Focus, 1998, Fall

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FOCUS

30 years in Jordan
Andrews archaeologists still dig Heshbon

FOCUS

Fall 1998 • The Andrews University Magazine • Vol. 34, No. 4

home schooling • ka yak kids • scholarship and redemption

HOME SCHOOLING • KAYAK KIDS • SCHOLARSHIP AND REDEMPTION
IN FOCUS

Andrews’ day in the sun

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pending a summer at the Heshbon archaeological excavation site in Jordan has been one of my goals as long as I’ve been associated with Andrews. So, early in June when my friend Sten LaBianca from the behavioral sciences department said I should join the crew this summer to cover the 30th anniversary of Andrews work at Heshbon, I jumped at the chance. So we take our Focus readers on location in this issue.

Although I didn’t spend the entire summer—I was there only a week—I had the time of my life. I assisted at Heshbon by writing news releases for the local media about the celebration ceremony and by writing text for the various signs placed along the self-guided tour trails. And on the morning of the ceremony, I helped out on the guffa line (a dusty Heshbon version of the bucket brigade!) when last-minute preparations required rebuilding one last stone wall for the Heshbon reconstruction project. Check out the photo of me and Andrews student Lisa Good lugging guffa-loads of sand and gravel!

But it wasn’t all work at Heshbon. I enjoyed seeing the sights around the Madaba Plains with Niels-Erik Andreasen and Larry Geraty, president of La Sierra University (and old pro at getting around in Jordan). Larry’s familiarity with Arabic and the lay of the land in Jordan provided an excellent opportunity to get acquainted with this exotic and intriguing country. I’ll always remember our full-day trip down to Petra, where ancient stone-cutters chiseled fabulous facades into the rose-red-colored rock canyon walls and where the Children of Israel undoubtedly trekked about so many centuries ago. On our day at Petra, Larry took us off the beaten track of tourist walkways and into the sun-baked wilderness. I came away from my day at Petra with new understanding of “wandering in the wilderness.” And it was in Petra where I took the picture of the two camels on the cover.

On Friday, July 31, I listened and watched with pride as various speakers at the 30th-anniversary ceremony spoke of the strong commitment Andrews University has made to the archaeological work in Jordan. It was especially gratifying to hear Jordan’s Prince Raad (first cousin to King Hussein) relive his own adventures working at the Heshbon site incognito. As we sat on the dust-blown summit of the tell, in the ruins of an ancient Christian chapel, under a very hot sun, I was proud to see the profound impact Andrews has had on the local community and on the state of archaeology in Jordan. Professor Siegfried Horn would have been proud too.

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ur other features focus on life closer to campus. For a few years now I’ve been somewhat nonplussed by several friends’ decision to home-school their children. This trend has caught on nationally—even Newsweek has featured the phenomenon. Veteran writer Chris Carey takes a careful look at home-schooling and its unique effect in the Andrews community.

President Andreasen’s address at this fall’s convocation service struck a special chord with the students and faculty. He explores the connection between scholarship and redemption, a tension that informs our daily lives in Christian academia.

On a much different note, Jack Stenger chronicles the adventures of two intrepid undergrads who dared to kayak across Lake Michigan. Storm-tossed and bug-bitten, Olen Netteburg and Krystian Zygowiec paddled their way—a bit off-course—to the Sunset Coast (after sunset, however) of Berrien County. You’ll find their exploits interesting.

We’re also happy to feature a high school student in “At Random.” I met Amber Mihm at the Leadership Outing for Lake Union academy students in October when I made a presentation on school newspapers. Amber is the editor of the student newspaper at Great Lakes Adventist Academy; she offers her reactions to this quarter’s College Days for high school seniors.

I want to note, in addition, how much I appreciate the volunteer efforts of Professor Emerita Leona Running to proofread each issue of Focus before it goes to press. Her sharp eye and command of usage and mechanics—to say nothing of her working knowledge of the institution—combine to keep us looking good in print. (But if you do find a typo, you can bet we made it after Dr. Running checked our copy!)

—Douglas A. Jones (MA ‘80) Focus editor
**FEATURES**

**HOME SCHOOLING AND WHY**  
Tapping into a national trend, some Andrews families choose to teach their children at home  
_by Chris Carey_

**SCHOLARSHIP AND REDEMPTION**  
President Niels-Erik Andreasen’s Convocation Address delivered to the students, faculty and staff of Andrews University, October 9, 1998, in Pioneer Memorial Church  
_by Niels-Erik Andreasen_

**THIRTY YEARS AT HESHBON**  
On location at the archaeological site in Jordan  
_by Douglas Jones_

**KAYAK ACROSS LAKE MICHIGAN**  
Two Andrews undergrads brave thunderstorm and swarming flies to successfully cross the lake in kayaks  
_by Jack Stenger_

**DEPARTMENTS**

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- **Campus Update**  
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- **Photo Album**  
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- **Photo Album**
Forecast: a flurry of fall finals. Exams are set for Dec. 13 to 16.

Fa la la la la—Christmas holidays begin Dec. 17 and continue through Jan. 4—la la la la.

New Year’s resolution #1: Register for classes. Winter term registration is slated for Monday, Jan. 4, from 8 am to 7 pm. Classes begin Jan. 5 for most programs.

Art Gallery. Third Annual Invitational Exhibition of Contemporary Ceramics. Jan. 4-Feb. 2. Andrews University Student Exhibition of juried works. Feb. 4-19. Gallery hours are M-Th 8am to 6 pm, F 8 am to 12:30 pm—or call 616-471-3529 for an appointment.

Organ concert. Dr. Kenneth Logan, associate professor of music, performs at Pioneer Memorial Church, Jan. 15, at 7:30 pm for Friday Festival of Faith.

Respect and reflection. Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday. Classes cancelled Monday, Jan. 18.

Week of Spiritual Emphasis. John Nixon, senior pastor of Oakwood College Church. Jan. 19 to 22, 10:30 am and 7 pm. PMC. Call Campus Ministries at 616-471-3211 for information.


Snowflakes and sand dollars. AUSA/SA Winter Beach Party, Jan. 23, 8 pm, Johnson Gym.


President’s Holiday. Classes cancelled Monday, Feb. 15.


Calvin Miller, author of The Singer and other poetry and inspirational books, delivers the annual Staley Lectureship. Feb. 23, 10:30 am. PMC.


Wind Symphony concert. Feb. 26, 7:30 pm. PMC.

Brown Bag concerts in the James White Library, noon hours, M-Th.

Call 616-471-3322 for information.

For more information about these and other events at Andrews University, please call 1-800-253-2874.
**Photo Album Update**

I must send a correction to a picture in the last issue (“Photo Album” Summer 1998, page 23). It was taken in 1928 or 1929 when I was taking the two-year normal course. This was our gym class in middy blouses and bloomers.

The teacher on the left was Mrs. Butterfield and her helper on the right was Rena Eby. I was the last person in back of the last row on the right. Irene Forquer-Claflin was in front of me, but I don’t remember all the others.

We were on the lawn between the old Ad Building and the girls’ dorm. The Home Ec building and the Normal-Elementary school were in back of us. The water tower shows faintly on the left.

Marian Klingbeil (DP ‘30, BA ‘33) Carmichael, California

The setting for the Physical Culture class is just south and a bit west of old Birch Hall. The sidewalk runs in front of Birch Hall and to the front of the old Ad Building with the bell tower. The first building in back and slightly to the left of center is the old Home Economics building, and the building to its right is the old elementary training school.

I started formal classes there—training school—in 1928 behind those windows which you see in the photo. Grace Harrison was my teacher. Some of my classmates were Gordon Scribner, who lives near Berrien yet, John Carr, and June Marsh.

The old sun dial was moved and put just south of Birch Hall between a split sidewalk. It was a good spot to stop and chat, when the days weren’t too hot and sticky, or too cold and frigid.

George Huffaker (BS ’65, MA ’75) Muscatine, Iowa

**Happy About Hostas**

What a refreshing and interesting article in the summer issue of Focus. The “Hosta Takeover” article about the Streeter’s garden in Baroda, Mich., was as inspiring as it was beautiful. Being a resident of Berrien County myself, a bit of a closet gardener, and the proud owner of one variety of hostas, I was mesmerized by the article.

I can certainly see why Madeline Johnston has recently been published in Popular Photography magazine. She took breath-taking, colorful pictures of the hostas and of the many secret “rooms” throughout the gardens. What a pleasurable and delightful assignment for her!

Thank you for taking time to feature such a fascinating Andrews couple and their accomplishments.

Gloria Hippler (BS ’77) Berrien Springs

**Summer Issue Appreciated**

Thanks for the summer 1998 issue of Focus. My husband Tatsuo and I enjoyed it very much. We both graduated from EMC.

Mary Nazaki Kimura (‘47) Ventura, Calif.

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Letters to Focus are welcome and should be sent to Editor, Focus, Office of University Relations, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-1000 or by e-mail to <douglas@andrews.edu> with “Letter to Focus Editor” on the subject line. The editors reserve the right to edit for content, style and space. Opinions expressed in letters are not necessarily shared by the editors or university officers.
Net ’98 transforms world and Andrews campus

To understand the scope of Net ’98, maybe a little math is in order. Six continents, 100-plus countries, 40 languages, 12 satellite feeds, 25 broadcast technicians, five cameras, 22 floodlights, 1500 host site volunteers, 31 programs, 7,600 sites, millions of potential viewers. All together it equaled a global adventure event that brought the Adventist message to a world audience—and that held the Andrews campus in its thrall.

The five-week span, Oct. 9 to Nov. 14, will be a defining event in the lives of many college students. It was a five-night-a-week whirlwind, and an event not to be missed.

“This thing was too big, too important and too unique an opportunity to not take advantage of,” said Ehren Turner, a junior elementary education major. “You just felt like history was being made.” His part in history was three nights a week teaching 8-to-10-year-olds in a religious education class.

But as ubiquitous as Andrews people were in front of the cameras, they were equally prominent behind the scenes. University employees and students filled in as camera operators, ushers, children’s ministry coordinators, parking lot attendants, row hosts, song leaders and greeters. All told, more than 1500 individuals filled in during the five-week campaign.

“No matter how big or small the job, everyone did it with the same great attitude in mind,” said Skip MacCarty, PMC associate pastor.

Perhaps the best known volunteers were students Bernie Anderson and Shasta Burr. On a nightly basis, the telegenic series hosts warmed up site audiences with a unique brand of unscripted banter. Chosen for their fresh personalities and Gen X credentials, they quickly became minor celebrities on campus.

“Every day I would have someone say to me in class: ‘I can’t believe you said that last night!’” Burr said.

While the banks of floodlights and TV cameras meant the excitement of the “NeXt Millennium Seminar” was most obvious in the church sanctuary, perhaps the bigger drama was taking place in the basement. It was there that a team translated Nelson’s messages into Mandarin Chinese, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese and 33 other languages ranging from Afrikaans to Zulu. Curious crowds flocked to hear the train-like roar of voices and to experience a modern-day Pentecost moment similar to the disciples’ polyglot address to crowds in Jerusalem.

The challenge of staffing the translating team underscored how providential the university’s selection as Net ’98 host site was. More than half of the 39 translators were Andrews students or staff.

Perhaps Nelson put it best: “Years from now, we will call this series a ‘God moment,’ a time when He was at work around the globe—and at work on this campus as never before.”
Andrews masters of social work program accredited

Sharon Pittman was recruited to Andrews in 1996 to establish a master’s degree program and then get it accredited. In fall 1998, the professor of social work got the news she was waiting for: Mission Accomplished.

On Oct. 19 the Social Work Department received a letter from the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) stating that the new master’s degree program had received a four-year accreditation term—the longest possible for an initial term.

“One of the selling points of the Andrews master’s degree is its overtly Christian orientation that drives the curriculum,” Pittman said. “We have done what few said could be done. We kept our Christian focus and still became strongly accredited.”

