

THE ANDREWS UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

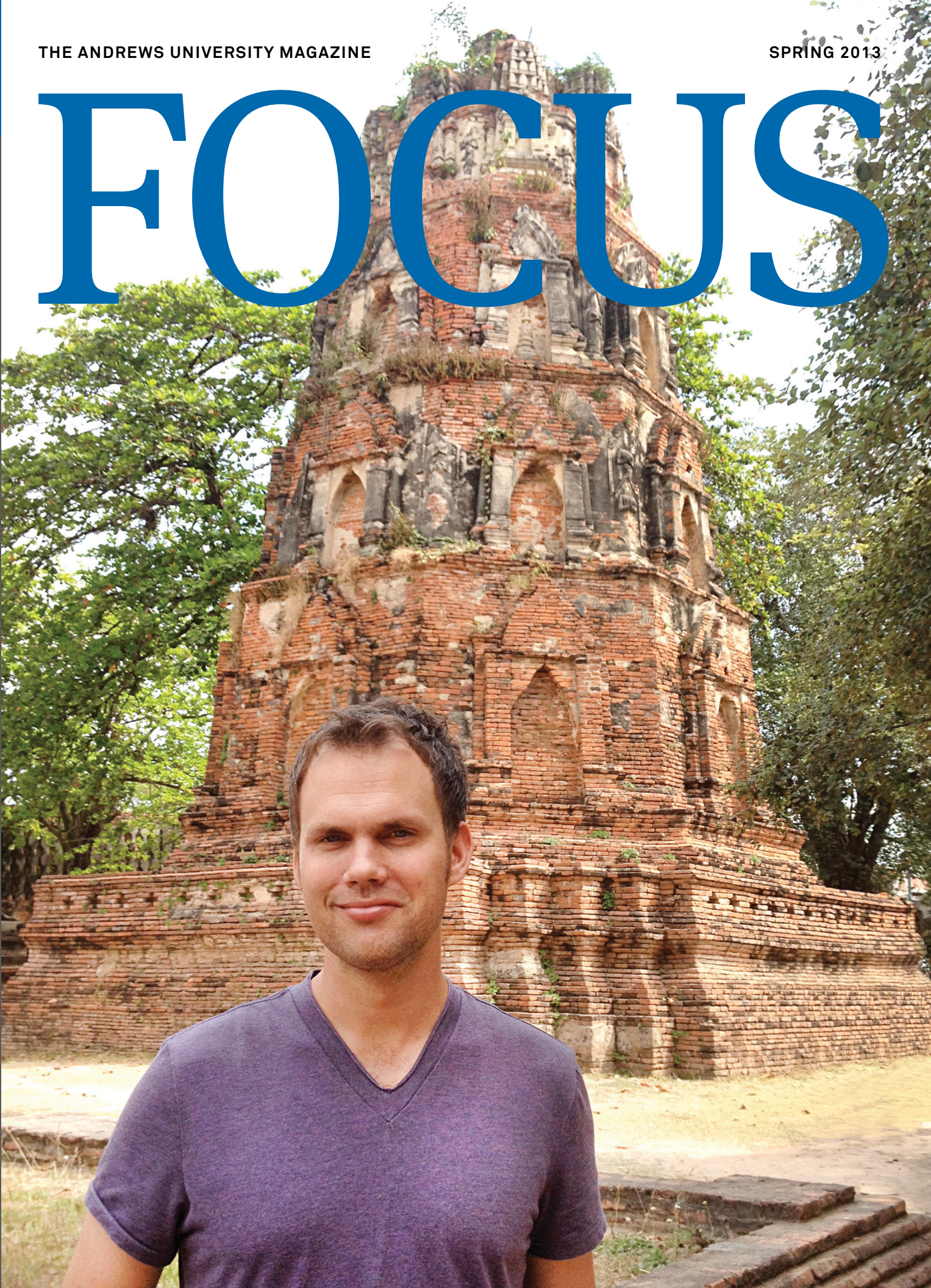
SPRING 2013

# FOCUS

inside:

Making Good on Doing Good | Learning to Understand the Misunderstood: Lebanon

Vol 49 No 2





Niels-Erik Andreasen  
President

## Some things change, but others stay the same; also at Andrews.

When the first board chair of Andrews University (Battle Creek College) announced the opening of a new college in Battle Creek he promised that by

the second term it would “have competent teachers in Hebrew, Greek, Latin, German, French, Swedish and Danish, besides our own language. We now have them in most of these. We mean business.” That was in 1874. And sure enough the most prominent program of study included five years of Latin, three of Greek, one of math, four of natural science, geometry, chemistry, geology and astronomy, and a year of rhetoric and logic.

All that changed in the third decade of the institution's history under the presidencies of W.W. Prescott, and especially E.A. Sutherland and P.T. Magan. They wanted to reform Adventist education. So the classics curriculum was replaced with a Bible-centered curriculum, designed to prepare students for practical mission service. The campus sports fields were turned to gardens and eventually the whole campus moved to rural Berrien Springs where the students could work and study in preparation for life. Even J.H. Kellogg supported this practical aspect of education, and of course E.G. White encouraged it in her writings. This change did not occur in a vacuum. Classical learning was everywhere giving way to the new sciences of sociology, anthropology and economics, the natural sciences became more theoretical, the world opened up to explorers, etc. Universities changed and never became the same again. Latin and Greek out—the new sciences in.

Sutherland and Magan eventually left Andrews and moved to Nashville to establish Madison College and study medicine. Magan later moved west and became first dean and then president of the College of Medical Evangelists, now Loma Linda University, and helped get the medical school accredited by his support of up-to-date scientific education. That in turn put pressure upon institutions like Andrews (Emmanuel Missionary College) to offer accredited pre-med degrees and that happened in 1939, while Magan was still in Loma Linda. That may not have been what Sutherland and Magan imagined for Andrews in 1901 when they moved from Battle Creek to Berrien Springs. But to his credit Magan made a good decision for health education and we all benefitted from it. We are still accredited, and just last month following a focused visit by our accrediting agency we had our accreditation affirmed with a good deal of assurance, and our board was informed about that at its latest meeting on June 3. So yes, we still mean business, even as Latin and Greek have given way to standard accredited majors in the humanities, arts, sciences, social sciences, theology, and all the applied arts and sciences that follow.

