On Sunday, May 1, 2016, nearly 440 students celebrated the conferral of their degrees on the platform of Pioneer Memorial Church. 221 males and 217 females, representing 51 countries and 39 U.S. states, received a total of 276 undergraduate degrees and 162 graduate degrees.

The weekend began on Friday, April 29, when Michael Polite, associate chaplain at Andrews University, offered the Consecration address titled, “Almost.” Polite holds degrees from Union College (Lincoln, Nebraska), La Universidad de Sagunto (Sagunto, Spain) and Oakwood University (Huntsville, Alabama). He is currently pursuing a PhD in higher education administration at Andrews University.

On Saturday, April 30, John McVay, president of Walla Walla University in College Place, Washington, presented the Baccalaureate address, “How to Harmonize with a Lamb,” for both graduate and undergraduate services in PMC. Born in the Northwest, McVay has served as a faculty member at Pacific Union College in Angwin, California, and as dean of the Andrews University Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. He holds a PhD in New Testament studies from the University of Sheffield and writes regularly on the Epistle to the Ephesians and the theme of the church in the New Testament.

Multiple departmental services were held in various campus locations on Saturday afternoon. Graduation vespers offered an opportunity for tributes to faculty, students and family, followed by an information reception hosted by the Andreasens. Commencement speakers included Maurice R. Valentine II, executive secretary of the Lake Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and Elissa Kido, professor of education at La Sierra University (California). Kido’s address was titled, “Predicting Your Future.” She also received an honorary Doctor of Pedagogy during the final Commencement service. Due to health reasons, Valentine was unable to speak and Niels-Erik Andreasen, president of Andrews University, presented the Commencement address for the morning’s first service.

Kido is the founding director of the Center for Research on Adventist K–12 Education and the project director for CognitiveGenesis. In this role she has made an enormous contribution to the advancement of Adventist education in the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. The promotion of academic excellence has served as a driving force throughout her 40-year teaching career that spans elementary to graduate education. Kido holds degrees from Pacific Union College, California State University (Long Beach) and Boston University. Recently PUC
presented Kido with an honored alumni award, and within the last two years she has received the Award for Excellence and the Charles Weniger Award for Excellence from the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. While serving as dean of the School of Education at La Sierra University, Kido launched CognitiveGenesis, the groundbreaking research project that assessed the academic performance of students in all Adventist schools throughout the North American Division.

Alejandro Bullón, retired evangelist, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity during the first Commencement service. Bullón’s passion for evangelism fueled his 46-year ministry as a world-renowned evangelist known as the Billy Graham of Adventist Hispanics, conducting large-scale meetings on all five continents, reaching millions of people with impressive results.

Having received his bachelor’s degree in theology from Peruvian Union University in 1969, Bullón ministered as a pastor and youth director in Peru and Brazil. He also was the Portuguese speaker and host for the TV program, “It Is Written.” As a member of the Brazilian Writers Association, Bullón has authored 27 books. In 2002 his achievements were recognized by Peruvian Union University in Lima with the conferral of an honorary doctoral degree.

During the second Commencement service, Daniel Cole, professor of clinical anesthesiology and vice chair for professional and business development in the Department of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine at David Geffen School of Medicine at University of California, Los Angeles, received an honorary Doctor of Science. Cole is president-elect of the American Society of Anesthesiologists Executive Committee, and serves as executive director for professional affairs and treasurer for the Board of Directors for the American Board of Anesthesiology. Previously, Cole served at Mayo Clinic-Arizona as chair of the Department of Anesthesiology and vice dean for continuous professional development. After earning his bachelor’s degree at Andrews University, Cole received his medical degree at Loma Linda University School of Medicine. Cole has given more than 300 invited presentations, received 48 research grants, written 90 manuscripts and more than 200 abstracts. He is also reviewer for 25 medical journals and has published three books, contributing 29 chapters to other volumes. Cole is listed in “Best Doctors of America” and “Super Doctors” and is a member of Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society.

Annual Andrews Research Conference
Featuring Arts and Humanities disciplines with “Text and Image” as the theme

This year marked the third annual Andrews Research Conference, an event that showcases the work of researchers in different fields. The conference took place from May 4-8, and featured graduate students, post-doctoral researchers and other presenters in a variety of academic fields.

“The first Andrews Research Conference was held on our campus in 2014 for the STEM disciplines,” says Sarah Burton, research services specialist for the Office of Research & Creative Scholarship and organizer of the conference. “It was the brainchild of Gary Burdick [associate dean for Research & Creative Scholarship] as a way to provide Adventist graduate students, post-docs and early career faculty—especially those at non-SDA universities—with a way to network with others in their field.” Last year’s conference focused on Social Sciences.