A career social work educator, Pittman came from the University of Tennessee, in Knoxville, where she worked as multimedia director in the Office of Research and Public Service. From 1992 to 1994, she taught at Walla Walla College.

With accreditation now secured, Pittman said her department’s biggest challenge continues to be a lack of classroom and office space. Beyond the university’s 50 MSW students, there are 80 students in the bachelor’s program. With nearly 130 majors, social work is the largest department housed in Nethery Hall.

Harold Lang awarded J. N. Andrews medallion

Harold Lang, a 35-year teaching veteran, was awarded the J. N. Andrews Medallion in September.

“Without the contributions of Harold Lang, a whole generation of our students would not have had opportunity to pursue engineering as an academic career,” said Patricia Mutch, vice president for academic administration.

The medallion is the highest honor that the university awards to recognize outstanding academic and professional achievement.

Lang was a principal catalyst in the creation of Andrews’ engineering technology program and one of the main founders of the College of Technology. Lang graduated from Walla Walla College in 1954 with bachelor’s degrees in physics and mechanical engineering. He completed a master’s degree in engineering in 1967 and then in 1977 a doctorate from the University of Michigan.

He worked as a research engineer with the Rocketdyne Division of North American Aviation Inc. in California and for the Bettis Atomic Laboratory in Pittsburgh, Penn. Lang also served in the Army from 1956 to 1958.

Lang stepped down as engineering technology chair in 1997, but has continued teaching full time.

Seminary faculty address women’s ordination

Will a new book by Andrews faculty members signal a shift in Adventist opinion toward women’s ordination?

Women in Ministry: Biblical and Historical Perspectives is the first major address by SDA Theological Seminary faculty on the controversial topic.

Seminary professors contributed to the 20-chapter book, and the work was edited by Nancy Vyhmeister, professor of world mission.

During the 1995 General Conference meetings in Utrecht, no issue was more dominant than was women’s ordination. Despite the general support of North American Adventists, delegates voted to deny the request for the ordination of women pastors within the North American Division.

After the vote, NAD church leaders approached the seminary faculty with a request for a thorough examination of the following questions: “May a woman be legitimately ordained to pastoral ministry?” and “If so, on what biblical basis?” This set in motion a period of study that led to the book’s publication.

Whether the pro-ordination work will change many minds is uncertain. Time or Toronto will show.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Women in Ministry will be reviewed in the winter 1999 issue of Focus.
**Campus Ministries' “Dynamic Duo”**

Chaplains are pastors who labor without a church, spiritual leaders who sometimes work without a well-defined congregation. And maybe the challenge is even greater for an Andrews chaplain. With 3,000 students from nearly every part of the world, you’d have to have an anthropologist’s understanding to know what makes students’ tick — and a superhero’s energy to get all your work done.

If it sounds like the Campus Ministries Office needs a “dynamic duo,” fear not: they’ve already landed. Since their summer 1998 arrival, new campus chaplains Laurence Burn and Timothy Nixon have already made significant spiritual inroads on campus.

“I’ve seen in both of them a desire to do whatever it takes to facilitate spirituality on this campus,” said Matthew Gambel, director of BRANCH, the campus’ student-led ministry organization. South African-born and raised, Laurence Burn is a natural strategist. Recognizing that ministry on a college campus is geared toward the sometimes-jaded and always-time-pressed, his outreach initiatives are relationship-based and user-friendly.

“Saved. Shepherded. Skilled. Sent.” This is the progression the chaplain envisions for a student’s spiritual journey.

A pastoral ministry graduate from Weimar College, Burn worked four years as a youth pastor in Roseville, Calif., before coming to Andrews in 1996 to study at the seminary.

“College is no time for students to be spiritual couch potatoes,” he said. “These are tomorrow’s leaders, so we have to train them accordingly.”

Though his work has been confined to the continental U.S., Timothy Nixon has done plenty of work among disparate people groups. Any pastor with experience among both the salty habitants of New York City and the laid-back denizens of southern California is eligible for “cross-cultural” merit badges.

In both training and experience, Nixon has seen a lot in his 17 years of pastoral work. After theology studies at Oakwood College and a 1991 MDiv from the SDA Theological Seminary, Nixon pastored churches in his native New York, in California and, most recently, in Maryland.

What does it take for a college campus to stay spiritually on track? The key is a focus on the Divine.

“Sometimes it’s too easy to become complacent and say: ‘This is the Lord’s school’ and not do anything to make it this way,” Nixon said.

Sounds like these two chaplains are every bit the match for spiritual complacency. Or, to put it another way, the Andrews Dynamic Duo has arrived.

**SM editor stays up for the story**

Want to experience the “glamorous” life of a college journalist at Andrews? Try hanging out till 5 a.m. and enjoying a weekly repast of stale pizza, washed down with flat soft drink.

“Wake me up when it becomes glamorous,” says Matt Lee, this year’s Student Movement editor. In the meantime, the man has some deadlines to meet.

The position of editor of the campus weekly student newspaper has always required a degree of persistence and phenomenal nocturnal staying power.

“It’s fun, but it’s a whole lot of work,” said the sophomore religion-communication-English major who hails from Paradise, Calif.

He said the biggest challenge is seeing that all sectors of the student body get represented in each week’s paper. The next biggest challenge is finding writers to write each week’s paper.

So far this school year, Lee has managed to find enough people to broadly chronicle the good, the bad, and the unusual from the Campus Safety Department.

Here’s a sampling of headlines: “Campus Safety reviews parking issue”: (too many cars, too few slots, resultant tickets); “Senate Still Falls Short”: (student apathy means several Student Association senator slots remain unfilled); “AU to Impact Benton Harbor Children”: (ongoing street ministry); “Remodeling of Riffel”: (construction project); “NET ’98 Commences”: (campus mobilized for satellite evangelism event); “Tooth Decay in High Places”: (columnist working after midnight grasps for any topic to write on.)
McVay named associate dean of seminary

John McVay, former chair of the Department of Religion at Pacific Union College in Angwin, Calif., has served as associate dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary since August.

McVay succeeded Benjamin Schoun, who left Andrews to become president of the Northern New England Conference.

An Andrews alumnus, McVay earned a master’s of divinity from the SDA Theological Seminary in 1983. He earned his bachelor’s in theology from Southern Adventist University and a doctorate from the University of Sheffield in England in 1995.

From 1977 to 1985, McVay served as a pastor, first in the Iowa Conference and then in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. He left pastoral ministry in 1985 to become a professor of religion at PUC.

He has authored numerous scholarly papers and publications, including two recent Adult Sabbath School quarterlies, works that centered on the Pauline books of 1 and 2 Corinthians.

An accomplished teacher, he was selected as PUC “Educator of the Year” in 1996. After an initial period of administrative transition, McVay said he expects to return to the classroom on a part-time basis to teach.

“There’s nothing more exciting than helping students as they grapple with the eternal truths of the Bible,” he said.

Going postal at Andrews

Even if the powers that be don’t call it a post office (officially it’s a U.S.P.S. “contract station”), the Andrews post office is still the site of some majorleague pressure.

Every day the small contract station sorts 3,000 to 5,000 pieces of mail, ships and receives 15 to 30 packages (even more at quarter’s end), and delivers more than 500 pieces of inter-campus mail.

“You try doing this and tell me you won’t have some stress,” said Ruth Gardner, Andrews post office manager.

Adding to their pressure is the fact they don’t have a whole lot of space to work in. While full-service post offices can be downright spacious, Andrews still gets by on a “shoe box”-sized room tacked on at the end of the bookstore complex—this for a community of 4,000 people. The problem is most evident when the lobby is stacked with outgoing mail: college bulletins, packages to Korea, letters to home (requesting money?).

But either Providence or general good humor has kept anyone from getting too stressed out. “We just laugh a lot,” Gardner said. “And when it gets really hectic, we just laugh even more.”Sounds like no one is “going postal” at Andrews any time soon.

Graduate and undergrad fall enrollment drops

Fall quarter enrollment at Andrews dropped from last year’s record-high level. After posting the institution’s highest enrollment ever in the 1997-98 school year—3,152—enrollment levels dropped to 2,901 for the 1998-99 school year, a drop of 252 students, or an 8 percent difference.

Undergraduate enrollment for fall quarter 1998 is 1,650, down from 1,723, a drop of 73 students or 4.2 percent. This year’s class of first-year students numbered 291 compared to last year’s 318, and the number of seniors this year was down by 66 students.

Graduate enrollment is 1,118, down from 1,305 students, a drop of 187 students or nearly 15 percent.

Enrollment services personnel have identified one factor that could have impacted this year’s downturn in enrollment. The world financial crisis, which has seen significant devaluation of currencies among Pacific Rim and South American nations, has likely affected international student enrollment at Andrews.

“More than most schools, our enrollment is sensitive to world economic downturns,” said Emilio García-Marenko, university registrar. During the 1997-98 school year, there were more than 800 international students at Andrews, constituting almost 20 percent of the student body.

Enrollment for the last three years at Andrews has exceeded the 3,000-student level, and this year’s enrollment marks a return to the sub-3000 level last seen during the 1994-95 school year. Enrollment for the last four years has been 3,152 in 1997; 3,132 in 1996; 3,015 in 1995; and 2,952 in 1994.
ABOUT 20 years ago, when Peggy Schnepp was seven, she and her brother and sister would hide in a pit under the steps when a car came up the lane. It might be the truant officer.

When people came into the restaurant her parents ran in Alabama, the kids hid in back. Somebody might report that they weren’t in school.

But they were in school. Mom and Dad were the teachers.

“It was illegal to teach children at home then in Alabama,” Schnepp said. “It was kind of scary but kind of cool, too.”

It’s not illegal anymore, and not scary. But it is cool. Home schooling is booming.

At least 15 faculty families at Andrews University are educating their children at home. Add in student families and the number might be twice that. There are scores more, possibly hundreds, scattered around southwest Michigan. Precise national figures do not exist, but the National Home Education Research Institute estimates that between 700,000 and 1,150,000 American children were being taught at home in the 1996-97 school year.

With public and Adventist schools doing a fairly good job, and with education professionals voicing reservations about home schooling, why would faculty parents invest a huge effort in teaching their own kids?

The short answer is that, for their particular children, they believe they can do it better. And they enjoy it.

“One of the reasons I do this is because in a few years they won’t want to be with me,” said Lilia Moncrieff, mother of two boys and wife of Scott Moncrieff, an AU English professor. “Now they want to be with me. They want to be friends with me. They say, ‘Mom! Look at this!’ How can I pass that up?”

“I think our family is closer because of this,” said Virginia Trecartin, mother of four boys and wife of business professor Ralph Trecartin. “My boys are together and they are each other’s best friends.”

“Something I’m thrilled with as a father is that through home schooling my kids know they are loved,” said Peter Cooper, chair of the AU music department. “We provide for them an atmosphere in which they are free to fail, free to explore, free to ask questions without fear of rebuke or punishment or being made fun of because it might be a ‘dumb’ question.” Cooper helps his wife, Laurie, teach two youngsters at home.

Other reasons have more to do with academic achievement, the kids’ own personalities, or moral values.

Laurie Cooper’s main reason is the opportunity for individualized instruction, tailored to the specific strengths and weaknesses of Audrey, 11, and Daniel, 8. A second reason is that “I love to teach. I love to learn, too. I’m having a blast.”

Asta LaBianca started teaching son Erik 14 years ago.
because she and her husband, anthropology professor Øystein LaBianca, felt the boy was too shy and reserved to hold his own in a traditional school. Erik moved to a regular school after sixth grade and is now a successful student at Andrews. His two younger brothers, Aren and Ivan, are in school at the kitchen counter or in front of the family fireplace.

The Trecartins, who moved this fall to the State University of New York at Brockport, started home-schooling eldest son Andrew, now 14, in first grade because “he’d just bounce off the walls” in a traditional school, Virginia Trecartin said. “He’s very active and needs a lot of time outdoors.”