And yet, even with such dramatic changes in the history of Andrews, some things have stayed the same. For example, the early founders of Battle Creek College spoke then about teaching students moral integrity in a troubled society, about holistic education, that nurtures body, soul and mind, about a motivation for mission and service, and a commitment to a life of faith and devotion to God. These educational goals have hardly changed at all, and are still being talked about regularly by many 21st century educators. A recent article spoke of the importance of students developing good and lifelong health and wellness practices (just as Andrews is planning for a new health and wellness center). Another spoke about truthfulness with information that is flowing so freely and used indiscriminately. Another about making education transformational in today's economy—giving good educational value for the time and money students spend on it. These values have stayed the same for nearly 140 years of Andrews' history. As we embark upon a new year at Andrews we will pray to God for wisdom that we may change what needs to be changed and hold on to what must be preserved.

# FOCUS

The Andrews University Magazine

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features

**14 Making Good on Doing Good**

*by Björn Karlman*

Björn and his wife Jammie decided to spend a year travelling around the world—but it was for a unique purpose. They are undertaking three-month-long volunteer service projects in four cities: Bangkok, Buenos Aires, Berlin and Bombay (Mumbai). Be inspired to change the world!

**18 Learning to Understand the Misunderstood: Lebanon**

*by Jason Lemon*

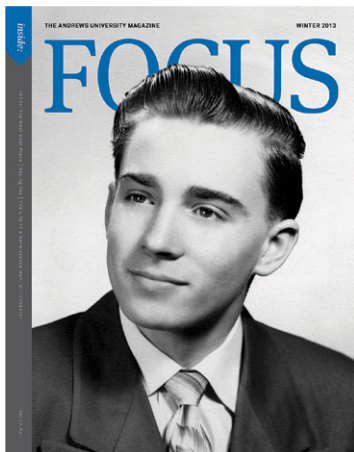
The culture and people of the Middle East are often misunderstood. Four young alumni currently working at Middle East University near Beirut, Lebanon—Jason Lemon, Levon Kotanko, Ryan McCabe and Jenner Beccerra—have discovered shared experiences that reshaped their perception of “foreign” in a positive way.

departments

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On the cover: Björn Karlman (BA '07) in front of an historic Stupa in the former capital of the ancient Siamese kingdom, Ayutthaya, Thailand



FOCUS | Winter 2013



*Thanks for writing*

**Letters to FOCUS are always welcome.** To ensure a range of viewpoints, we encourage letters of fewer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for content, style and space.

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Opinions expressed in letters are not necessarily shared by the editors, university employees, officers and administrators.

## Athletic omission

I just finished reading the current edition (Winter 2013) and as always found it very well done and informative.

I had two observations, however, I have not previously made I wanted to bring to your attention that might increase your reading audience and overall value of FOCUS Magazine.

First over half the issue (24/42 pages) is devoted to staff/faculty news and accomplishments. Half of that to Dr. Chobotar's article which is well deserved and well done. Maybe this ratio is not typical? I don't recall any particular trend in past issues? However, if it is typical I suggest more space be devoted to student news and accomplishments.

Second observation. I don't see much about athletics in the magazine.

I leave you with two examples that apply to both observations.

On your campus you currently have student athletes who this year received National Awards for academics (3.5 or above GPA) and All-American status (top 10) in their sport. The latter award is given to approximately 1% of the student athletes who participate in the USCAA (United States Collegiate Athletic Association). The other is that Andrews University hosted the Cardinal Classic in February that brought over 400 Adventist and local basketball athletes from across the country to the campus. Much like your article on page 7 about the Music Festival that was hosted.

I'm sure Dr. Chobotar, a former student athlete himself, would have enjoyed reading about the events and successes of current student athletes.

Continued success as you guide future FOCUS editions.

**Bob Little** (BA '72)

## Nix the politics

I was disappointed to read the political content of Becky De Oliveira's article "Saying Yes", and the clear contextual implication that those who did not vote for Barack Obama and his socialist agenda must be racist.

As offensive and erroneous as such assumptions are, Focus has ignored the larger issue of why the Adventist Church—and Adventist institutions—historically do not involve themselves in politics, much less publish articles in support of a particular candidate or politician.

At the risk of being labeled "out of touch,"

I wonder if the author—or editors—have considered Sister White's counsel on sharing political views in church publications:

"Whatever the opinions you may entertain in regard to casting your vote in political questions, you are not to proclaim it by pen or voice. Our people need to be silent upon questions which have no relation to the third angel's message...A burning desire has taken hold of men or women to proclaim something, or bind up with something; they do not know what...none of you have any burden laid upon you by the Lord to publish your political preferences in our papers...." (*Selected Messages*, Volume 2, page 336)

If the name of Mitt Romney or Ron Paul had been invoked in the article, would FOCUS have been as quick to publish it?

I hope the author and editors will in the future consider Sister White's counsel and keep the Gospel at the forefront of their writing.

**Jennifer Groves** (BA '92)

I would like to receive a school magazine that dedicates its time to the reason for its existence...letting graduates of the school know how the students, faculty and campus are getting along and what we can expect for the future of the school. There is no need to infuse any type of politics, mentioned or implied, into its articles. We get enough from public media. Please keep this magazine neutral and just give us the facts that pertain to our school, for which I am very proud to have graduated from. This is not the forum to debate current issues or "food for thought" articles. Thank you.

**Pam Ringwelski** (BS '78)

## Wage disparity

In response to the President's column, as a youth I found it incongruous that the person with nuclear weapons capability (POTUS) earned \$400,000 but many people who play professional ball are compensated well into the seven figures. The disparity continues to remind me of our skewed societal values and the power of market forces.

**J.T. Shim** (att.)

## Three spring commencement services held

To accommodate the largest graduating class in recent history

One of the largest graduating classes in recent history—394 undergraduate students and 166 graduate students—received their degrees in the spring 2013 Andrews University Commencement services held Sunday, May 5, 2013.

For the first time, three services were held to accommodate the large number of graduates. In addition, 24 graduate students from Vietnam, representing a larger class of graduates receiving their Master of Business Administration degrees in Vietnam, were in attendance to receive their degrees from Griggs University, owned by Andrews University and operated through its School of Distance Education.

Bert B. Beach, retired general secretary for the Seventh-day Adventist Council on Inter-Church Relations, was the featured speaker for the first and second commencement services. His address was titled, “Hitch Your Wagon to a Star!”

Judith L. Storfjell, senior vice president and chief nursing officer for Loma Linda University Medical Center, encouraged the graduates to “Imagine!” at the 2 p.m. commencement service.

Two individuals were also honored with honorary doctorates: Bert B. Beach and Faith Lou Esham.

Born in Switzerland to American missionary parents, Beach received his early education in Switzerland, and completed his college work at Pacific Union College in 1948. He attended Stanford University and the University of California (Berkeley), then earned a PhD from the University of Paris, graduating magna cum laude in 1958.

Beach has been called a statesman and the Adventist church leader best known to other church world leaders. A panelist for 25 years on the *American Religious Townhall* weekly telecast, and its editorial director for the past 15 years, Beach has served as president of the International Commission for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency (ICPA) and as vice president of the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA).