The official title for the 2016 conference was “Early Career Researchers and Creative Scholars in the Arts and Humanities.” It featured researchers in anthropology, communication, education, English, film, history, international languages, literature, music and visual art and design. The conference saw participants from Romania and Nigeria, as well as various locations in North America.

“We chose ‘Text and Image’ as the theme, since the Arts and Humanities disciplines are primarily concerned with texts—music, literature, historical texts, etc.—and images—paintings, graphic design, film, etc.” Burton explains. “We were very pleased to see that presenters incorporated the theme into their presentations.”

To highlight the theme, the conference featured an exhibition, film screening and performance lectures in addition to the scholarly presentations. Musicians and creative writers performed or read their pieces then presented on them for 10 minutes while artists and other presenters allotted the full 20 minutes for scholarly presentation.

Among the presenters were Nathan Greene, local painter and alumnus of Andrews University, who presented on his art and faith; Johnson Babafemi Akintayo from Babcock University (Nigeria) and Isiaka Babalola from Lagos State University (Nigeria), presenting on integrating faith and Christian living with radio programming based on a study done of listener perceptions of Babcock Hope FM.

Andrews well represented at MASAL
Giving 33 oral presentations in 16 sections, six poster presentations and chairing four sections

Andrews University had the honor of sending over 50 students and faculty to this year’s Michigan Academy of Science, Arts & Letters Conference. Each year it takes place at a different Michigan campus; the 2015 MASAL conference was at Andrews University.

Taking place March 4 at Saginaw Valley State University (University Center, Michigan), MASAL featured presentations from 30+ disciplines, given by college faculty, graduate and sponsored undergraduate students, government researchers, librarians and more.

This year, Andrews University gave 33 oral presentations in 16 of the sections, six poster presentations, and had six chairs in four of the sections.

“All of the student talks I attended were outstanding,” said Shandelle Henson, chair of the Department of Mathematics.

“Professors from other universities have definitely noticed over the last few years. For example, colleagues from a large university in Michigan have asked me three years in a row to have our students apply for their PhD program and assistantships.”

In addition to the presentations given this year, Andrews also was privileged to have one of its recent graduates receive the 2015 Ronald O. Kapp Award.

WayAnne Watson’s paper, “Mashup Strategies in Las Cuatro Estaciones Porteñas: A model for connecting compositional techniques to cultural interpretations,” was presented in the Interdisciplinary Studies section.

“We may be proud of course, and should be in the best sense of the word,” says Niels-Erik Andreasen, president of Andrews University.

“But more importantly, we see how Andrews is maturing as a serious academic institution and is becoming a well-recognized Christian university in the country. I cherish that designation as much as I do the ‘flagship’ designation among Adventist universities. It has been my dream for a long while.”

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“For a school our size,” said Monique Pittman, director of the J.N. Andrews Honors Program, “we are making a significant impact on thought-leadership in our respective fields with many of our former research students now in professional and academic positions across the world.” She added, “Behavioral science research shows that undergraduate research is one of the highest-impact learning experiences for young students. Our core mission is to nurture the academic and spiritual growth of our students, and I pray we always keep this in the forefront of everything we do.”
June board meeting makes it official
Andrea Luxton is Andrews University’s new president and Artur Stele is the new board chair

Andrews University Board of Trustees meetings took place June 1-2. President Niels-Erik Andreasen presented a briefing of the proceedings for campus personnel.

Five newly elected board members were welcomed during this session: Andrew Coetze, group vice president, product planning for Toyota Motor Sales, USA Inc.; Vonda Douglas-Nikitin, associate professor of pathology, William Beaumont School of Medicine, Oakland University, Royal Oak, Michigan; Valerie B. Lee, chair, Department of African American and African Studies, The Ohio State University; Ernie Medina Jr., assistant professor and executive director, School of Public Health, Loma Linda University; and Bradley Tait, pharmaceutical consultant, Brad Tait Enterprise LLC.

“The future is built upon many new initiatives, and I am pleased that a lot of them are in process. I am optimistic that Andrews will continue to prosper.”

Preceding the full board, the governance committee met to review and recommend new board committee memberships, and the finance and operations committee reviewed the finances and operations of the School of Distance Education & International Partnerships and the FY 2016 operations of the University as a whole.

Considering the trend toward distance education in the country, the finance committee proposed additional support to SDEIP in the near future.