They tried a traditional school for third, fourth and fifth grades, but because of homework “he wasn’t pursuing any of his own interests, any outdoor interests,” Ralph Trecartin said. Now he gets as much done in half a day as he got done in a full day [in the traditional school].”

Rob Zdor, an AU biology professor, and his wife, Barb, are newcomers to home schooling. Their older son, John, is in first grade this year, and his brother, Greg, 4, is a wide-eyed observer.

“To use a biological analogy, we believe the child’s natural habitat is the home instead of an institution,” Rob Zdor said. “We believe the home patterns the reality of the real world and the skills a child needs to learn to cope in the real world, as opposed to an age-segregated institution where they hang out with other kids at the same level. We integrate school and work and service, and we don’t see that happening in a lot of institutional schools.”

Barb Zdor added: “Home school allows much more time for us to influence them for the values we want to teach them, to love God and be committed to God, to be loyal to Him, to be a Daniel in the crowd, to stand on their own. We want them to be as grounded as possible in the values that we’re trying to teach them, so they won’t be swayed by the crowd.”

“We want them to be sensitive to the needs of others,” Rob Zdor said, “without looking just at themselves.” The Zdor boys help mop floors for an elderly neighbor and make regular excursions to clean up roadside litter.

To a greater or lesser degree, all the AU home-school parents want to protect their children from bad influences they might meet in a regular school. But they are realistic.

Asta LaBianca believes Aren, 15, could probably fit into a regular high school. “But there are a lot of things I wouldn’t want him to fit right into—attitudes that are negative to authority, negative to parents, rebelliousness,” she said.

The Moncrieffs’ boys, Robbie, 11, and André, 8, both have some experience in regular school. The parents speak well of the staff and teachers, but “we were unhappy with some of the other kids, the influence they had,” Scott Moncrieff said.

“The peers have more influence than the teacher,” Lilia Moncrieff said. “Twenty-four peers and one teacher.”

“The teachers cannot control what happens in students’ homes. So you have 25 kids who come with all sorts of ideas from home, the things they watch [TV and movies]. The home-school families that we interact with have very similar philosophies, virtually no TV watching, lots of reading. The parents stress courtesy. “It’s not perfect, and they’re always going to be exposed [to bad influences] in the neighborhood or wherever. But we have the opportunity while they’re developing their characters to provide the best environment that we can orchestrate.

“Some of the critics say we’re sheltering them. But to me it’s not an advantage to expose them to the ugliness in the world at a tender age. That doesn’t make them better people, I don’t think.”

Someday, of course, a bike will be stolen or cruel insults will
be flung. “The outcome of that can be traced to how you deal with conflict,” Rob Zdor said, “and definitely in the family we deal with that. It’s not like we’re conflict-free. I think kids at home can acquire the skills of learning to cooperate and deal with people who are punching on you.”

“They’re going to get peer pressure sooner or later,” Ralph Trecartin said. “If we can help them think for themselves, mature a little bit, maybe we can lessen the impact of some of the negative stuff.”

The Andrews home-school families are not flying solo. They have built a network. Parents meet frequently to talk about problems, to exchange ideas and experiences. The kids get together regularly for musical events, educational enrichment activities and sports.

But the banter at a home-school soccer game in the Trecartins’ knobby horse pasture is not like a World Cup match.

“Good kick, Mom!” one kid yelled at a game this past summer.

“Way to go, Heather!” another shouted.

“You can wear my hat if you want.”

“I need a drink of water. Can you be goalie for a few minutes?”

And perhaps the most philosophically revealing: “You can’t do something illegal just because somebody else did.”

The game had players as young as 5 and as old as 15, along with three adults. The mix of ages appeals to home-school families.

“I think home-schooling tends to foster a kind of spectrum socialization,” Laurie Cooper said, “not spending the bulk of your time with people your own age but being able to socialize equally well with kids younger than you, kids older than you, and adults.”

“When you think about it,” Ralph Trecartin said, “they’re going to spend most of their lives interacting with adults, and adults are interesting people. If they learn that skill, the better off they are.”

“Socialization is the least of my worries,” Virginia Trecartin said. “Our kids have always been around other kids. I think socialization of children is highly overrated in our society.”

Scores of companies have sprung up to help home-schoolers. Parents can buy whole curriculums, with everything from textbooks to workbooks to flashcards to tests, or they can develop their own programs. Most parents pick and choose items from several publishers to develop their own curriculum. Barb Zdor borrowed materials from a local kindergarten teacher for a study unit on dogs.

And some don’t use textbooks. “We use real books,” Asta LaBianca said. “They’re more interesting.

“For example, we’ve read Johnny Tremain, which is a Newberry Award-winning book about the time of the American Revolution. When we did a section about Egypt and Rome we read The Bronze Bow. We read a lot of biographies as well, for the history. We read about the childhood of famous Americans.”

All of the families borrow books and tapes by the armload from the local public libraries and the James White Library at Andrews. Books are stacked high in all their homes.

“The home is permeated with literature,” said Pollyanna Barnes, a home-school mother who just earned her PhD from Andrews with a dissertation on the teaching of reading in home-schools. “If they’re traveling, there’s always a bag of books. If they have to go to a meeting or something, the children will be off in a corner reading.”

Science labs. Some home-schoolers have done experiments in Rob Zdor’s biology lab at Andrews, but that exposure has been brief.

The Moncrieffs are giving Robbie some science exposure by working in shortwave radio. The LaBiancas have considered buying a microscope. Some families have frozen the bodies of animals killed on the road for dissection. Other science resources are available at nearby nature centers and at the Math and Science Center run by Andrews and the Berrien County Intermediate School District.

Peggy Schnepp, the 1994 AU graduate who had to hide as a child, went through grade school and high school at home without studying science. She worried when she entered college and had to
Support and caution from School of Education professors

“Is home schooling better than traditional learning?” Dean Karen Graham of Andrews University’s School of Education answers her own question: “It depends on the school. It depends on the teacher. It depends on the home.”

Specialists in the art of teaching and the science of learning support the way a group of Andrews faculty parents are teaching their own youngsters. But they raise some concerns.

“These are sophisticated, knowledgeable, educated people,” AU education professor Ray Ostrander said of the Andrews home-schoolers. “Educated people know more about life experiences and how to transmit those experiences than people who aren’t educated.”

Educators worry more about ill-prepared parents, those who keep their kids out of school to conceal child abuse, those with a grudge against a particular school or teacher, or those who teach at home in order to spite the government—“militia types,” in the words of Jeanne Morris, assistant superintendent for instruction of the Berrien County Intermediate School District.

Even though the Andrews home-schoolers don’t fall into those categories, educators have some reservations.

“Whether you’re a home-school parent or a classroom teacher, I want to know if you’re engaging the students in interaction,” said Larry Burton, another AU professor of education. Are they talking about this with anybody, are they discussing it, are they constructing meaning for themselves, are they connecting it to other things they know?

“My hunch is that some home-school parents can get things done faster because it’s just fill-in-the-blanks. Mastery of basic information is important, but we have to take our learning deeper. And part of that involves interacting with other people on that content to see how they interpret it and relate it to their lives.”

Most educators see great virtue in student-to-student interaction.

“Students retain 90 percent of the information that they learn from another student,” Graham said. “They retain less than 25 percent of what they learn from a teacher.”

“There’s a group synergy in the classroom that you’re going to miss in home-school,” said Morris, who taught at Andrews for three years and has 20 years of experience in public schooling.

“There’s a lot of good to be said about being in a classroom and learning the rules of the game of life,” Ostrander said. “Those rules are very evolutionary. It’s survival of the fittest. It’s very competitive. You have a bunch of piranhas who are vying for the teacher’s attention.”

“I think it’s important to be thrown in with piranhas. Unless the children grow up to be self-employed and run their own business, it’s important that they learn to interact and get along. I’m not saying home-schoolers don’t get this. I’m saying that kids who go to [regular] school get this all the time.”

Though he acknowledges the strengths of traditional school, Ostrander also supports home-schooling. He and his wife considered teaching their ninth-grade daughter at home this year, but decided they could not commit the time that would require. Graham, too, favors home-schooling, if it is done well, but sees some perils.

“The risk of missing special skills, whether positive or negative, is higher when you limit the number of students and teachers in the environment,” she said. “In a home-school setting, it is much more difficult to assess or even to notice any learning disability or any special gift or talent. You have very little way to compare one child with others.”

Graham applauds the way home-schooling builds kids’ self-confidence, but worries that “they tend to be a little overconfident. It’s just as important to know what you don’t know as to know what you do know.

“Home-schooling can create initiators, students who can lead a group, but very seldom does it create negotiators, people who can persuade someone to change his mind. They don’t know how to negotiate because they haven’t had enough interchange.”

Burton and Graham worry that some home-school parents may not have the breadth to teach well.

“There’s a danger that we will reinforce or pass on whatever biases or weaknesses we as individual parents have, maybe a math aversion, for example,” Burton said. “In the lower grades, most educated parents have a good enough breadth of understanding. But it can get kind of messy as the students move to higher grades.”

“The child is limited to the scope and perspective of the teacher,” Graham said. “In a system where a child experiences many different teachers, that risk is less. Some home-schooling parents are broad, Renaissance-type people who can offer the child broad interests and curricula. That can happen. But the risk in home-schooling is that it won’t.”

James Martz, principal of Ruth Murdoch Elementary School on the Andrews campus, believes the home-schooled youngsters would benefit from the intercultural mix of students at his school. “It would be a real addition to some of the families’ educational process,” he said. Some 40 percent of the approximately 280 Murdoch students come from a foreign background.

Martz also believes his school would benefit if the home-schoolers enrolled there. One obvious reason is that more tuition revenue would strengthen the Ruth Murdoch program. But more important, he said, is that “the parents identify the kids as unique in one way or another, maybe with special learning abilities or talents. It would be nice to share those talents with the whole population rather than hiding them under a bushel.”

Burton empathizes with parents who teach at home partly to protect children from bad influences in school or the world, but he does not wholly agree with them.

“I would much rather have my child in a classroom with a Christian teacher who can deal with those situations from a Christian perspective than to pretend they don’t exist,” he said.

“Just because you keep them at home, away from kids at school, doesn’t mean they’re not going to hear swear words when they’re seven, or hear a dirty joke from their cousins.”

“While I understand [the parents’] feeling, I don’t think that’s a good reason for home-schooling. It’s laying a negative foundation. It’s acting out of fear.”

Morris sees good ideas gaining ground in Berrien County public schools: multi-age classrooms, integration of subjects into a whole, cooperative learning in which pupils must work together to solve a problem, hands-on practical learning.

“These are the things I’d be looking for if I were determining what’s best for my own child,” she said. “Is the school doing what it should be doing? If not, can I do it better myself? And then I’d have to weigh.”

Graham believes the founding principles of Adventist education remain sound, “but I don’t think we’ve stuck by those principles. I think we fight every year to try to untangle the bureaucracy from what we know is good education.”

Graham, Martz and Randy Graves, the principal of Andrews Academy, have just joined in an effort to “reconceive the basic tenets and principles” of Adventist education from kindergarten through college, Graham said. They are looking at everything from schedules and calendars to ideas for individual learning, age-readiness learning, multi-age developmental mixtures, and students teaching students.

Will this academic collaboration mean anything to home-schoolers? “Absolutely,” Graham said. “We agree across the board that we ought to be providing integrated services for all kids.”

“It’s not about ‘us and them,’” Martz said. “It’s about kids. All kids.”
take a physics course as part of her music major. “I thought I’m not going to be able to do this. But I found a friend, he explained stuff to me, and I came out with a good grade. Home-schooling had taught me how to do research and what I needed to do to learn. It wasn’t a big deal.”

When parents hit a wall with a certain subject, they can hire tutors or call on colleagues for help. It’s harder to compensate for some other shortcomings of home-schooling, such as the lack of gymnasiums, organized sports, and music and drama activities.