Before he retired from the General Conference in 2005, Beach held positions including president of the Adventist Italian Training College in Florence, chair of the History Department at Columbia Union College, director

of the Education Department at the General Conference, and secretary of the Northern Europe-West Africa Division. Beach also served as director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, general secretary of the GC Council on Inter-Church Relations, and secretary general for the International Religious Liberty Association. For 32 years, Beach also served as the secretary of the Conference of Secretaries of Christian World Communions.

Beach was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters at the 8:30 a.m. service.

Faith Lou Esham has enjoyed a career in opera for more than 30 years. She has performed in major opera houses on the concert stage in the United States and in Europe. Esham continues to be active in all aspects of singing and currently serves as an adjunct assistant professor at Westminster Choir College in New Jersey.

Born in Kentucky, Esham graduated from Columbia Union College, now Washington Adventist University, in 1970, and then enrolled at the Julliard School of Music where she completed a master’s degree, studying with noted teachers Adele Addison, Beverly Johnson, and Jennie Tourell.

She made her operatic debut in 1977 singing the role of Cherubino in *The Marriage of Figaro* at New York City Opera. She debuted three years later in Europe as Nedda in *Nancy*. In 1983 she played Micaela in a movie version of *Carmen* directed by Francesco Rosi with Placido Domingo playing Don Jose. In addition, Esham has appeared in major roles at the Vienna State Opera and at the Geneva Opera in 1984, leading to her Metropolitan Opera debut as Marzelline in *Fidelio* in December 1986. Esham has performed a number of roles in Mozart’s operas, including *The Marriage of Figaro* over 100 times.

Esham received the Concours International de Chant in Paris in 1981 and a Grammy award in 1984 as Principal Soloist, Best Opera recording for the year. Esham is also known for her proficiency in singing in the languages



Top: Faith Esham received an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts

Middle: Bert Beach spoke for two commencement services and received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters

Above: Judith Storfjell spoke at the third commencement

associated with opera, including French, a particularly difficult one for operatic singing. She actively promotes and has performed in the work of contemporary composers.

After performing “Bist Du bei Mir (If Thou Art With Me)” at the 11 a.m. service, Esham was awarded an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts.

## Architecture Resource Center receives large book donation

Thomas and Anne Logan of Grand Rapids, Mich. donate 300 books

The Architecture Resource Center recently received a gift of 300 books donated by Thomas and Anne Logan, local architecture historians and restorationists. A reception to welcome the books and thank the Logans was held on April 17, 2013, in the Architecture Resource Center.

The Logans live in the David and Hattie Amberg house in the historic district of Grand Rapids, Mich., a house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. They are docents for the Meyer and Sophie May museum house, and active members of the national Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy.

The Logans first heard about Andrews University through local architect Jim Winter-Troutwine, who regularly attends end-of-semester critiques in the School of Architecture, Art & Design. Jim credits the program as being “one of the most outstanding schools of architecture,” and the Logans contacted the ARC about donating their collection.

Thomas is a professional planner and amateur architecture fan who has practiced health system and human services planning, historic preservation and urban design. He holds a professional planning master’s degree from the University of Wisconsin in Madison and a PhD in City and Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

Logan has served as volunteer historian for fifteen years for the annual Heritage Hill historic home tour, for six years on the City’s Historic Preservation Commission, and has renovated six houses in

the historic districts of Grand Rapids. He has also authored the book *Almost Lost*, which is now in the ARC collection.



A reception and light lunch was held in the Architecture Resource Center to thank Thomas and Anne Logan (second and third from the right), who donated a large collection of books to the ARC, a branch of the James White Library

## Andrews University Festival Band tours Spain

Performances warmly received

The Andrews University Festival Band, under the direction of Alan Mitchell, toured Spain, March 14–22, 2013. The tour was their sixth European tour in the last 13 years. Performances were presented at the Iglesia Rumanian and Iglesia Alenza in Madrid and in the Toledo Cultural Center. The ensemble was received warmly with standing ovations at all of their performances. The audiences were impressed by the quality of the organization and the effort put forth by the tour participants to come and perform for them.

The AU Festival Band consisted of 56 members. Two-thirds of the

ensemble were members of the AU Wind Symphony and the other third were students from Michigan schools: Andrews Academy, under the direction of Byron Graves; Battle Creek Academy, under the direction of Michele Stark; and Great Lakes Academy, under the direction of Andres Mendoza.

The Festival Band also visited the Royal Palace, the Prado, and an Egyptian temple in Madrid, the Alhambra in Granada, and major cathedrals in Seville, Cordoba and Toledo.



Left: Members of the Andrews University Festival Band pose in front of the Plaza of Spain in Seville

Above: Performing in Madrid

## Campus Master Plan and Architecture students win awards

*From the Michigan chapter of the American Institute of Architects*

The *2013 Masterplan and Design Guidelines*, produced by the 2012 Campus Design Studio, was the recipient of a Student Honor Award from the Michigan chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Two other architecture alumni also received AIA Michigan awards: Amanda Harrel Seyburn received the Associate Member Award, which recognizes accomplishments in the profession by an associate who has been a member for at least two years; and 2013 graduate Emely Taveras received a Student Gold Medal Award.

The American Institute of Architects and AIA Michigan has a long tradition of recognizing individuals and organizations for their outstanding achievements in support of the profession of architecture, and their efforts to promote public awareness of architectural services.

The Campus Design Studio, led by professors Andrew von Maur, Paula Dronen and Troy Homenchuk, consists of 20 graduate architecture students who created the *2013 Campus Master Plan*. The students produced the bulk of the work, including design and

planning, sketch illustration, watercolor and digital rendering, and information modeling. The students include: Ryan Agrey, Nathaniel Beddoe, Jason Blanzzy, James Chambers, Roberto Figuereo, Derrick Gillett, Brandon Hebard, Ashlie Heilbrun, Samuel Jeffus, Angelica Larriu, Carlos Monsalve, Jorden Parker, Jose Quezada, Caleb Soto, Nathan Stafford, Emely Taveras, Mausharie Valentine, Joshua Wooden, James Wooster, and Jimen Yoon.

## Young volunteer finds very old seal

*A small engraved seal made during the Iron Age*

On Monday, May 27, during the final minutes of a long and dusty day at Tall Hisban, Madaba, Jordan, volunteer Rebekah Hudon spotted something spectacular in her sift. It turned out to be an old stamp seal: a small engraved stone that ancient administrators used to make imprints on sealings and documents in order to verify the authenticity and authority of the document. Many such seals from the ancient Inner Mediterranean have survived, but only one seal has been found in the 45 years of Andrews University excavations at Tall Hisban.