After the consent agenda was approved, Provost and President-elect Andrea Luxton was officially confirmed as the incoming president by the newly constituted board. In her report to the board she reviewed the strategic plan for 2017–2022, centering around the University’s four core strengths: Live Wholly, Explore Intentionally, Engage Globally and Learn Deeply.

Andreasen, voted president emeritus in the March board meeting, will continue some work on special projects, including advancement activities.

Andreasen also announced the newly elected chair of the Board of Trustees. Artur Stele, general vice president for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, has served as pastor, academic dean and president for Zaoksky Theological Seminary in Russia, as well as president for the Euro-Asia Division, also based in Russia. Stele’s wife, Galina, is the first woman to graduate from Andrews University with a doctoral degree in ministry.

A native of Kazakhstan, Stele (pronounced: STEL-ay) graduated from Almatty Medical College in Kazakhstan in 1979 with a degree in pharmacy and served in the Russian military from 1979 to 1981. In 1986, Stele received a bachelor’s degree in theology from Friedensau University in Germany.

He earned his master’s degree and doctorate in theology from Andrews University in 1993 and 1996, and is fluent in Russian, German and English.

The board also discussed a request from a group of Korean religious leaders for a Korean prayer center, and the possibility of building such a facility behind the tennis courts by University Towers to serve both as a prayer center and an overflow guest facility for the University.

During the report from the finance and operations committee it was disclosed that during the last fiscal year (ending April 30, 2016) the University had a net loss of $4 million in its operations. This was due to lower than expected tuition revenue and reduced income from the auxiliaries operated by the University, principally the farm and dairy, but also the dining services and residential facilities.

Reductions in staffing levels during the year were offset by increasing benefit costs, principally in healthcare, leaving the overall expense side of the operations within budget.

In response to the loss in operations, the University academic administration, the provost and deans are turning to new programs that will bring in additional revenue not part of the traditional revenue stream. These new initiatives and programs are expected to bring additional students. It is anticipated that going forward these new programs will help the University replace revenue due to several years of decline in the regular undergraduate program until it stabilizes.

Andreasen wrapped up his report by sharing that he and his wife, Demetra, will be moving to California following his retirement this summer. He also shared his perspective on the reality of the University’s current financial situation.

“One difficulty we’re facing with the undergraduate enrollment is that the application numbers are high, even as the number of high school and academy seniors decline. These students submit multiple applications each year, while the number of students who register is significantly lower than those we accept,” Andreasen explained. “The task before us is to get more of the applicants to attend.” That means regular contacts during spring and summer, and a generous financial aid policy. Fortunately, it appears that the number of new students who are preregistered this year is higher than last. That is encouraging. We should expect that new academic initiatives and programs will stabilize the enrollment while we wait for the freshmen classes to start growing again.”
Children's ministry takes center stage
The third annual Children’s Leadership Conference featured diversity as its theme

The 2016 Children’s Leadership Conference took place April 22–24 in Chan Shun Hall. Organized by the Center for Youth Evangelism, the Lake Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists’ Children’s Ministries, the CLC is a training conference for leaders in target areas within the Lake Union, though there are usually attendees from elsewhere as well. They come from different backgrounds, including youth pastors, children’s ministry directors or people organizing Vacation Bible Schools. Many attendees come in order to work toward completing certification programs for children’s ministry.

“We offer some of the requirements they would need for certification,” explained Shawna Henry, director of children’s ministry at the CYE. In addition to training, some come simply to continue their education on leadership strategies.

The conference first began in 2014 as a way to provide Seminary students and Lake Union children’s ministry leaders a chance to attend a high quality training event annually. “Since 2014, over 300 children ministry leaders have been trained to be more effective in their local church,” adds Whitehead.

Titled “All God’s Children Got Shoes,” the third annual CLC featured diversity as its theme.

“Different shoes have different purposes, yet all are important,” says Henry, explaining the conference theme. “Similarly, God has a variety of roles that he needs people to fill for him. He needs some hands, some feet, some eyes, some ears—and they are all important.”

Four general sessions centered around diversity in worship or in ethnicity. The conference also featured additional breakout workshops, usually training workshops for certification. Keynote speakers included Linda Koh, children’s ministry director for the General Conference, and Sherri Uhrig and Melanie Cruz, children’s ministry director and assistant children’s ministry director for the NAD, respectively.

“Fiddler on the Roof”
Andrews University Theatre Wing’s third production

“Fiddler on the Roof,” set in pre-revolutionary Russia, traces the story of Tevye’s efforts to maintain the religious traditions of his Jewish community as his daughters, one by one, marry and move away.