But the families manage. The AU home-school network gets together weekly for soccer, baseball, sledding and other sports. Laurie Cooper has organized the Berrien Strings, a chamber ensemble of about a dozen home-school youngsters who practice together regularly and perform at hospitals and nursing homes.

Music plays a big part in most home-school families. “Music teaches how practicing a difficult skill over a long period of time can build results,” Scott Moncrieff said. “Over the months or years they can see how their acquired skill results from discipline and persistence.”

All the home-school kids get positive reinforcement. Barnes, in her Ph.D. study, found that “all the parents praise their children a lot. They hug and kiss them. They’re like cheerleaders.”

A 1993 University of Michigan study of 53 adults who had been taught at home found nearly two-thirds of them to be self-employed. The researcher, Gary Knowles, interpreted this figure as supporting “the contention that home-schooling tends to enhance a person’s self-reliance and independence.”

Last year Ralph Trecartin gave six seventh- and eighth-graders a taste of entrepreneurship. He organized them into a corporation that hired out to work three days each month for a Berrien Springs hardware merchant, a local tomato farmer, and some people who needed walls demolished or firewood stacked. One day a month was devoted to volunteer work, such as cleaning an elderly woman’s yard. Each member invested $6 in the company, called Wolf Prairie Young Entrepreneurs and Helpers. The company paid some modest advertising costs and bought merchandise that the hardware dealer sold on the kids’ behalf. Those sales and the pay that the kids earned brought in more than $400—enough for them to take a vacation trip to Wisconsin.

Home-schooling is not for everyone. It takes time, patience, dedication, energy, skill, and love. If even one of those is lacking, it will not work.

And in one sense, even parents who send their kids to traditional school are also teaching at home. Asta LaBianca put it this way: “All parents are teachers of their kids. Teaching is going on all day, in the evening, at the supper table, whatever. You may not be aware of it, but when you’re in the car, when you’re going to the grocery, you’re teaching all the time. By your example, the things you talk about, the way you answer questions, you’re teaching.”

Scott Moncrieff says: “As far as institutional loyalty goes, I am working for and dedicated to the goals of Andrews University. I try to do a good job for them. But I don’t feel that that obliges me to have my kids go to school there or to the feeder institutions.”

Ralph Trecartin says: “In my mind, there’s a lot of good things about church schools, but if I am able to home-school, if I want to home-school, if my kids like being home-schooled, then that’s my first choice because I can give them more personal attention and they can grow in a more individual way.”
Scholarship and Redemption

President Niels-Erik Andreasen's Convocation Address
delivered to the students, faculty and staff of Andrews University, October 9, 1998, in Pioneer Memorial Church

This past year I reread Homer’s Odyssey in the new brilliant translation by Professor Robert Fagles of Princeton University, who also translated the companion volume, Homer’s Iliad, in 1990, as well as other volumes of classical Greek literature.

So why did I read this book once again? Well, first, because my wife gave it to me for my birthday. Second, because this is an exceptionally fine translation of a very important work. Professor Fagles has a masterly command of both classical Greek and English. And he has produced an absolutely splendid translation, one of the best in our time. Besides, I think we can learn something of value for ourselves from it.

Incidentally, I hope I have not lost you already! You know about Homer’s two large poems, do you not? The Iliad and The Odyssey are two very long poems, the oldest European literature. They tell a story. The story is about a beautiful woman—Helen—who was taken prisoner from Greece in Europe to the city of Troy in Asia Minor. In response, the Europeans mobilized a naval expedition of a thousand ships to get the beautiful Helen back. So we have the expression: The face that launched a thousand ships. That was Helen’s beautiful face. All right, you college men, do I have your attention now? This is about the most beautiful woman in the world.

The war raged ten years with no victory in sight. Then the Greek war hero Odysseus thought up a plan. He built a large wooden horse and left it outside the gates of the city of Troy while pretending to retreat. The Trojans thought it was a present and brought it inside their city, not knowing that Odysseus and his soldiers were hidden inside the horse. Well, at night they crawled out of the horse, opened the gates, and Troy fell. That is the first part of the story. It has given us another proverb: Beware of Greeks bearing gifts.

After the victory and for the next ten years, Odysseus and his men set out to return home where his faithful wife Penelope awaited him. She had waited for 20 years, and that is the story of the second volume, The Odyssey.

Now all this happened about 3,200 years ago, at the time of Samuel and Saul, Samson and Delilah (another beautiful woman), and the Philistines in the Bible. Four-hundred years later, about 2800 years ago, at the time of the prophet Isaiah in the Bible, Homer wrote the story in his two great poems. There is also some similarity in themes between the Bible stories and Homer’s. It is said that Homer was blind, and that he composed his poems in his head and memorized them, just as Beethoven composed music in his head after becoming deaf.

Now, what does all that have to do with college education? Quite a lot. Let me explain. Odysseus is preoccupied with one thing: Getting home. He wants to get home to his land, his farm, his wife Penelope and his son Telemachus. But like some college students he is not traveling the shortest way. Instead, he has ten years of adventures on the way. He struggles a lot and learns a lot, mostly because his companions are reckless and get themselves and their ship into all kinds of trouble.

But Odysseus is clever, disciplined and experienced, and he finds solutions to all the problems of these high adventures. He visits marvelous and frightening places, meets noble and mischievous men and women. Nevertheless, our hero never forgets his single purpose, getting home. He comes close to heaven and to hell, but never lingers long. He meets beautiful women, but never forgets his wife Penelope. And have you noticed that whereas the first volume, The Iliad, deals with men, their power, their fights, their temper tantrums and their triumphs and defeats, the second volume is dominated by a longing for peace and security, and by the faithful love of a woman who draws her man Odysseus back home like the needle of a compass is drawn to the pole.

For 20 years Penelope waited for her husband. She raised their son Telemachus. Along the way she received many offers to remarry, but instead she kept weaving a blanket and waiting for her man to return. When Odysseus finally made it back 20 years later, he had changed so much that no one recognized him, except his old dog and his nursemaid, who noticed a familiar childhood scar on this strange man’s leg. Only then does Penelope realize that her man has returned, and they fall in love all over again.

So you see, this story is not about a trip; it is about men and women, husbands and wives, friends, lovers longing to be together. Above all, it is about life, just like our Andrews experience will be a story of our life. It is a story about having a mission, about determination, about being smart, about devotion and nobility and high moral purpose, about learning new lessons every day, about loyalty, about going away and returning home, and about love.

To put it succinctly, it is a story about becoming wise and about being committed, and that is what college is all about as well.

Odysseus tried earnestly to be smart and to keep his wits about him so he could rescue his companions and return...
to his family. We can learn that same lesson here in college—to be smart and to be committed and to discover that these two qualities support each other, like two sides of the same coin.

So often we imagine that we learn to be smart in our classes, laboratories and in the library, and that being caring and committed is an add on, the spiritual dimension that we add to our smarts here in this Christian university so as to make our education complete.

We even talk about being intentional about our commitment to spiritual development, as a special ingredient of an Andrews education. I would like to propose that spirituality, piety, a caring and redeeming attitude is an integral part of our education, not an “add on.”

In fact, “add-on” spirituality is a dangerous thing for a person and for a campus, as well as for a church. Further, being smart or scholarly is a natural aspiration of all God’s children, and we must never apologize for that aspiration. Being smart does not militate against being committed. And being redemptive is not a sign of weakness in the academic environment of learning, research and achievement. Rather, it is a sign of personal maturity, a smart thing to do. That is what The Odyssey is all about.

Of course, I know that for the last 200 years or so of human history it has been common to say that a university education and religious faith tend to militate against each other. The Enlightenment, some argue, set about to overcome the so-called superstition of religion with the bright light of information, research, and scholarship. However, in terms of overall human history, that conflict some see between faith and learning is only a recent, temporary development. For the rest of human history, all the way back to Homer’s Odyssey, it was assumed that being smart and pious, being educated and committed were natural allies.

We must accustom ourselves to that kind of thinking again. That is why I read Homer. Of course, we must also read that in the Bible, for Scripture says: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” We are going to be smart about what we do, without apologies to anyone, creating an atmosphere of scholarship, research, and achievement, but we also desire to become a pious, faithful people, a creative, caring and redemptive community which gathers near the presence of God.

W e are going to be smart about what we do, without apologies to anyone, creating an atmosphere of scholarship, research, and achievement, but we also desire to become a pious, faithful people, a creative, caring and redemptive community which gathers near the presence of God.

There are many other ways to talk about this. To me, the key point is that the God of the Bible is a God of learning. The story of His people is one of learning. The history of human history is one of learning. And we are called to be learning people, not just in our classes, but in all the dimensions of our lives. That is why I read Homer. That is why I teach in the Bible. That is why I engage in spiritual development. That is why I teach in the classroom. That is why I teach in the residence halls. That is why I teach in the chapel. That is why I teach in the dining hall. That is why I teach in the workplace. That is why I teach in the academic environment of learning, research and achievement. That is why I teach in the spiritual environment of faith, piety, caring and redemptive attitude. That is why I teach in the environment of personal maturity, of personal growth, of personal development.

My wife once told me that in her student years she and her friends would sometimes say to each other, “We are going to be smart about what we do, without apologies to anyone, creating an atmosphere of scholarship, research, and achievement, but we also desire to become a pious, faithful people, a creative, caring and redemptive community which gathers near the presence of God.”

But we sort of expect to find such things in the Bible, and maybe for that reason they do not impress us as much as they should.

But how about finding it in Homer’s poems, the story of the earliest and greatest hero in early Western history who used his intelligence to foster all the spiritual qualities of a noble human being: loyalty, faithfulness, devotion, compassion, faith, love, as he made his way back home. And how about finding it in the lives of great scientists and economists and leaders?

That is a fascinating argument in support of our system of education—namely, that true education brings together the brainy intellect and the believing heart.

It has been my experience that our minds are like baskets. The more we enlarge them through education, the more faith they can hold. And faith is like devoted determination—the more we have of it, the more we wish to learn.

So when we speak about a spiritual master plan for Andrews University, we are not advocating yet another extracurricular activity to squeeze into an already busy schedule.

No, I’m talking here about a new way of teaching and learning, not an addition to our regular teaching and learning—in fact, a new way of living as well. For on a university campus, learning and living become inseparable. Our residence halls, workplaces, chapels, even the dining hall are part of the university, are part of living and learning. Nothing we do here is an “add-on.” Everything we do in a Christian university makes us wiser and more redemptive.

My wife once told me that in her student years she and her friends would sometimes say to each other, “We are going to be smart about what we do, without apologies to anyone, creating an atmosphere of scholarship, research, and achievement, but we also desire to become a pious, faithful people, a creative, caring and redemptive community which gathers near the presence of God.”
years in Greece she had three great heroes—Jesus Christ, her minister, and Dostoevsky. Is that not a strange combination: The Son of God, a Greek Orthodox priest, and a Russian writer? Not really, if we see understanding and piety as closely related experiences. The love of Christ, the guidance of a pastor, and the ideas of a good writer all help us grow.

Spirituality is not an addition to learning, making sure it remains godly; and learning is not a secular control mechanism to keep our spirituality informed and honest. No, the two are part of a single human quest—like an odyssey—helping us to make it home again.

And where is that home? For Odysseus, home was the island of Ithaca and his wife Penelope. For us students and teachers, home is where intellect and spirituality meet, where learning and commitment wait patiently for each other, where scholarship and redemption become one in the pleasant company of our Creator.

Last spring, my wife and I and some friends went to Chicago to attend a concert of the Chicago Symphony under the direction of guest conductor Herbert Blomstedt. He is a Christian, a Seventh-day Adventist, and he holds an honorary doctorate from Andrews University. Before his retirement he was conductor of the San Francisco Symphony. Just now he directs the Northwest German Symphony in Hamburg. Besides, his niece, Monica, is the organist in my mother’s church in Hamburg, and other thought leaders in North Germany.