“Rebekah first thought the seal was a large bead and showed it to me. I recognized it immediately as a seal and we were both elated,” says her father, Jeff Hudon, adjunct professor at Bethel College, Mishawaka, Ind. She found the seal while sifting the contents of a huge Iron Age reservoir at the site.

“This seal clearly belonged to someone of administrative significance,” says director of the Hisban Cultural Heritage Project, professor Øystein S. LaBianca, professor of anthropology. “Now we need to find out when that person lived. We would also like to explore whether the iconography of the seal offers any indication of the status and function of its owner. In any event, the seal seems to suggest that at some point in time Tall Hisban was of some administrative importance,” says LaBianca.



Rebekah Hudon and her father Jeff at the sift where the stamp seal was found. All excavated soil goes through the sift in order to filter out special objects like pottery, bones and, in this case—a seal (photo by Jeff Hudon)

Director of the excavations at Tall Hisban, professor Bethany Walker, University of Bonn, Germany, says “In Hesban we rarely retrieve an object so complete and of such historical and cultural value. This seal beautifully illustrates the connectedness of this site with the larger ancient world.”

The seal is of the so-called scaraboid type. It appears to be made of hard, dark brown stone, measuring 15 x 13 x 9 mm (about the size of a thumbnail) and it was of high quality and in pristine condition. There was no inscription on the seal, but an imagery of what appears to be an ibex, with a smaller animal between the legs of that ibex. Two trees, possibly date palms, are flanking the two

animals, and there is a twig of a tree in the upper register. A preliminary investigation of the seal by Hudon and professor Terje Stordalen of the University of Oslo, Norway, indicates that the seal was made during the Iron Age, possibly some time during the later half of that period (between the ninth and the fifth century BCE.). It may have connections to Assyrian or Babylonian material culture, as well as to earlier Egyptian iconography.

Hudon is going to take responsibility for further research on the seal, which involves comparing it to other known seals of its type and researching the seal’s iconography and cultural significance. “We think the seal represents northern Syrian (Canaanite) motifs, but further study is needed to confirm this possibility,” says Hudon. “If so, the seal will shed much light on the early history of Hisban, and compliment the biblical accounts that mention this site.”

It’s safe to say that Rebekah, who found such an important item on her first archaeological dig, will probably return for another season. “I am so proud of her having been able to find this small artifact,” says her father. “It is a discovery that may turn out to be of great assistance in understanding the history of Tall Hisban in the Iron Age.”

## June board report

*Location and occupants of new Health & Wellness Center voted*

An overview of the plans for the new Health & Wellness Center and governance issues were highlighted at President Niels-Erik Andreasen's spring board briefing held on Monday, June 3, 2013.

The President's Report consisted of a presentation of the campus master plan, entitled "A Campus for Health and Wellness." The plan, designed by the urban design studio of the School of Architecture, Art & Design, envisions new buildings and campus planning meant to guide the University for the next 10 years. The board voted to accept the updated campus plan. The School of Architecture, Art & Design received a first-place award from the State of Michigan for their campus master plan (see page 7).

The board voted, upon the recommendation of the President's Council, to locate the Health & Wellness Center west of the Howard Performing Arts Center. Andreasen said, "I think it was a very important board meeting—it decided what the campus would look like the next ten years. This is constructive board action and decision, and I personally attach a great deal of importance to that."

Larry Schalk, vice president for Financial Administration and chair of the Health & Wellness Center Site & Cost Committee, has contacted seven firms that plan campus facilities. Three were identified to come on campus and work with administration, and then one will

**"I think it was a very important board meeting—it decided what the campus would look like the next ten years."**

be chosen to help design, locate and shape the footprint and elevation of the new facility.

In the Provost's Report, Andrea Luxton summarized the response of the North Central Accreditation Association's Higher Learning Commission to the focused site visit on March 11 and 12. She reported that the visit went well, and the Commission advised the board on one matter of governance.

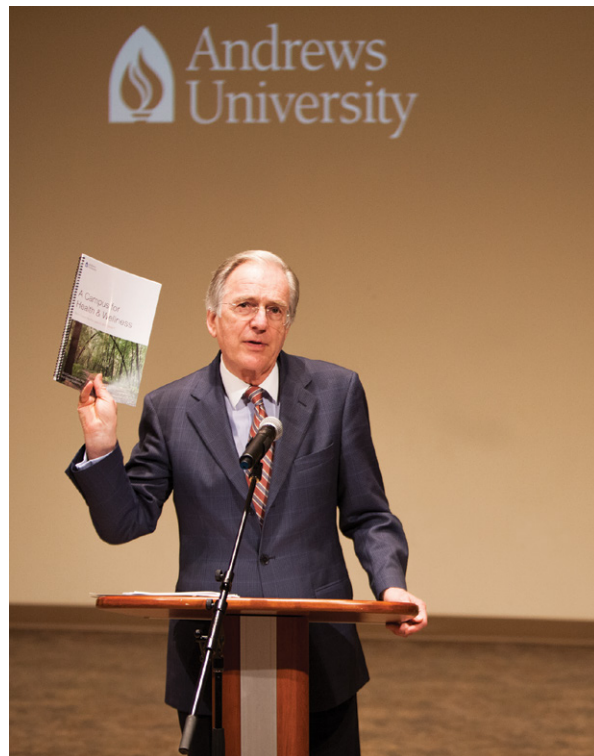
After reading the University bylaws, a Commission member noted that the laws state that the board appoints the president and all other administrators and staff. The Commission member noted that this stated practice is

not considered best practice, and "it's not even our practice," says Andreasen. Currently, the board appoints the president after a search process. The president then recommends the other officers of the University to the board for approval. Faculty and staff members are recommended to the provost from the deans and the board then confirms those names. The board put forward an action to authorize the administration to present wording for a revised bylaw at the next board meeting.

Larry Schalk gave a preliminary final report on operations for the current fiscal year, followed by a summary of the year-end state of operations as of April 30, 2013. Due to a number of factors, the University fell short of its \$3 million projected gain, ending the year with \$136,000. The primary reason was lower than budgeted summer 2012 and undergraduate enrollment tuition, higher than expected utility expenditures and under-production of some auxiliary operations. Andreasen noted that current trends are looking good. Summer 2013 enrollment numbers are higher than 2012, and the University's investments are doing well in the financial markets.

Schalk also gave a preliminary report on the projected cost of the Health & Wellness Center, approximately \$17–\$18M, and what entities will be included in the new facility: Center for Health Promotions, Recreation Center and the Department of Public Health & Wellness. The current Johnson Gymnasium, Beaty Pool and Beaty Gym will also be remodeled. The president will continue to talk with the owners of the buildings surrounding the new Center—particularly the residents near PMC, Integrated Marketing & Communication, and Pioneer Memorial Church.

