as the bedridden Augustine listened through an open door. The family accepted the Bible teachings and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Christian education became a priority for the family which resulted in his attending and graduating from Fresno Union Academy, where he was president of his senior class of five members.

The first in his family to attend college, he attended Pacific Union College and developed friendships for life with friends and his future wife Ruth Juarros, who was at his side for the next 64 years.

He graduated from La Sierra College in 1953 with a degree in religion and subsequently obtained a Master of Divinity from Andrews University.

Augustine began working for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Arizona, first as colporteur, and then as pastor with a district that spanned from central Phoenix to southern Tucson. As with most pastors moves came on a regular basis and took him to the Imperial Valley pastoring in Brawley and then Calexico where he also worked with the Calexico Mission School.

From the Imperial Valley, he then accepted calls to pastor the Spanish churches of the Inland Empire in San Bernardino, Redlands, Colton and then on to La Sierra. In many of his pastoral assignments, he saw the need for the congregation to have a permanent church home and oversaw the construction of a number of church buildings, in Phoenix, Brawley and Colton.

As the Hispanic work continued to grow in California, he had the vision for the need to have a Spanish bilingual coordinator at the conference level. He advocated effectively for that vision with administration, gaining acceptance first in the Southeastern California Conference. That vision has grown across North America to where most of the conferences now have an Hispanic director.

He served in the Southeastern California and Southern California Conferences as Hispanic coordinator, associate secretary and vice president. When he retired from his administrative position in 1987, he agreed to return as a pastor of a small congregation. That congregation turned out to be the 1,200-member Spanish American church in Los Angeles. He then went on to pastor the Pasadena Spanish church until he finally retired from denominational employment in 1989.

He was an avid reader all his life, even to the end. He loved reading his Bible, Sabbath School lesson, devotionals, Spirit of Prophecy books and countless history books.

He leaves his wife of 64 years, Ruth, and children, Loida Doukmetzian (att.) and her husband, Karnik; Rene and his wife Sheri (Walker); and Nina; grandsons Joseph Cortez Doukmetzian and Andy Cortez (att.); sisters, Mary Chagoya, Nadine Garcia, Alice Garcia and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his daughter Marcy.
Douglas Leroy Benson (BA '54), 83, of Berrien Springs, Michigan, passed away on July 22, 2015, at his home.

Doug was born in Rosholt, Wisconsin on Sept. 22, 1931 to Arnold and Edna (Nequette) Benson. He grew up during the Great Depression. Doug first left home to attend Wisconsin Academy. His roommate, Mario Ruf, had a great influence on him and during his sophomore year Doug dedicated his life to Christ during a Week of Prayer.

After graduating from Wisconsin Academy he arrived at Emmanuel Missionary College (EMC) in 1950 with $20 in his pocket and no thought of a major. The business manager at the time was Wilson Trickett (BA '49). He asked Doug if he had any money for school and Doug showed him the $20 bill. Trickett said, “I’m not interested in your pocket change, I’m interested in how you’re going to afford school.”

Doug said it was all he had and promised to work hard. Wilson took a chance and admitted him. Doug had three jobs—custodial, lab assistant and night monitor—working a total of 30–35 hours a week. He completed school with no debt.

During his freshman year at EMC, Doug took a biology class from Harry Wong, and beat out the pre-med students. Dr. Wong said, “You’re a very smart person, you ought to consider medicine.” Doug said, “I’m a poor country boy, I can’t do that.”

He was also encouraged by his chemistry professor, Herwarth F. Halenz, who said, “I’ve been observing you, you’re a very smart and capable person. I think you have great potential.”

The fourth Andrews individual who had a big impact on Doug Benson’s life was Daniel Augsburger, a professor who taught at Andrews for 60 years. He took Doug aside and prayed with him.

Doug always remembered these people who took the time to show interest in him. Because of their encouragement, Doug took the challenge to enter medicine and that decision shaped the rest of his life.

In 1957, Doug married the love of his life, Lynn Nell Floyed, a nursing student at Loma Linda University (LLU). In spite of three bouts of rheumatic fever during his academic years, Doug finished medical school at LLU in 1959. While he was a student he received some good advice—don’t be a doctor five days a week, be a doctor four and a half days a week and then invest in your success. He bought farms and property in California and Wisconsin and then, later, in Berrien County, Michigan.

He set up a practice in Glendale, California. During his 35 years of practice he delivered 384 babies and performed 11,000 surgeries. He was the third busiest surgeon in the hospital and never lost a patient while operating. “That’s not my fault, that’s the Lord’s fault,” he would state.

Doug always prayed with his patients if they were comfortable with it. The vast majority of his patients appreciated the offer and over the years 92 of them joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Doug and his family lived in a beautiful Spanish hacienda full of antique artifacts and furniture. He donated hundreds of those antique pieces to Andrews University when he sold his home. His home was more than a showcase, it was a mission, since they entertained a large number of Christian youth at Friday night programs.

When David Faehner, vice president for University Advancement, first visited him in California, Doug shared his philosophy of philanthropy that never changed: “Everything I own will be given to the Lord’s work. Scholarships have been and will continue to be provided for students to help them get a Christian education,” he said. During the past 30 years David visited Doug frequently and he always stated his intent to support Andrews University.

H.M.S. Richards, the late Adventist evangelist, was Doug’s favorite patient. He deeply admired Elder Richards for his ability to read through the Bible a few times a year in spite of the fact that he had poor vision. He inspired Doug to be a faithful reader of his Bible every morning for one hour. Doug had 20 Bibles to choose from in various versions.

Before retiring to his home in Berrien Springs, he traveled extensively and believed education was paramount, financially helping countless students achieve their educational goals. He also financially provided Maranatha Volunteers with funds to build churches around the world.

He loved living in the country in a modest house on Lake Chapin Road, overlooking the St. Joseph River. This home sits in the middle of 1,200 acres of beautiful woods. Many call this the most beautiful piece of property in Berrien County. Benson was a humble man, not wanting a lot of recognition for his gift of 900 acres of that land, now known as “Benson Woods,” to Andrews University in December 2014.

Doug was a businessman and carefully planned ahead. Thirty-seven years ago he started planting 500 acres of hardwood trees on this property—maple, walnut, cherry and oak. During the upcoming decades, the sale of those trees will raise funds for Andrews University in perpetuity. The land also includes 12–14 miles of trails, and 31 building lots along the lake.

His last days were spent at his property along Lake Chapin with the help of his caretaker, Errol Couveau, and his neighbor, groundskeeper and lifelong friend, Wendell Cole (BS ’62).

Benson’s pride and joy were his constant companions and beloved dogs: Pogo, Putter and Patti. He especially looked forward to evening time when turkey, deer and other wildlife grazed near his home, giving him a sense of peace.

Benson is survived by his nephew, Jason Harris of Glendale, California, whom he raised and regarded as his own son; and his sister, Thede (Benson) Pribernow of Mountain Home, Arkansas.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two wives; Lynn Nell Floyed and Eva Nelwyn Severs; and a brother, David Benson.

Dick and Claudia Sowler have been avid birders since their first date—a birding outing in a Loma Linda Foods wastewater treatment area. They love spending time outdoors, searching for new varieties and old favorites. And when they were looking for a way to make a difference at Andrews University, they didn’t have to search far. By remembering Andrews University in their estate plan, Dick and Claudia can support future generations of Andrews University students—birders and non-birders alike.

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Ernie Medina Jr. (BS ’89) and his wife Keri brought their only daughter, Summer Medina, from Southern California to Andrews University for her freshman year. Here are a few highlights of their experience during New Student Orientation. Photos courtesy of Ernie Medina Jr.