In his presentation, Blomstedt gave four reasons why he is a Christian, but the most important was this: Christian faith brings us close to the source of creation, and all of us—artists, scientists, artisans, service professionals—are invited by God Himself to become creative in our life and work.

And then he added something Odysseus would also have said 3200 years earlier: Faith in God and piety protect us from hubris, from human pride in the presence of God. That is why smart people need faith. Without faith, smart people tend to become intolerable. Don’t ever let that happen to you.

I invited Maestro Blomstedt to visit Andrews University the next time he returns to America to guest-conduct symphony orchestras. It may not be for a while, but I wanted him to explain to you that spiritual commitment is not an addition to our scholarship, to our creative work, or to our service. Rather, it is a way to be scholarly, a way to be creative.

So the most important questions at the beginning of this year are not. How can we find time to promote spiritual formation? Who will do it? Who will measure it? How do we know when we have achieved it? Our real question is far more simple, yet profoundly more difficult to answer, and it is this: How do we become spiritual persons in the very work we do as teachers, students, staff, and administrators? To answer that question is to embark upon a quest, like an odyssey, that will place us face to face with many adventures and even dangers, but in the end will bring us safely home to our first love.

So this year, like Odysseus, we will start a journey. We are going to be smart about what we do without apologies to anyone, creating an atmosphere of scholarship, research, and achievement in this Christian university community, but we also desire to become a pious, faithful people, a creative, a caring and redemptive community which gathers near the presence of God closer and ever closer.

You may have heard me speak enthusiastically about spiritual development among faculty and students here on campus. You know that Net ’98 begins tonight here in this church, and that I have been an enthusiastic supporter of broadcasting these services from this university campus. But you will also hear me speak earnestly about research and publishing, and reading books, and getting A’s and expanding the library, and creating a whole new learning center for undergraduate students that integrates the arts, letters, social sciences, religion, and communications into a single and seamless experience.

This is not my personal balancing act between the expectations of our church on the one hand and the expectations of our accreditation agency on the other. No—this represents an approach to education in this Christian university which affirms that we wish to discover a way to teach and to learn in such a manner that the higher we reach in learning, the deeper we are grounded in faith. The more we pursue scholarship, the more redemptive we become. The smarter we get, the more humble we will be.

I have thought a lot about this throughout my entire career, and I am now prepared to make you a promise: As we find ourselves on such an odyssey toward scholarship and redemption, this good university will become an exemplary Christian institution of higher learning, a faithful lighthouse for others to steer by, a flagship institution to guide others safely home to port.

Niels-Erik Andreassen has been president of Andrews University since 1994.
In 1968, Andrews professor of archaeology Siegfried Horn selected the Jordanian village of Hesban as the site of the university’s archaeological attention. Focus visits Jordan for the 30th anniversary celebration and takes you on location.

by Douglas A. Jones
Cool, night desert air envelopes the Amman Training Center campus where approximately 130 students and faculty from Andrews and around the world stir to the plaintive sounds of a four-in-the-morning call to prayer at the nearby mosque in Amman, Jordan. You rise from your bunk and shiver into your dusty clothes. No need to shower; the water’s cold anyway. You shuffle to breakfast in the dining hall and then onto a small yellow minibus in the parking lot for the 25-minute ride to the tell.

Heshbon. Tall Hisban. Hesban, to the locals. The tell rises before you, and soon you’re hiking the mound of earth and stones that—after centuries—they still call Heshbon.

The sun begins to crown the eastern horizon. And to the west, Mt. Nebo is bathed in pink-amber radiance. A flock of sheep jostles down the incline, bells around their necks tinkling in the early morning air.

You stretch and survey the twine outlining your plot on the mound and peer into the excavated trench you’ve called “home” for more than a month. The trowel in your hand feels familiar, its handle fits your hand that’s already silky with dust. You pull your head scarf around your mouth and nose and climb into the hole, ready for another morning of scraping and sifting. Layer upon layer of Jordanian dirt and history.

The sun rises overhead and beats down on your back. Local Palestinian boys, ranging in age from ten to sixteen, joke and tease as they haul guffas—buckets made from rubber tires—filled with sand and pebbles. Clouds of dust obscure the sifting screens at the
edge of the excavation site. Pottery shards, bones and small stones emerge on the metal grid. Occasionally, you hear a “Hey, check this out!” You reach for your water bottle and take a swig. You keep your head low, concentrating on your work.

By eight-thirty you’ve been on the tell for three hours. Your nasal passages are coated with dust. Your knees ache. You’ve scraped away five guffas full of dirt, and you’ve only found small animal bones and charcoal. That data goes into your written report. And you keep scraping and worrying the excavation walls with your trowel.

At nine, Abanour, Heshbon’s closest neighbor and casual caretaker, calls the archaeological crew to “second breakfast” on the terrace of his home. He’s prepared eggs, flat bread, a hearty tomato-vegetable coulis, watermelon and hot tea. Students and staff relax in his family’s sitting room and under the tent awning on the deck. The family’s dog looks up expectantly as you fill your plate.

Within 45 minutes you’re back at the dig. Up on the summit of the tell—at the Mamluk palace, a medieval structure that once housed a governor and his staff, now a jumble of stones—the student excavators under the direction of Bethany Walker, a recent graduate of the University of Toronto, unearth two or three pottery storage vessels. Just a few feet away from the late 19th-century human bones and skulls protruding from the wall of layered soil, sand and ash. Walker summons Paul Ray, current chief archaeologist of the Hesban dig, from his excavation area in the southwest quadrant of the site to examine the latest find.

Ray then calls over to Øystein LaBianca, the general director of Hesban, who’s conferring with archaeologist Roger Boraas of Upsala College in Sweden and representatives of the Jordanian Department of Antiquities in preparation for the 30-year anniversary celebration. The pottery vessels are in tact, excellent examples of the Mamluk period.

Everyone on the site crowds around the open excavation trench to see the latest find still nestled into the sand. Then Dana Langlois, a senior photography major from Andrews, climbs down into the hole with a digital camera to record the pottery’s position in relation to the rest of the Mamluk excavation.

The sun beats down from its late morning position in the Jordanian sky. Your back and knees ache. You hear the persistent clink of a pick axe against stone. You’re ready to go back to the campus and eat lunch.

LaBianca and Terje Ostigaard from the University of Bergen in Norway clamber out of the Hardy People Cave and dust themselves off. Below the stone-strewn surface of Hesban you’ll find a labyrinth of caves once inhabited by “hardy people,” says LaBianca. Just inside the main entrance used by the archaeologists, you brush by a stone olive press (roughly the size of a compact refrigerator) on your
slow descent into the larger part of the cave. You stoop, but your head grazes the porous stone ceiling. You’ll remember to duck lower on your return.

Earthquakes have altered the interior terrain, but tall stone columns at the end of the cleared area make a striking tableau in the filtered light beaming down from a well opening. The Hardy People Cave crew has spent most of the summer extracting animal bones and crumbling debris from the well pit to reveal the soaring columns.

Outside the cave, students and staff pile onto the minibuses, another day’s work at the Heshbon site finished. The bus jostles along the back roads to the Amman Training Center, bicyclists and goats crowding the shoulder of the road. No one speaks; you’re tired, hot and dusty. Ready for lunch.

Back at the campus you quickly dust yourself off and wash. In the dining room, Joan Hacko, a senior history major at Andrews who’s been engaged to cook the meals for the archaeology crews, oversees the lunch table heaped with platters of Middle East food, rice and vegetables, grapes and figs, yogurt and flat bread.

After lunch you shower—the water’s not as cold in the after-
noon—and enjoy the two-hour rest period that’s “strictly enforced,” according to Najeeb Nakhle, director of international student services at Andrews and camp director for the summer. The archaeologists “read” their pottery fragments and write up their field reports. You’d like to get onto e-mail, but the line in the computer room is seven people deep. You’ll come back later.

After dozing on your bunk (so much for finishing that second book you brought), you join a group going into Amman to buy postcards and souvenirs—to the souk, the maze of shops and streets, teeming with people, cars, donkeys and camels. Six of you cram into a taxi, and the ride of your life begins.

Once the driver enters the downtown area, your senses are assaulted by automobile horns blaring, rumbling mufflers and clouds of exhaust, the heavy smell of spices and over-ripe fruit. The taxi window is open and the late afternoon sun warms your arm—but you were already too warm, crowded into the back seat, wearing long trousers since bare legs are inappropriate in a Muslim setting.

Inside the shops you find garish postcards to send home, even though it will cost 300 fils (about 50 cents) to send each card air mail. You look at the shop wares—silver and brass, blue and white pottery, Middle East textiles—and decide to wait until later to stock up on souvenirs. You meet the rest of your group at the McDonald’s, where it’s air-conditioned and there’s ice in the soft drinks. And there’s a toilet that flushes.

Back at the campus after dinner, you and your friends sit out on the basketball courts in the twilight and chat. The evening call to prayer from the mosque echoes against the white stucco buildings. By nine the campus has quieted down. Some have adjusted the mosquito netting around their bunks, and others have hauled their blankets and pillows onto the roof to sleep where it’s cooler.

Around the campus, the city of Amman buzzes sleepily in the desert air. Out at Heshbon, goat bells tinkle and a light breeze stirs the dust.

On Friday, July 31, 1998, in the ruins of the early Christian church on the summit of the Heshbon mound, over 300 people gathered under the hot late-afternoon sun to celebrate 30 years of Andrews-led archaeology in Jordan. The ceremony also looked to future archaeological projects in the region sponsored by the Madaba Plains Project.

Since 1968, archaeologists from Andrews have maintained an ongoing research interest at the ancient mound known now as Tall Hisban, a working archaeological excavation located on the outskirts of Amman. This commitment to archaeological research and the local community’s enthusiastic acceptance of the project were noted in numerous speeches delivered by assembled dignitaries at the late afternoon ceremony.

Andrews president Niels-Erik Andreasen; Lawrence T. Geraty, president of La Sierra University in California and director of the Heshbon Expedition from 1974 to 1976; and 1998 project director Øystein LaBianca of Andrews joined His Royal Highness Prince Raad Ibn Said, who represented the Hashemite Royal Palace of King Hussein.

Other dignitaries present at the ceremony included His Excellency Mr. Aqal Biltagi, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities of Jordan; Dr. Ghazi Bisheh, director of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan; and Dr. Pierre Kikai, director of the American Center for Oriental Research in Amman.

In his comments to the assembled group, Andreasen stated that Andrews is interested in archaeology at Hesban for a variety of
reasons. First, he said, “People at Andrews have a passion about the history of the human family, and that history began in this part of the world.” He added that Andrews is focused on Heshbon because of the region’s ties to three great world religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—and because Heshbon provides a training ground for archaeologists. Finally, Dr. Andreasen noted that the Heshbon dig provides opportunities for local participation and educational opportunities.

Speakers also underscored the contribution the Heshbon site has made over the last 30 years to Middle East archaeology. According to the *Jordan Times*, the Tall Hisban project early on “set national and regional standards . . . in such areas as pottery chronologies and multidisciplinary approaches” to archaeological study.

In looking toward the next 30 years, the celebration introduced Tall Hisban as an open-air classroom for Jordanian schoolchildren to study Jordan’s cultural heritage. Throughout the summer’s project LaBianca, his wife Asta LaBianca, and Mafous Abdul Hafiz, a local school teacher in Hesban, developed a school curriculum associated with the site.

And this summer’s crew worked hard to prepare the site for its expected visitors. LaBianca coordinated student and staff efforts to blaze paths around the tell, to reconstruct a stone wall as a foundation for an observation platform, and to prepare explanatory signs—all as a means of sharing the Heshbon site with Jordanian students and tourists.

In addition, the crew developed an “education area” complete with open-air tool shed where school groups can participate in hands-on activities that show how archaeologists investigate large multi-period mounds like Tall Hisban.