The board also approved a plan to refine Timber Ridge Retirement Center, which is projected to save the University and retirement center roughly \$75,000 per year, which will be split. They also approved a recom-




President Andreasen presents "A Campus for Health and Wellness," the 10-year campus master plan which was approved by the board

mendation from the Investment Committee to allow 5% of the return on investment from the University's long-term endowment funds to be paid out to student scholarships and endowed faculty chairs. The Investment Committee recommended that Unrestricted Funds be invested as 50% in equities and 50% in bonds and the board voted to approve this recommendation as well.

A presentation of insurance comparisons for aviation programs revealed that Andrews Airpark's current coverage is far above any other comparable aviation program in the nation. The board made a recommendation that the General Conference Insurance Committee reduce insurance coverage for the Andrews Airpark from \$50 million to \$10 million, slated to save \$50–\$70,000 in premiums each year.

Each time the board convenes a special presentation is given for the purpose of board education. At the June meeting, Lowell Cooper, General Conference vice president, gave a talk regarding board independence and worldwide governance.

 For the complete story, go to: [www.andrews.edu/news/](http://www.andrews.edu/news/)



## International aviation missions conference

*Pilots, professors and students convene to discuss Christian mission within their industry*

Andrews University recently hosted the 42nd annual conference of the International Association of Missionary Aviation (IAMA) from May 15–17, 2013. More than 90 pilots, professors, and students from 20 different organizations gathered on Andrews' campus for three days of keynote presentations, discussion, and business.

The featured speakers for the event were Ronald J. Maines, owner and founder of Crossroads Consulting Group, a strategic leadership group; David J. Schipper, president and CEO of the Schipper Group and founding member of the Spokane Turbine Center; and Dave Tanner, Safety Officer for Meijer's Flight Department.

Each speaker gave several talks throughout the conference; on Thursday Dave Tanner's afternoon address was entitled "A Path to Excellence in Aircraft Operations: Our Guide—The Word of God." As excellence in aviation becomes increasingly important, pilots, and especially Christian pilots, should cultivate "normalized excellence" in their lives, Tanner said. "God's people should make excellence a part of their personal ethos," said Tanner, connecting the Christian mission with the earthly one.

Following IAMA's annual Year in Review session on Thursday evening, conference attendees enjoyed a banquet and keynote presentation given by Terry and Debbie Montambo. The Montambos are active conference and ministry speakers, and served with the

Mission Aviation Support Association for nine years.

Several conference attendees flew in to the conference, including Tanner, who flew in from Grand Rapids. Many of the attendees have spent time flying in the mission field, and featured speakers Maines and Schipper flew as pilots for the United States Army during the Vietnam War.

Dina Simmons, chair of the Department of Aviation, reports that attendees enjoyed the conference, the airport and aviation facilities, and the Andrews University campus. "They're talking about coming back in the future," says Simmons. "IAMA is a wonderful network for Christian pilots in the mission field." Simmons notes that the majority of conference planning could not have been accomplished if not for her administrative assistant Jean Gustavsen; flight instructor Kathy Adrada, and student assistant Jose Quispe.

IAMA is a non-denominational association of mission pilots that provides support, resources, and guidance in best practices for small missionary aviation organizations across the globe. IAMA is very active at aviation events throughout the country, including the annual AirVenture aviation celebration in Oshkosh, Wis., where they are yearly participants in Fly for Life.

The next IAMA conference will be held in 2014 at the Prairie School of Mission Aviation in Three Hills, Alberta, Canada.



More than 90 pilots, professors and students from 20 different organizations gathered on Andrews' campus for three days of keynote presentations, discussion and business during the annual conference of the International Association of Missionary Aviation (IAMA)

## Engineering awards

*Students enter design and redesign competitions*

Two engineering students, Robert Jewett, a senior studying mechanical engineering, and Atniel Quetz, who graduated in May with a BS in engineering, won honorable mention in the student category of the 2013 International Aluminum Extrusion Design Competition for their design, "Custom Contour Furniture."

Jewett and Quetz's design was one of more than 90 student entries, ranging from plans for a solar-powered outdoor bulletin board to a park bench that squeegees itself to sustainable refugee housing. The Andrews design duo created the plans for customizable furniture created out of a series of aluminum parts.

Jewett and Quetz's design utilizes principles of extrusion, forcing heated metal out through a custom-shaped opening (like squeezing toothpaste out of a tube) that allows multiple copies of a part to be created.

The duo first heard of aluminum extrusion during an engineering class taught by Boon-Chai Ng, professor of engineering. Their classmates Andrew Roderick and Brian Booth had recently won a 3D redesign challenge, and their success inspired Jewett and Quetz to try their hand at competing too. Their first design was just a chair, but then they thought, "Why stop at the chair?"



Their submission to the contest ended up being a system of 12 interlocking aluminum parts that can be combined into a number of different furniture shapes, including several different tables and chairs. Because aluminum is rust-resistant and also aesthetically pleasing, the furniture can be used indoors or outdoors. Quetz and Jewett planned and designed the project in their spare hours last semester—"it was more or less a non-curricular activity, although the school was behind us the whole way," says Jewett.

## Spring 2013 at the Howard



Clockwise from top left: Jonathan Nelson, March 9 ▀ Opera Production of Bremen Town Musicians, March 10 ▀ University Singers, Easter Choral Celebration, March 30 ▀ Great Lakes Adventist Academy Bell Choir, April 5 ▀ Laura Story, April 7 ▀ Gary Cooper, guest trombone soloist, performed with the University Wind Symphony for the WAUS Thank You Concert, April 21 ▀ Andrews University Chorale and Symphony Orchestra, along with soloists Julie Penner, soprano; Georgina Zambrano, mezzo-soprano; Charles Reid, tenor; and Stephen Zork, baritone; perform the oratorio "Elijah," April 27



## Calendar

Visit [howard.andrews.edu](http://howard.andrews.edu) for an updated schedule of upcoming events. Schedule is subject to change.

### Ten-Year Anniversary

The Howard Performing Arts Center celebrates its ten-year anniversary October 5–8, 2013.

Mark your calendars now for three special concerts you won't want to miss!

Reminiscent of the Howard Center's Inaugural Weekend in 2003, Saturday, October 5, will feature the **Andrews University Symphony Orchestra** in a formal, black-tie concert with a reception to follow.

The next evening, October 6, the Howard Center is pleased to be a stop on **Compassion International's In The Round** tour featuring Christian contemporary artists Andrew Peterson, Bebo Norman and Sara Groves. The three artists will offer an intimate performance alternating between songs and spoken ministry.