The play was directed by Stephen Batchelor, produced by Simone Weithers, and starred Ryan Comeau as Tevye, Katharina Burghardt as his wife, Golde, and Nikki Weis, Ashlen Zapara, Sarah Mackintosh, Jillian Imes and Anna Rorabeck as the five daughters. The cast also included Alanna Asgeirsson, Jared Marsh, Ben Dietel, Calvin Parinussa, Cameron Van Buren, John Weiss, Peter Mazza, Jessica Bates, Elizabeth Bates, Kaitlin Litvak, Kara Kong, Tara Staniszewski, Flynn Chae, Ben Koch,Nama Talalima, Richard Clark and Alejandra Castillo.

“Fiddler on the Roof” is the third production of the Andrews University Theatre Wing, a student-founded, student-run club committed to bringing the dramatic arts to campus. Earlier the club mounted successful productions of “Belle of Amherst” and “Pygmalion.”
Homelessness Awareness Week

Featuring couches around campus, documentary showing and panel discussion

In April, students and faculty from Andrews spent an evening eating a simple soup supper, doing a privilege walk across campus in below freezing temperatures, and watching and discussing a documentary about the nearly 20,000 unaccompanied homeless teens each year in the Chicago school system. These teens are in unstable living situations—finding a place to sleep everywhere from couches to temporary housing or, for as many as 2,000 a night in Chicago, living on the street.

“The idea behind this activity was to allow students to begin to understand the life of someone with no other options,” said Ed Brennan, co-organizer of the event.

Although the weather was not as cooperative as participants and organizers hoped for, Brennan remained positive.

“I think that God wanted us to see what people really deal with when they live on the streets,” says Brennan.

A whole week was dedicated to raising awareness across the Andrews campus. Couches were set up to symbolize “couch surfing,” which is what many homeless people—youth, especially—find themselves doing. They rotate sleeping on couches belonging to friends and even strangers who offer them a place to stay.

“College students often don’t realize how many people their age are homeless,” said Curt VanderWaal, chair of the Teen Homelessness Taskforce on campus. “They imagine a skid-row alcoholic or a Vietnam veteran who’s down on his luck—it’s a lot harder to visualize a 17-year-old immigrant kid who sleeps on a friend’s couch because his parents can’t afford to take care of him.”

Other activities were a co-curricular program that educated students about homelessness, a showing of “The Homestretch”—a documentary portraying homeless youth in Chicago—and a panel discussion.

This project was organized by Nancy Carbonell, associate professor of counselor education and counseling psychology, along with AUUNICEF, BSCE, AUll4One, POWER and graduate students in Carbonell’s department.

“I’ve become more aware of homelessness in the last few years,” says Carbonell. “Some of the students we’ve had at Andrews have made me aware that 40 to 50 percent of the homeless youth tend to be LGBTQ young people and have been kicked out of their homes.”

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Carbonell added that about half of the other homeless young people come from homes where the parents are substance or alcohol abusers, do not want to pay for their children anymore or may be illegal immigrants who cannot afford to support their children, driving them to the streets. In Berrien Springs alone there are almost 20 homeless high-school-aged youths.

Homelessness Awareness Week was just the first step to becoming more proactive about the great impact homelessness has on our nation.

“I am grateful that our students felt moved enough to want to help out in this event,” says Carbonell. “I think that speaks well of our students.”

With reporting assistance from The Student Movement staff.

Robot finds a new home with engineering

Donated by Vickers Engineering Inc.

The Department of Engineering & Computer Science recently received a Fanuc S-420i robot from Vickers Engineering Inc. The industrial Fanuc (Factory Automation Numerical Control) robot is designed to aid manufacturers by performing tasks difficult or impossible for humans to do. In fact, the New Troy, Michigan-based manufacturing company specializes in using automatons to increase production.

Jordan Klint, Vickers engineering manager, explains, “This robot is classified as a material handling robot, which is designed for moving, loading or stacking large objects.”

Boon-Chai Ng, who teaches the Fanuc robotics certification program, intends to use the robot in robotics programming classes offered by the computer science program. Prior to the donation, the department only had one unit of Fanuc robot arms. Ng had visited Vickers with his classes in 2014 and again this past winter, at the request of a Vickers employee who was in Ng’s class.

“We had talked about donating this robot to one of the local community colleges for a while, but they had not shown much interest,” Klint mentioned.