The Heshbon site provides an array of ancient structures interesting to the Biblical scholar. Perhaps most notable is the plastered wall of a huge reservoir, built around 1000 B.C. and believed by many to be the remains of one of the “pools of Heshbon” mentioned in the Song of Solomon.

Heshbon is not the only archaeological site in Jordan where Andrews is active. Tall Al-Umayri and Tall Jalul—both excavations within a few miles of Hesban—provide ongoing digs in Jordan and invites wide participation. The next field season at Heshbon is planned for the spring of 2000, from early May to mid-June. Work at Tall Jalul is set for the summer of 1999, and work at Tall Al-Umayri is set again for the summer of 2000. For more information, contact Andrews University’s Institute of Archaeology, Berrien Springs, MI 49104. Or e-mail <oliver@andrews.edu> or <clardo@wwc.edu>.
ing archaeological opportunities under the auspices of the Madaba Plains Project, a consortium of colleges and universities dedicated to active archaeological research.

Andrews collaborates with La Sierra University, Walla Walla College and Canadian University College to make the Madaba Plains Project a leading archaeological effort in Jordan.

While the Tall Jalul dig, headed by Dr. Randall Younker and Dr. David Merling of the SDA Theological Seminary, was dormant this summer, the work at Tall Al-Umayri flourished under the direction of Dr. Larry Herr from Canadian University College in Lacombe, Alberta, and Dr. Douglas Clark of Walla Walla College in College Place, Wash.

Begun in 1984, excavations at Tall Al-Umayri have uncovered nearly 20 superimposed cities at the site, according to Herr. This summer the Al-Umayri site saw over 100 people at work, and future plans include even more expansive study at this site adjacent to the Amman National Park on the Airport Highway, south of Amman.

Herr, a 1970 graduate of Andrews, explains that “Tall Al-Umayri is somewhat unique in Jordan because its most important and best preserved remains date to the Bronze and Iron Ages instead of the more normal Roman, Byzantine and Islamic eras.”

At a recent conference in Copenhagen, Jordan’s director of the Department of Antiquities called the Madaba Plains Project the exemplary archaeological excavation in Jordan. And Al-Umayri was the site chosen for visits by Crown Prince Hassan, the brother of King Hussein; and his daughter Princess Sumaya.

The Al-Umayri site is significant in that it allows a glimpse of how the Reubenites of ancient Israel may have lived. The site is notable for its deep, dry moat and an artificial hill or rampart, several stone houses and thousands of pieces of pottery that are currently being restored at Walla Walla College under the direction of Professor Douglas Clark (MDiv ’74).

In addition, this summer’s efforts unearthed several seals and seal impressions, bringing the total found at the site to over 80. Another impressive find was fragmented pieces of ceramic statuary.

Rhonda Root, assistant professor of architecture at Andrews, has served as Madaba Plains Project staff artist for four seasons. “Umayri is an exciting place,” she says. “Its connections between history and culture and biblical research are more and more intriguing.”

Connections are what Heshbon, Umayri, Jalul and the Madaba Plains Project are all about. For 30 years, Andrews University has been committed to the archaeological endeavors begun by Siegfried Horn in 1968. And Andrews looks forward to the next 30 years—as Prince Raad said at the anniversary ceremonies—of strong ties between the local communities and the academic community represented by the Madaba Plains Project.

Douglas Jones is editor of Focus. Photographs by the author, unless indicated.
Neither wind, thunderstorms, nor 14-foot swells could keep Olen Netteburg and Krystian Zygowiec from their appointed task: to cross Lake Michigan by kayak.

On Labor Day weekend, the two Andrews students made the 60-mile trip from Chicago to the Michigan side of Lake Michigan in two separate kayaks. In the process of the 37-hour ordeal they encountered enough adventure to last a lifetime—or at least for the coming school year.

On Sunday, Sept. 4, the two 19-year-olds set out on their journey from Meigs Field in Chicago. The lake’s glass-like surface and an uninteresting weather forecast might have inspired confidence that nothing but smooth paddling was before them. But by evening, approaching thunderclaps let them know that this would be no cake walk crossing.

“When we heard the storm coming, we said to each other: ‘This is going to be a really interesting night,’” said Zygowiec.

Predictably, thunder gave way to spectacular lightning and 30-mile-an-hour winds. At least Columbus had Spanish galleons to brave the elements in; Netteburg and Zygowiec had to negotiate an angry Lake Michigan in the dark of night in two 17-foot plastic-shelled kayaks.

And inclement weather was not the only obstacle the thrill-seekers faced. Swarming flies, looking for heads to fly around, bedeviled them in the middle of the lake. “At one point I had more than 60 of them sitting on the front of my kayak,” Zygowiec said.

A lonely bird also kept them company at one point, landing on the kayaks and even on a paddle. (“It looked like he was just tired.”)

But more than the environmental challenges they faced, physical wear became the biggest factor against them. Upper-body strain led to lower-body fatigue which led to near-total-body exhaustion. “It was all one big sore feeling after a while,” Netteburg said. “We were just wondering how long it was going to take.”
The goal behind all this exertion was to be a glorious St. Joseph arrival, paddling right into the midst of an adoring lunch-hour crowd at the popular Lighthouse Brewpub and Restaurant situated on the St. Joseph River, half a mile from Lake Michigan. It didn’t hurt that the new restaurant was a sponsor of the pair or that a South Bend TV station was slated to chronicle their heroic feat on video.

But, alas, on-board compasses and better-than-average orientation skills are no match for Mother Nature. The wind and meteorological pyrotechnics of early Monday morning meant the two were blown 25 miles off course, all the way south to Union Pier, Mich.

The weird weather also caused major headaches for their fans on shore. An on-board cellular phone meant the two could keep contact with loved ones, but a 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. “communication blackout” made for increased concern—and two sets of worried parents.

The Sunday-night tempest meant a long night for Lois and Kristopher Zygowiec, Krystian’s parents, who are employed by Andrews. “Of all nights for an electrical storm, why did it have to be on the night when my son was playing adventurer?” said Lois Zygowiec. Needless to say, she didn’t sleep a wink.

Their communication impasse was caused by the 10-foot high waves which took every bit of their energy, they said. “We were just doing everything we could to keep from being tipped over,” Zygowiec said. “And besides, we figured a call from land would be a sweeter feeling than a call from the lake.”

Though they sited the Michigan side by early Monday morning, (neither admitted to having the presence of mind to yell, “Land Ho!”), the wind, an infernal west-bound current, and their 3 m.p.h. pace meant ten more hours of paddling toil. Never has terra firma seemed sweeter than when they landed at 9 p.m., well after the late-summer sunset. “When we first hit the shore, my only thought was ‘We made it!’ and then ‘We better call our parents,’” said Netteburg, whose parents are Kermit and Ronalee Netteburg, recent employees of Andrews who now live in Maryland.

After a joyful reunion with parents and relieved friends, there was little else to do but rest. During the car ride back to Berrien Springs, both exhausted adventurers fell fast asleep in the back seat. But now that they are awake—and fully recovered—there’s time to dream of the next great adventure.

Back in the 16th century, Magellan circumnavigated the world in a Portuguese galleon. And in the first moment of the 21st century, two young Berrien Springs explorers want to make some history of their own. Lake Michigan? A mere warm-up.

“There’s a rowing race across the Atlantic in 2001,” said Zygowiec. “Olen and I have been trying to look for sponsors, but so far no luck.”

Whoever said the “Age of Exploration” is over hasn’t talked to these guys.

REUNITED The Zygowies and Netteburgs welcome the way-faring kayakers at Union Pier beach. From left: Lois Zygowiec, Krystian Zygowiec, Kristopher Zygowiec, Olen Netteburg, Ronalee Netteburg and Kermit Netteburg. (Photo by Jonathan Zygowiec.)
ALUMNI NEWS

BSCF alumni reunited in July on campus

“We’ve Come This Far by Faith!”
After almost 18 years of reunions, the BSCF alumni organization is very much alive and keeping the faith.

The annual weekend was held July 24-26, beginning with a presentation on Friday night by L.I.F. E. Ministry, a drama group composed of current Andrews students.

Alumni and friends were able to participate in an old-fashioned Sabbath School in Johnson Auditorium.

Rebecca May, director of Andrews alumni services, and Elise Dixon-Roper (BBA ’87), past president, gave heartfelt welcomes to the alumni. Elise managed to surprise Sarita Mayhawk (BA ’85), former convention services director/coordinator for BSCF alumni, with the Alumnus of the Year award—a well-deserved honor for her many years of hard work and dedication, not just to the organization, but to family, church and the community as well.

Hyecthill Williams (MDiv ’90), pastor of the Campus Hill SDA Church in Loma Linda, Calif., explained how she got the kids off the streets of Boston and into church with rap music and dance in her rousing and inspirational sermon, “Dancing to the Music of Life.”

True to tradition was the Sabbath afternoon concert with a capella numbers by Blessed; instrumentals by Ron Dickerson, guitarist; and gospel and spirituals by Deliverance Choir. Harpist Sharon Strange was the concert’s featured artist. A silent auction of original artwork by Franklin Francois was held Saturday night.

Sunday morning “BSCF Alumni 2000” was presented by the president, Ulrick Graham, at a brunch and business meeting. Other officers include La Shawn Henderson, vice president; Angela Jackson, secretary; Baldwin Barnes; public relations, Loretta Jones; chaplain, David Rand; faculty sponsor, Desmond Murray; advisers/liaison, Wanda Cantrell and Sarita Mayhawk.

We still need to fill the conventions services and development positions. If you would be interested in either of these offices, please call (616) 471-3344. Or you can send e-mail to <bscfalum@andrews.edu>. We’re also looking for alumni who would be interested in starting alumni chapters in their areas.

—submitted by Ulrick Graham

Seniors count down to graduation

The Alumni Office worked with the offices of Academic Records and Career Planning and Placement to host a “Countdown to Graduation” gathering for the senior class on Oct. 14.

Records and Placement staff reviewed important deadlines to assure smooth sailing into commencement weekend.

The seniors were treated to a breakfast of Kellogg’s cornflakes, commemorating AU’s early ties to Battle Creek. More than 100 seniors attended.

Future alumni organize

Before you know it, the class of 2002 will be regular members of the alumni association—so the Office of Alumni Services thought it would be appropriate to welcome the freshman class into the “family” during their first week on campus.

First, we assisted the freshmen in electing class officers. Afterwards, to celebrate these newest additions into the Andrews family, we hosted an informal party by torch light in the Rock Garden to give the freshmen a feel for the historic heart of campus.

We hope the evening made a memory that will “warm our hearts for long years through.”

True to tradition was the Sabbath afternoon concert with a capella numbers by Blessed; instrumentals by Ron Dickerson, guitarist; and gospel and spirituals by Deliverance Choir. Harpist Sharon Strange was the concert’s featured artist. A silent auction of original artwork by Franklin Francois was held Saturday night.

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—submitted by Ulrick Graham
1940s

**Sue Summerour-Magoon** (BA ’44) is a retired elementary school teacher who lives in Collegedale, Tenn. She received her MEd from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in 1972. Her brother, **Brooke Franklin Summerour**, MD (BS ’42) of Dalton, Ga., died in 1991 and is survived by four children.

1950s

**Herb Pritchard** (BA ’52) and **Judy (Sykes) Pritchard** (att. ’46-48) celebrated their 50th-wedding anniversary with a cruise/tour to Alaska, sponsored in part by their two daughters and their husbands—Penny and Richard Clarke of Tonasket, Wash., and Nancy and Robert Wetmore of Jessup, Md.

Herb retired as the Lake Union Conference treasurer in 1992. He worked 40 years for the SDA church as a conference treasurer in General Conference Insurance and Adventist Book Centers. The Pritchards moved to Ocala, Fla., in April 1997 and love to share the warm joy of the South with friends who travel near.