On Tuesday, October 8, "the world's reigning male chorus," as recognized by *The New Yorker* magazine, **Chanticleer** returns to the Howard Center after a near sell-out in 2006.

Tickets for these concerts and the rest of the 2013–2014 season go on sale Monday, August 5.

ADMIT ONE

Sign up to receive the online Howard Center newsletter for the latest information on the upcoming 2013–2014 season or visit [howard.andrews.edu](http://howard.andrews.edu). Call the Box Office at 269-471-3560 or 888-467-6442 for tickets.

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## Students recognized for community service

15 Andrews students receive Michigan Campus Compact awards

Fifteen Andrews University students received awards on April 13 from Michigan Campus Compact (MCC), at ceremonies held at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing, Mich.

Each year, MiCC awards students from member colleges and universities across the state for their outstanding commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. Three types of awards are given: the Outstanding Community Impact Award, the Commitment to Service Award and the Heart and Soul Award. This year, more than 450 students from 33 member campuses received awards.

Thirteen Andrews students received the “Heart and Soul” award. Katelyn Ruiz and Charles Carlos Trimble received the Commitment to Service Award. This award recognizes up to two students per member campus for either their breadth or depth of community involvement or service experiences. Only 33 students statewide will receive this award.

Ruiz is an active graduate student who initiated a Writer’s Circle and English-as-a-Second-Language reading program, both for children at the Berrien Springs Community

Library. She also volunteers at a community church coordinating their food basket program and activities for children.

Trimble has volunteered for nearly four years with at-risk children in Benton Harbor, Mich., serving as a mentor and teacher. He also developed a studio activity for the purpose of discovering music and creative talent at Harbor for Hope, among other functions.

Award recipients were nominated by Andrews faculty and staff. The University’s participation in the event was coordinated by Larry Ulery, assistant professor of community service programming and director of service learning.

MCC represents a consortium of 40 Michigan public and private colleges and universities that encourages students to



Thirteen students received the “Heart and Soul” Award—**Back row, left to right:** Kimberly Clark, Janna DeWind, Katelyn Nieman, Stephanie Oliver, Olivia Knott and **Front row, left:** Atniel Quetz. **Not pictured:** Rodney Allen, Kathlyn Bearce, Tacyana Behrmann, Brittany Felder, Laury Fouche, Daniel Morea and Amy Moreno

**Front row, left to right:** Two Andrews students received special recognition with the “Commitment to Service” award. They were Katelyn Ruiz (front row, center) and Charles (Carlos) Trimble (not pictured). Larry Ulery, director of service learning, is seated front row, right

engage in focused service activities on campus and particularly in local communities.

## First degree in Documentary Film

Earned by Pieter Damsteegt



Pieter Damsteegt received his degree at the 2 p.m. Commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 5. Damsteegt graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography and Documentary Film. His senior thesis project, a documentary film entitled “Back of My Life,” chronicles his life as a college student while growing handicapped from degenerative rheumatism. To learn more about his film, visit <http://vimeo.com/user2692714>.

## Online MPH offered fall 2013

New program offered at a 50% tuition discount

The Department of Public Health & Wellness, formerly known as the Department of Nutrition & Wellness, has received approval from the Board of Trustees to offer a Master of Public Health in Nutrition and Wellness.

This new program is the first and only online MPH program in Nutrition and Wellness offered in the country. Offered at a 50% tuition discount, this new program will prepare health professionals for service in the church and community by building knowledge and skills necessary to enhance the health of human populations and promote a healthy lifestyle through personal and community efforts.

Emmanuel Rudatsikira, dean of the School of Health Professions, says employment opportunities are expected to grow by 37% from 2010 to 2020, faster than the average for all occupations (14%), according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

“This prediction translates into about 23,200 new jobs for public health professionals over the next 10 years,” says Rudatsikira. “According to the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), there are 62 accredited online public health programs in the United States. However, there are only two Master of Public Health programs in nutrition. Our program, with emphasis on vegetarian lifestyle and wellness, is unique and presently the only one of its kind.”

For more information visit [www.andrews.edu/publichealth](http://www.andrews.edu/publichealth).

## Ann Gibson retires after 21 years of service at Andrews

*A pioneer for women in the Adventist church, serving as the first female dean of the School of Business Administration*

Annetta Gibson retired from the School of Business Administration as professor of accounting, emerita, after 21 years of service to the University. She joined the faculty in 1992.

Born in New York, Gibson graduated from Walla Walla College, College Place, Wash., in 1968, with a BA in business. In 1970, she received an MBA from Andrews University. She earned a Doctor of Philosophy from Washington State University, Pullman, in accounting in 1992. The title of her dissertation is: “An Empirical Investigation into Ethical Decision Making in Accounting.”

Before coming to Andrews, Gibson worked as an accountant for the Far Eastern Division of Seventh-day Adventists, Singapore; as assistant professor at Atlantic Union College, South Lancaster, Mass.; staff auditor for the General Conference Auditing Service and district director for South Lancaster, Mass.; and associate professor at Walla Walla College. Since coming to Andrews, Gibson has served as professor, chair of the Department of Accounting, Economics & Finance, and SBA dean.

She is a pioneer for women in the Adventist church—Gibson was the first female General Conference auditor and the first female dean of the School of Business Administration from 1995–2006.

Gibson is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the American Accounting Association, and the Michigan Society of Certified Public Accountants. She also serves as a board member for PPPA in Boise, Idaho. Gibson has authored and coauthored numerous articles in professional journals and has made dozens of presentations.

She served on the Pacific Press Board since 1992, the AFM board, the ADRA board, the Adventist Retirement Plan Board, the Center for Christian Leadership board on campus, and has been a guest editor for the *Journal of Applied Christian Leadership* in the School of Education. Gibson also serves on the ethics committee of the Behavioral Research Institute.

Gibson received a number of teaching awards throughout her career, including the Excellence in Teaching Award from Andrews University in 1995, the Academic Advisor Award in 1994, the Burlington Northern Award and Grant for Faculty Excellence from



Ann Gibson, right, greets guests at her retirement reception held on May 1, 2013, in the Chan Shun Hall lobby

Walla Walla College and has been named in *Outstanding Young Women of America*, and *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*. In April 2002, she was named one of Andrews' 100 honored women and in

**“Clearly she has contributed much to the development of the University and we owe her a debt of gratitude for it.”**

October 2002 was honored as Woman of the Year for Professional Life by the Association of Adventist Women. Additionally, in April 2013 she was given the AUSA Teacher of the Year Award.