Working with Ng, they arranged to have the robot donated to Andrews University. The department now looks forward to making use of its new acquisition.

“We hope that it is a useful tool for the University and gives the students an additional frame of reference of automation-related topics,” Klint said. He added that he appreciates when local universities support math and science programs. “Vickers tries to help in whatever small things we can do to help that are easy and worthwhile steps to support these areas in education.”

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Who wrote the Pentateuch?
Prominent Bible scholars present, discuss and defend authorship at international conference


The event featured noteworthy speakers who dialogued on how to approach the question of the composition of the Pentateuch. Currently, the Documentary Hypothesis as the former dominant theory about the composition is being revised and criticized, and alternative approaches are being suggested and discussed by respected scholars.

The Documentary Hypothesis claims that the Pentateuch was originally written as four separate documents during a period stretching from the early monarchy to the exile, and that over time the documents were redacted together by other scribes.

“The Documentary Hypothesis has all but taken over the majority of scholarship—even Christian scholarship—in regard to the composition of the Pentateuch, which has effectively removed Moses and a literal reading of the text from history,” says Felipe Masotti, PhD student of Old Testament and co-planner of the event. He explains that conservative academics have made some efforts to develop an approach that can scholastically explain how the Pentateuch was composed.

“These Bible scholars reexamined, compared and evaluated biblical exegetical and theological data as well as extra-biblical material related to the Mosaic authorship, and scrutinized the Documentary Hypothesis in order to analyze its validity and relevance,” says Jiří Moskala, dean of the Andrews University Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, professor of Old Testament exegesis and theology, and conference presenter.

Presenters included Richard E. Averbeck (Trinity Evangelical Divinity School), John Bergsma (Franciscan University of Steubenville), Joshua Berman (Bar-Ilan University), Daniel I. Block (Wheaton College), Richard M. Davidson (Andrews University), Roy E. Gane (Andrews University), Duane A. Garrett (The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary), Richard S. Hess (Denver Seminary), James K. Hoffmeier (Trinity Evangelical Divinity School), Benjamin Kilchör (Staatsunabhängige Theologische Hochschule Basel), Gerald A. Klingbeil (Andrews University, Adventist Review), Michael LeFebvre (Christ Church Reformierte Presbyterian) and Jiří Moskala (Andrews University), as well as other Andrews University faculty and PhD students.

“It was a unique privilege to bring these minds together for an open and honest discussion on this challenging topic,” says Constance Gane, associate professor of archaeology and Old Testament and curator of the Horn Archaeological Museum. “This was a series of presentations that the serious Bible student will want to revisit for years to come.”

“A Place to Grow”
Film brings communities of Oronoko & Berrien Townships and Berrien Springs together

The Berrien Film Project strives to represent the beautiful communities of Berrien Springs and Oronoko Charter & Berrien Townships. To that end, the project included two screenings of a documentary film called “A Place to Grow,” which features places and people in those communities. The screenings, sponsored by local businesses, organizations and individuals, took place at the Howard Performing Arts Center on April 17 & 18.

Representative musicians performed at the events as well, including the Berrien Springs High School choir and Andrews Academy’s string ensemble.

Pieter Damsteegt, the film’s producer and graduate of Andrews University’s documentary film program, put a lot of time and effort into “A Place to Grow.” Damsteegt shared his vision for the film as something that “would bring the community together.”

Much of Damsteegt’s work was acquiring images from all over the area, covering each of Michigan’s seasons. “I really enjoyed meeting the community throughout the filming process. It was so much fun interviewing folks in and around the community of Berrien Springs,” Damsteegt stated.

“There’s so many stories and amazing things about the area that if I had included them all, well, it would’ve been a pretty long film.”

Many people in the community also expressed how they felt about the local area. “I have a great sense of pride living here and owning a family farm in the Berrien Springs community,” said Bryan Bizby, Berrien Township supervisor.

Milt Richter, village president of Berrien Springs, said, “My favorite thing about Berrien Springs is the friendly people,”

“I love our community and how unique it is. Diversity works here—from the international and educational aspects of the University, to the wineries, breweries and fruit farms, to the world-class fishing on the river, to the focus on youth at the County Fair, to the award-winning schools. Berrien Springs truly is a place to grow,” said Mike Hildebrand, Oronoko Charter Township supervisor.

Regarding the screenings, Damsteegt said, “I’d like to say in observing the response to the end product and then seeing the audience composed of the various communities all together was a great experience I’ll never forget. Again, I wanted it to be a conversation starter, and I believe that is what the film was.”