1960s

**Joylin Campbell-Yukl** (BA ’68, MA ’69) is doing chaplaincy work in the HealthONE Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program in Denver, Colo., where she co-led her first group of students in their basic unit of CPE. She graduated in May 1998 from the Iliff School of Theology with an MDiv degree. Not to lose touch with her musical life, she was on the Steering Committee as the Program Book Coordinator for the 44th National Convention of the American Guild of Organists in Denver the summer of 1998. For the past five years, her husband **Richard Yukl**, MD (BA ’67) has been the medical director for trauma at the HealthONE hospital corporation.

**Farrell Gilliland II** (BA ’65, MA ’66) is the seventh- and eighth-grade teacher and principal at the Three Angels School in Wichita, Kan. In October, he and nearly 120 of the nation’s top classroom teachers came together in Washington, D.C. for the 1998 Teacher Forum to discuss ideas for teacher involvement in the change needed to improve teaching and learning in America’s schools. He was one of three teachers chosen from the state of Kansas and represented the Kansas-Nebraska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and the private schools of the state. He is married to **Delores (Foll)** (att.).

1970s

**Michael England** (BS ’77, EdD ’97) is an assistant professor of education at Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Texas. His wife **Lorene** (BSW ’77) is a 6th-grade teacher at the Keene Adventist Elementary School.

**Norma Velazquez Harrison** (BA ’74, MAT ’79) is the director of the Huntsville Center for Technology’s graphic arts program, which was named the most outstanding technical education program for the state in the career/technical division for the 1997-98 school year. The program trains students in many areas of print media. Norma teaches for the Center and also works as a freelance graphic designer for the Huntsville City Schools and various other companies.

**Valerie Lee** (MA ’73) is an associate professor of English and women’s studies at Ohio State University and has returned to Denison University as the Laura C. Harris Distinguished Visiting Professor to teach courses in women’s studies. She served on the faculty at Denison University from 1976 to 1991, leaving to accept the position as an interdisciplinary scholar and teacher at Ohio State, where
she earned her doctorate in English. Lee has been the recipient of many teaching awards including the OSU Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award, the Juanita Barkstall Outstanding Educator Award and the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio Excellence in Teaching Award. She has also written two books: *Granny Midwives and Black Women Writers: Double-Dutched Reading* and *Invisible Man’s Literary Heritage: Benito Cereno and Moby Dick*. She teaches and publishes in the areas of literary criticism and feminist theory and folklore.

**Marleen (Galvan) Land** (BA ’75) is a credit manager for Fisher Radio in Seattle, Wash. She is also organist for the Newport Presbyterian Church and an accompanist for the Pacific Northwest Ballet. She was married in October 1997 to Stephen Land, an economist for Tacoma Public Utilities.

**Fred Manchur** (BA ’74) has been appointed president-elect of Adventist Health/Southern California. He will become president of both White Memorial Medical Center in Los Angeles and Glendale Adventist Medical Center. He will also chair the governing board of Simi Valley Hospital and Health Care Services.

Manchur, who has been president of Adventist Health/Central California for the past two years, brings to his new position nearly 25 years of health-care experience. Since 1987 he has been the president of San Joaquin Community Hospital in Bakersfield, Calif. In addition, he has held administrative positions at two other Adventist Health facilities: Hanford Community Medical Center in Hanford, Calif., and Feather River Hospital in Paradise, Calif. He will assume these new responsibilities January 1, 1999. He and his wife Mary Kaye have a son and a daughter.

**Carole (Morrison) Sannes** (BA ’70) is a teacher at Indianapolis Junior Academy. She serves as church organist and enjoys decorative painting during her spare time. She is married to Robert, a statistician for the state of Indiana. They have two children, Holly and Lisa. Lieutenant Commander **Arthur M. Slagle** (MA ’79) has nearly completed a six-month deployment to the Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf aboard the aircraft carrier *USS Dwight D. Eisenhower* to maintain a U.S. presence and provide rapid response in times of crisis. While deployed, Slagle’s ship has conducted strike warfare exercises in the Adriatic Sea. It also participated in Matador Livex ’98, a combined-forces exercise. Slagle’s ship received the 1997 Ship’s Store Best Sales and Service Award in the Atlantic Fleet. In addition, Slagle and crew members had the opportunity to visit France, Greece, Italy, Spain and Turkey where crew members participated in community relations projects in the host countries. Slagle joined the Navy in August 1984.

**Vonnie Straughan** (MAT ’79) is a Vista volunteer tutor-trainer for the Bladen County Literacy Council in Elizabethtown, N.C. She trains volunteers in the Laubach Way to Reading program so they can teach...
others to read. She also coordinates the Reading for Success program for third-graders in the public school system. When not busy with these projects, he tutors in algebra, geometry and calculus.

**Gloria Brown Wright** (BA ’70) presented a paper at the 15th Biennial Conference on Chemical Education held in August at the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. The title of the paper was “Teaching Chemistry in 3-hour Time Blocks: Toward a more Student-centered General Chemistry Classroom.” It can be accessed at <www.biochem.purdue.edu/~bcce>.

**1980s**

**Ray Allen** (BA ’86, MA ’87) is director of the Adventist World Radio Resource Centre at Newbold College in England and has become a permanent member of the Experts Advisory Panel, which meets at the House of Lords in London. The panel is part of the Christian Communication Commission (CCC) which consists of members of Parliament, church leaders and Christian broadcasters whose aim is to influence broadcasting throughout Britain.

Pastor Allen has managed the creation and establishment of the AWR programme Resource Centre, which serves Adventist producers worldwide. He is also jointly responsible for training AWR program producers and has hosted AWR’s daily English Language Service magazine program since 1993. Several of his Sundays are taken up with training local church members in preparation for running their own short-term radio station—a recent opportunity made available indirectly through the work of the Christian Communication Commission. His wife Marion is a teacher for the UK state education system and is completing a PhD through the London School of Economics. They have two young children, Seth and Jamie.

**Steve Cassimy** (MDiv ’82, DMin ’84) is a pastor for the Greater New York Conference. He lives in Valley Stream, N.Y.

**Flora (Montgomery) Gaillard** (MS ’86) received a doctorate in hospitality and tourism management from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. She is the department head of the hospitality management program at Tuskegee University in Alabama. To access more information on what she has done for the program, refer to www.tusk.edu/DOCS/hiegrg.htm> on the Web.

**Jud Lake, Jr.** (MDiv ’85) is an associate professor of pastoral theology at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tenn. He received his DMin from the Reformed Theological Seminary and is currently a PhD candidate at Trinity Theological Seminary. He and his wife Bonnie, an oncological nurse and clinical instructor at the School of Nursing in Chattanooga, love to travel, snow ski, participate in triathlons and read. They have two children, Shelly and Joshua.

**Rawle Philbert** (BS ’83) has been appointed the chief of the department of oral and maxillofacial surgery and program director of the four-year residency training program at Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center in New York. His wife Elvie (BedeaU) (BSN ’90) is a cardiothoracic nurse in the cardiac surgical intensive care unit at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York City. They have two children, Desiree and Jonathan.

**Thomas Walters** (MAT ’85) is currently an associate professor of art at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tenn. He moved from Mexico where he taught art history at Montemorelos University. His wife Kathy (Herbel) (BS ’81) worked for 17 years in rehabilitation nursing at Memorial Hospital in South Bend, Ind., and is now employed by Siskins.

CLASSNOTES continued on page 33
PHILANTHROPY

Student’s enthusiasm affects annual giving

OR

Just who is Janel Sabnani and why is she writing me letters?

Writing heartfelt letters, inviting alumni support for the annual giving campaign, came easy for the senior elementary education major from Maine.

“I really think Andrews is the best school around, and I wanted to do what I could to make a difference in this year’s campaign,” Janel explained. “It would be easy to just sit back and hope that people give, but I’m glad I was able to help out. I really believe what I said in the letter!”

Alumni have commented that Janel’s letter prompted them to send in a contribution. “It’s good to see such enthusiasm from today’s Andrews students,” reported one recent alum.

Janel’s work supervisor, Lisa Jardine, at the Office of Alumni Services, has glowing things to say about Janel. “She’s a great person to depend on. Her letter—and our alumni—are making a difference in this year’s efforts.”

WAUS breaks fund-raising record

More than $55,000 were raised during the WAUS fall fund drive, held Nov. 3 to 12. Totals for the event came to $56,090.

The figure surpasses the classical radio station’s previous record of $53,430 reached during the fall 1996 drive.

During this fall’s event, more than 200 listeners became new members through pledges of financial support, and more than 600 listeners to 90.7 FM renewed their station memberships.

“Michiana recognizes the importance of both classical music and public radio, and our fund-raising success proves it,” said Sharon Dudgeon, station general manager.

The Campaign for Andrews II: (figures as of Nov. 15, 1998)

Seminary expansion/renovation
Goal: $5,949,879
Pledged/received: $5,366,404
Percent of goal raised: 92%

Undergrad liberal arts complex
Goal: $4,157,560
Pledged/received: $2,035,946
Percent of goal raised: 48%

Nethery Hall renovation
Goal: $2,523,400
Pledged/received: $1,278,839
Percent of goal raised: 52%

Architecture building expansion
Goal: $754,600
Pledged/received: $439,564
Percent of goal raised: 59%

The World Is Our Classroom

Alumni Homecoming Weekend April 22-25, 1999
REUNIONS OF ALL ANDREWS TOURS.
Hospital in Chattanooga, Tenn. She was voted an Andrews University honored alumnus in 1991.

1990s

Kimberly (Brundage) Fiebelkorn (BS ‘91) is marketing manager for the Henry Ford Health System in Detroit, Mich. She graduated from Loma Linda University in 1997 with a master’s in public health, which included a double major of health administration and health promotion/education. She worked at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation for three years as a marketing associate until her husband Jeff (att.), was promoted to the Detroit region as a sales representative for the M&M/Mars Incorporation. They live in Novi, Mich.

Jeff Toyohiko Hongo (BBA ‘95) was selected for The Order of the Coif for academic excellence from the top ten percent of the graduating class at Washington University in St. Louis School of Law. He received a JD from the School of Law in May.

After living in Adelaide, Newcastle and Sydney, Australia, Anthony van Schoonhaven (MBA ‘90) is now living in Melbourne, working as the deputy chief radiographer for the Melbourne Diagnostic Imaging Group. He is a member of the Australian Institute of Radiography.

Michael Song (BA ‘90, MMus ’95) is a high school music teacher in Guam. He is currently the chair of the school’s fine arts department and director of the concert band and the select choir, which has toured Korea and Japan. The select choir has been featured on national television in Japan, and this year they will tour the east coast of the United States in May in addition to releasing a CD, says Song.

Last spring Song received a “Resolution” from the Guam legislature, commending him on his work with choral groups. Song writes: “My select choir has won first place two years in a row in the Pacific Basin music competitions.”

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Feel free to submit a snapshot or family portrait for publication. Either black and white or color is acceptable; prints will be returned upon request.

Thank you for keeping us informed. Have you also remembered your voluntary subscription support for Focus this year? Your $10 gift is much appreciated.
LIFE STORIES

Births


To Pamela (Streidle) Anders (MAT ’85) and Jay Anders, Chattanooga, Tenn., a girl, Allison Janelle, March 27, 1998.

To Dawn (Nesmith) (MA ’91) and Byron Burke (BS ’88), Prairie Village, Kan., a girl, Erin Amber, Aug. 23, 1998.

Weddings

Melonee Ranzinger (BA ’86) and James Patterson were married May 23, 1998, and now reside in Redondo Beach, Calif.

Tim Rosenboom (MDiv ’77) and Mary Nell Bond (current staff) were married June 28, 1998, and now reside in Berrien Springs.

Tami Finnell (BS ’97) and Mark Bower (BS ’98) were married July 5, 1998, and now reside in Benton Harbor, Mich.

Natalie Hook and J. Darin Patzer (MBA ’97) were married July 19, 1998, and now reside in Paw Paw, Mich.

Rehemah Megeza (BS ’98) and Menker Feleke (BA ’94, MDiv ’97) were married July 26, 1998, and now reside in Loma Linda, Calif.