Her colleagues have also noted her dedication to her work and the warmth with which she interacts with others. Andrea Luxton, provost, recalls, “When I worked at Newbold College we would always be delighted if Ann was on the list of visitors from Andrews, because we knew she would act with knowledge and understanding of different educational backgrounds, and deal with the realities of travel with good humor! I have since then

discovered her also to be warm, visionary, an excellent communicator and an excellent diplomat in difficult situations.”

President Niels-Erik Andreasen notes that she has “contributed to business education in the areas of accounting and finance, both to her students on campus, and to church treasurers and auditors literally around the world. Additionally she has served as dean of the SBA, University ombudsperson, and as a ‘person around campus’ for over twenty years. Clearly she has contributed much to the development of the University and we owe her a debt of gratitude for it.”

Gibson plans to fill her retirement by developing a training program for treasurers for the General Conference to share with the worldwide church. This will involve a great deal of travel, beginning with a trip to Russia this summer. She will also continue teaching a Christian Business Ethics class in the School of Business Administration as well as finishing a book on business ethics “that Daniel Augsburg and I started a dozen years ago,” she says. “And finally, in my spare time, I plan to catch up on my sleep and find space in my house to put all the books from my office.”

## Two professors awarded the J.N. Andrews Medallion

Ranko Stefanovic and L. Monique Pittman

Two professors were awarded a J.N. Andrews Medallion at spring commencement services on Sunday, May 5. The J.N. Andrews Medallion is given in recognition of excellence in research, teaching and service. Since it was first awarded in 1979, 94 medals have been awarded.

Ranko Stefanovic is professor of New Testament at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. He earned a diploma in theology from the SDA Theological School in Belgrade, Yugoslavia in 1970. He went on to complete an administrative officer certificate in Zagreb, Croatia in 1988, and then a BA in theology and an MA in religion from the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies in 1989 and 1990, respectively. He completed a PhD in religion from Andrews University in 1996.

Stefanovic began his career in 1970 pastoring in the Yugoslav Seventh-day Adventist Union Conferences in Serbia, Bosnia, and Croatia. From 1996 to 1999, Stefanovic taught in the department of religion at Canadian University College, before joining the Seminary faculty in 1999. He maintains a heavy schedule of preaching, guest lecturing, conference presentations, and scholarship, and has received numerous excellence in teaching awards. He is the author of two books, published by the Andrews University Press. Stefanovic's students describe him as an asset to the school and praise his spiritual influence in their lives.

Beloved and esteemed by colleagues and students alike, Pittman, professor of English and director of the J.N. Andrews Honors Program, is well-known for her contributions to the field of literature and the enthusiasm

she devotes to the professional development of her students. She earned a BA in English from Andrews University in 1991, an MA in English from the College of William and Mary in 1993, and a PhD in 2000 from Purdue University. She taught for three years at Pacific Union College before joining the Andrews faculty in 1999.

Pittman has written extensively about Shakespeare and popular media, and has been published in top journals in the field including *Shakespeare Bulletin*, *Literature/Film Quarterly*, and *Early Modern Literary Studies*. She published a monograph in 2011 entitled *Authorizing Shakespeare on Film and Television: Gender, Class, and Ethnicity in Adaptation* (Peter Lang, 2011). Pittman regularly attends conferences, most recently presenting at the 2013 Shakespeare Association of America conference and the 2013 Oxford University Round Table on Women and Education that took place at Harris Manchester College, Oxford University, in England.

In addition to teaching and publishing, Pittman finds time to mentor student research, guiding the scholarship of numerous graduate and undergraduate students who have presented their research at Honors Symposia and at various professional conferences. Her students have pursued or are currently pursuing advanced degrees at such institutions as Emerson College, Berkeley Theological Union, Western Michigan University, Ball State University, the University of Maryland, Northwestern University, Salisbury University, University of Florida, University of Toronto, Columbia University, and her alma mater, Purdue University.

Upon being presented with the medallion, Pittman received a standing ovation from her



Top: Ranko Stefanovic  
Above: L. Monique Pittman

Honors students and alumni, many of whose research she has mentored and who have gone on to significantly influence the scholarly community. She is the youngest woman to receive the J.N. Andrews Medallion.

## Andrew von Maur receives award

2013 Michael Barranco Award from the New Urbanism Guild

Associate professor of architecture Andrew von Maur recently received the 2013 Michael Barranco Award, given by the New Urbanism Guild at the 2013 Conference for New Urbanism in Salt Lake City, Utah. Mark Moreno, associate professor of architecture, accepted the award on his behalf.

Von Maur, who has been the director of the Urban Design Studio in the School of

Architecture. Art & Design, is the third person to receive this award. The Barranco Award recognizes individuals who not only distinguish themselves in design but also “inspire passionate coalitions for transformative change in the lives of families and communities.” Under his direction, Urban Design Studio students have won three Charter Awards of Excellence from the Congress for the New

Urbanism, and have most recently produced the Campus Master Plan.

“Andrew’s work within the architecture school, with the New Urbanism, with the New Urban Guild is held in high regard by his colleagues, is inspirational and highly influential with our students,” says Moreno. “His ability to network and to further the goals of New Urbanism and his students is phenomenal.”



**MAKING  
GOOD  
ON DOING  
GOOD**

BY BJÖRN KARLMAN

## 📍 THE DECISION

It's funny what your college years can inspire. In the fall of 2012, six years after my graduation from Andrews, my wife Jammie and I decided to make the decision that would change everything: We were going to spend 2013 traveling the world and doing volunteer work.

Let me back up a bit. Four years at Andrews have a way of whetting your appetite for international adventure. While at Andrews I went on a class trip to Cuba, studied Spanish in South America for a semester and spent a year volunteering for an international boarding school in the UK. My friends and professors at Andrews were from all over the world. Being Swedish, I was a faithful presence at any and every Scandinavian get-together that I caught wind of. The funds on my semester-long meal plan always took a dramatic hit whenever the annual International Food Fair rolled around. My friends and I often picked churches based on which one had the best international potluck on a given week. Everything about my Andrews experience seemed to point me in the direction of international service. I knew that at some point in “the future” I wanted to both live and work internationally.

Luckily, the girl I married shared my enthusiasm for creating an international life. We agreed that a great way to kickstart this life would be a period of extended travel during which we would volunteer in different service capacities.

Whenever Jammie and I talked about our secret plans we grew more excited. We knew the trip would change our lives. We knew it was the right thing to do. But for the longest time we couldn't muster the courage to take the leap and go.

In the fall of 2012, Jammie and I decided that we could not wait any longer. We simply could not put off our plans any more. If we didn't take the step now, life would make it harder and harder to escape and we would just grow frustrated, bemoaning the lives we wished we'd pursued. We simply could not let that happen. We made a pact: “We are doing this and we are doing this now!”