Kayleith Pierce (BSW ’97, MSW ’98) and Timothy Pellandini (BS ’96, MSPT ’97) were married Aug. 16, 1998, and now reside in Bath, Mich.

Megan Stembridge (BS ’97, MSPT ’98) and Arvin Delacruz (BArch ’97) were married Aug. 30, 1998, and now reside in Berrien Springs.

Jennifer Ingels (BS ’96, MSPT ’97) and Michael Jenkins were married Sept. 6, 1998, and now reside in Belleville, Mich.

Patricia Pinheiro and Ivan Golubic (BBA ’98) were married Sept. 20, 1998, and now reside in Chicago, Ill.

Deaths


A lifetime resident of Berrien Springs, Mr. Shuler was a great supporter of Andrews University, enrolling his own children and encouraging his grandchildren who have attended Andrews over the years.

He is survived by his wife Isabel, whom he married in 1945; a daughter, Marijane Mosher (BA ’71) of Haslett, Mich.; two sons, Carrell Shuler II (BA ’73) of Berrien Springs and Peter Jon Shuler (BS ’82) of Palo Alto, Calif.; a sister, Joann Herford of Berrien Springs; and four grandchildren.

Carl D. Anderson (MA ’57) was born April 2, 1912, in Baltimore, Md., and died May 30, 1998, in St. Helena, Calif.

He received a master’s degree from Andrews University in church history.

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He grew up in Africa, where his parents were Seventh-day Adventist missionaries in Kenya and South Africa.

In South Africa, Swaine attended Helderberg College, graduating with a business diploma in 1954.

For several years he served in the SDA church in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), first as an accountant and later as a treasurer.

He and his wife Rona (who preceded him in death) moved their family to the U.S. in the late 1960s when he studied at the Northrop Institute of Technology in California. He graduated there with a BS in engineering technology. He then completed an MS degree in operations management in 1974.

In the same year he was invited to join the faculty at Andrews University to teach mechanical engineering for the College of Technology.

After four years of teaching at Andrews, Swaine joined the School of Business as an assistant professor in economics, with a joint appointment in the College of Technology. He completed both a master’s degree and a PhD in economics at The University of Notre Dame in the 1980s.

He is survived by his wife Lois of Niles, Mich.; two daughters, Carla Ann Borresen of Son, Norway, and Ingrid Smalling of Neptune Beach, Fla.; three stepsons, J.

Thomas Vetne of Valparaiso, Ind., Josef Vetne of Niles, Jason Vetne of Arlington, Va.; a stepdaughter, Shiromi Payne of Indianapolis, Ind.; three grandchildren and three stepgrandchildren; his brother, Dermot Swaine of Cape Town, South Africa; and his sister, Sharon Searle of Armadale, Australia.
Arthur O’Callaghan Coetzee was born March 30, 1931, near the town of Maltahohe in the African country of Namibia. With the great drought of 1931 and the ensuing depression, the family moved to Mariental where his older brothers worked to earn a living for the family of one girl and six boys. His brothers’ act of sacrifice in service for the family was not lost on Arthur, and in a way it was to shape his own life of service. Recalling these hard times, Arthur remembered having to carry his shoes to school in his hands so as not to wear them out.

Arthur was attached to the dry, dusty surroundings of his native Namibia and sometimes described himself as a “man of the soil,” referring to his affinity for nature which resulted in a respectable collection of insects, birds’ eggs and butterflies, and a lifelong interest in bird watching.

Arthur’s loyal commitment to Christian education began at the age of 12 when his mother sacrificed to send him to Helderberg High School. After school, Arthur enrolled in the South African Police College. He became a constable and shortly afterwards the youngest detective in the Namibian police force.

At the height of his career as a police detective, Arthur felt convicted that he could make a more positive impact on society by helping young people shape their lives, rather than by bringing criminals to justice.

He returned to Helderberg College and majored in botany, zoology and history. And so began his dedication to serving others.

While at Helderberg, Arthur met Cynthia Bradfield, and they were married on July 9, 1956. This romance was to continue for 42 years and three months.

After graduation, Arthur accepted a teaching position at Sedaven High School in South Africa, where he served as boys’ dean, full-time teacher, maintenance director, and later as vice principal. Although a keen disciplinarian, Arthur truly had a gift for earning the love and respect of young people, thus becoming a mentor for many workers in South Africa.

While living at Sedaven, the Coetzee’s two children—Lynda and Andrew—were born. The family then moved to Cape Town, where Arthur served at Hillcrest Secondary School as teacher and principal.

With a strong conviction that educators should constantly improve their own skills and knowledge, Arthur came to Andrews University where he earned an MA in educational administration in 1967.

After serving as the Director of Education in South Africa, Arthur earned his EdD in 1972 in educational administration from the University of Knoxville where he had been a research fellow as a facility planning consultant for the state of Tennessee, an appointment through the university.

He then became president of Helderberg College. Arthur successfully focused his expertise and energies on the process of complete racial integration which eventually developed into an open-admissions policy. He also developed a master plan, implemented it, developing, renovating and beautifying the physical plant.

Arthur also emphasized academic improvement with structural administrative changes and the development of accredited degrees. He was named the Helderberg College Alumnus of the Year in 1986.

In 1979 Arthur joined Andrews University as associate professor of educational administration and director of affiliation and extension programs, where he focused attention on the university’s international influence with multiple affiliation and extension sites worldwide. A new and unforgettable era began.

He held numerous positions during his 18 years at Andrews. As dean of the School of Graduate Studies, he restructured graduate education at Andrews. As vice president for academic administration, he became the spokesperson for academic quality and the architect of policies which have resulted in providing the structure for a more consistent and rational university environment. As provost for strategic planning, he began to implement the strategic plan with vigor and a clear view of Andrews’ future. Arthur also had a keen interest in Christian philosophy and church history, subjects he cherished, enthusiastically studied and taught at the SDA Theological Seminary.

In 1992, Arthur received the John Nevins Andrews Medallion from Andrews University. He retired officially in 1996, but continued to be of service to the institution.

Arthur fought a long and valiant battle with lymphoma, initially diagnosed in 1991. He passed away peacefully on Oct. 9, 1998. He wanted to be remembered as a caring husband, father and grandfather, uncle, a loyal employee, a credible leader, and a trustworthy colleague and friend.

He is survived by his wife Cynthia of Berrien Springs; a daughter, Lynda Hurlow (att. ’82) of Berrien Springs; a son, Andrew (BBA ’83) of Lakewood, Calif.; and four grandchildren.
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LIFE STORIES

He taught in a number of Adventist schools, including Canadian Union College, Oakwood College and Weimar Institute. He taught at Andrews Academy from 1966 to 1968.

He is survived by his wife Lois M. Ferren-Flory, a son, Don D. Anderson, a daughter, Jean L. Calvert, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.


He was employed by the Adventist church for 43 years, serving as an accountant and business manager at Indiana Academy, Broadview Academy and Adelphian Academy. He retired in 1971.

He is survived by his wife Evelyn, whom he married in 1976; two daughters, Harriette Mason of Springhill, Fla., and Vesta Gutsche of Sunland, Calif.; two sons, Dorison Wohlers of Holly and Fred Wohlers of Centerville, Ohio; 15 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his son Dale Wayne Wohlers and his first wife of 54 years, Vesta Belle Wohlers.


Ms. Habenicht died from injuries sustained after being struck by a car while she attempted to cross US31 in Berrien Springs.

She attended elementary school, academy and college on the Andrews campus, and she received a degree in physical therapy from Loma Linda University in 1976.

Survivors include her mother BETH (’42, former staff) of Berrien Springs; two sisters, MERRY BETH KNOLL (BS ’68) of Staunton, Va., and CHEERI LEE ROBERTS (BS ’70) of Ballston Spa, N.Y.


After graduating from Andrews Academy in 1969, she studied nursing at Andrews. She worked as a nurse in Ohio, Michigan and Maryland.

She is survived by her parents REGER (BA ’49, former faculty) and KATHERINE SMITH (BA ’71, former staff) of Berrien Springs; her sons, Frank III of Berrien Springs and Kevin of Germantown, Ohio; two sisters, MARJORIE BATES (BS ’79) of Heidelberg, Germany, and SUSAN SMITH (BS ’86) of Izmir, Turkey; and a brother, REGER JR. (BS ’76) of Columbia, Md.
At Andrews University, we believe that estate planning is a God-given responsibility. It’s essential—regardless of what your income or net worth may be. Without a plan for your future, you could leave your loved ones with unexpected legal problems, estate settlement delays, and unnecessary expenses.

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Toll-Free: 800.784.3292
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In October I visited Andrews University for College Days, and I can describe my experience in one word: Overwhelming. I attend Great Lakes Adventist Academy (GLAA) where there are only 240 students. All of the buildings are strategically positioned in a rectangle so you can walk out of any building and see all the others lined up neatly before you.

What a contrast to the Andrews campus! Lamson Hall alone seems bigger than our entire campus. If you've ever tried to find a certain room in the girls' dorm, you know what I mean. It's a maze! Also for the other buildings, well, all that brick tends to look suspiciously like all that other brick after awhile. I couldn't find my way from one place to the next without concentrating very hard.

Don't get me wrong—a big campus isn't such a bad thing once you learn your way around. Comfortable as it may be, I get quite tired of the brick rectangle that constitutes the GLAA campus. However, in the grand scheme of things, the size of the campus is not what I'm using to determine my choice of a college.

In my search, the most important factor is the academics. After all, the point of going to college is to learn, right? On that scale, Andrews University ranks at the top of my list. As I toured different departments, a common phrase was repeated over and over: “We’re at the top of this field.” I was impressed that an Andrews education can prepare me to be the best in whatever field I might choose.

Other than academics, two very important factors are the food and lodging on a college campus. I give the cafeteria at Andrews an A. I was rather pleased, especially since my favorite meal in the world is a cold sandwich and a pop. I had that for each meal during College Days, and I was thrilled. Really, the only complaint I had during my visit was the freshman dorm rooms. They did leave something to be desired, but, of course, no college can have the best of everything.

My overall opinion of the Andrews experience is that it’s an excellent school. Unfortunately, the better the college the flatter the wallet. There are ways to work around the costs of education, I know, but coming from a fairly low-income family, I know tuition is a major consideration for me. This is where college selection becomes frustrating. I don’t want to be strapped with debt this early in my life. A logical move would be to choose a cheaper community college over the student loan, but I would hate to sacrifice a better education and higher pay down the road for that lower price tag now. The perplexities are endless. Each college has strong and weak points. Each is right for someone, and none is right for everyone, not even Andrews.

I guess I have a very important, yet difficult decision to make. In the meantime, I am doing my homework on different colleges. And through all my research I have reached only one unvarying conclusion: I think I want to stay in high school!

Amber Mihm is a senior at Great Lakes Adventist Academy in Cedar Lake, Michigan. She lives in Holland, Mich., and enjoys music and participating in the GLAA school gymnastics team, Aerokhanas. We hope she decides to attend Andrews University in the fall.
The promotional brochure for the Andrews University 1977 European Study Tour said nothing about posing for goofy hat pictures along the road in Great Britain. But, then, Merlene Ogden’s famous European study tours have always included a whole lot more than what’s advertised!


Alumni Homecoming—The World Is Our Classroom—this spring will feature reunions of all Andrews tours. So, mark your calendar for April 22 to 25, 1999, and start sorting slides!
Nancy Gerard (BS ’77, MA ’81), her dad Knobby Mauro (BA ’48) and her brother Steve Mauro (BA ’73, MA ’75, PhD ’87) at Joshua Tree State Park in southern California.

Bill Dare (BA ’90) and Dan Purdy (BBA ’95) atop Long’s Peak (14,255 ft.) in Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado. In the distance rises majestic Andrews Peak (13,000 ft.)—that’s a whole lot of school spirit for one photo!

Teri Haggerty (BBA ’96) at the World Trade Center in New York City.