Once the big decision was made, the rest came more easily: We picked the places we would live in 2013: Bangkok, Buenos Aires, Berlin and Bombay (Mumbai) and began researching places to live and causes to champion.

I KNEW THAT  
AT SOME POINT  
IN “THE FUTURE”  
I WANTED TO  
BOTH LIVE  
AND WORK  
INTERNATIONALLY.



Eating on the streets of Bangkok is a multisensory experience

We did all the scary stuff as fast as we could so we wouldn't back out. We told those closest to us of our plans. Job resignation letters were drafted, re-drafted, signed and delivered. We sold, gave away or dumped a ton of stuff that we had collected over the years. We bought round-the-world tickets. And we got on a plane. We were off!

## 📍 REALITY HITS

We were hungry and completely jet-lagged. The adrenaline rush of landing in exotic Thailand was starting to wear off and the abnormalities of our situation were starting to sink in. What were we doing here?

We shuffled out into the unbelievably humid Bangkok night, not quite able to believe our senses. Dodging traffic, we hunted down the first of the dozens of food stalls we would frequent over our stay in Thailand.

“Until you've eaten on a Bangkok street, your noodles mingling with your sweat, and your senses dulled by chili, exhaust and noise, you haven't actually eaten Thai food,” said the *Lonely Planet* guidebook we had downloaded. I have always loved Thai food but the book was right, Thai food on the street was a totally different, multisensory experience.

The spice level of the food was predictable, but the flavors were so enticing you couldn't put your fork down. Jammie put it well: “My mouth is burning but I just can't stop eating!” It was so amazingly good.

“What other city has such a full-flavored, no-holds-barred, insatiable, fanatical approach to eating?” asks the guidebook. I had just landed but I was guessing the answer was “none.”

At the local prices, the dishes tasted even better. Yes, we had done our research and yes, we knew that the prices were extremely low by American standards, but the feeling of eating a whole meal for 50 baht (\$1.60) was amazing. “We may end up doing a lot less cooking here than we expected...” I blogged.

## 📍 DISASTER

But then it happened (and I'll quote directly from my January 15th blog post titled “Pride cometh before the fall—ignore my last post:” “Some of you saw this coming: Swiftly on the heels of our most dramatic culinary adventure last week—eating raw durian (a fruit) and sticky rice—I was hit like a sledgehammer with the most violent food



Top left: Jammie in front of Bangkok Chinatown's Wat Traimit—The Temple of the Golden Buddha Bottom left: The variety of delectable Thai food available in Bangkok was the source of both pleasure and pain Above: During the three months they were in Bangkok, Björn and Jammie visited a group of 3-year-old children every Monday at the Thai Red Cross Children's Home

poisoning I've had since college. I mean it was brutal, out-of-both-ends stuff requiring Tarzan-like leaps out of bed to the facilities.

"As much as my stomach was telling me never to eat Thai street food again, my brain knew better. This was a lesson in restraint and common sense (the gooey fruit had been festering in a lukewarm milky substance for hours without refrigeration and I really should have known better than to think I could handle it). It was not grounds for a drastic retreat to peanut butter sandwiches for the balance of my stay in Bangkok.

"My default MO is one of at least slight overconfidence. Often it pays off—I attempt challenges, assuming things will work out and then they often do. But occasionally you just end up loosening your bowels."

## THAI RED CROSS CHILDREN'S HOME

"So you guys are actually going to be around for a while, correct? We've had some journalists and tourists come through just for the experience and that isn't fair to the kids." The administrator was clearly vetting us over the phone. We assured her that we were in Bangkok for three months and understood the need for consistency with kids.

So began our visits to the Thai Red Cross Children's Home. Every Monday we would visit the same group of 3-year-olds. It felt a little like my weekly visits to my adopted family in Benton Harbor back in my college days. Just as I appreciated being able to build relationships with the children and families that I would work with in Benton Harbor on a weekly basis, getting to know the toddlers at the children's home was a lot of fun.

The children at the home had been abandoned by their families at a hospital in Bangkok. The goal was to either reunite them with their biological parents or to find them a new family. As far as this was concerned, we were powerless to help. What we did try to do was spend quality time with the kids. I learned a lot. I am now far more adept at distracting a toddler with colorful toys and getting him or her to give screaming a rest than I have ever been before. I am, however, no better at spoon-feeding than when I started. The kids I fed always seemed to end up with impressive food collections in their bibs.

## IMMIGRATION DETENTION CENTER

If you are a foreigner and you overstay your visa for too long either intentionally or by mistake, you basically end up in jail. Or so the people we visited weekly at Bangkok's Immigration Detention Center (IDC) would say.

The idea behind this second Bangkok-based service project was two-fold. We wanted to help offer encouragement to those that were detained. Many lacked the resources to hire the right attorney and file the necessary paperwork and so were stuck indefinitely.

But we felt a special burden to help married couples that were detained. Detainees were kept in gender-specific quarters so married couples were separated upon entry to the IDC. There was a loophole though: If we requested to visit both the husband and the wife, they were permitted to be in each other's presence for the approximately 50 minutes of visitation time. This alone made the service experience worth the effort. It was essentially prison ministry with a twist.

# "HOME" IS WHEREVER WE CAN CREATE COMMUNITY AND BE OF SERVICE.





**Above:** Weekly visits to the Bangkok Immigration Detention Center helped facilitate meetings between married detainees **Above center:** The rigors of travel required some relaxation time for Björn, reclining in front of a replica of the Sanphet Prasat Palace **Above right:** A soup kitchen at the Basilica of San José de Flores in Buenos Aires **Right:** The skyline of Puerto Madero, Buenos Aires, rises above pampas grass in the Costanera Sur Ecological Reserve

## ADVENTURE

Adventure in this kind of a year abroad comes less in the form of extreme sports or sightseeing and more as an everyday occurrence. Whether dodging rats the size of full-grown cats scurrying out from under trash bags, watching Muay Thai (kickboxing) demonstrations in the streets or doing a Thai visa run into Communist Laos for two days (a story in itself), life is genuinely different.

When we lived in Northern California it felt as though you had to escape the day-to-day to experience adventure. This year, I was finding out, our average day was the adventure.

And then came Argentina...

## BUENOS AIRES!

After three months of non-stop spice consumption in Thailand, we landed in Argentina, which may as well be Italy if the most readily available food is any indication. As much as it is tempting to go off on a tangent detailing our every pizza, pasta and alfajor (amazingly delicious Argentine desserts consisting of sandwich-like cookies filled with dulce de leche, a creamy caramel confection made from milk and sugar), let me just say that self-restraint is a quality I have had to develop over my time here.

Our first two weeks in Buenos Aires we lived in Flores, the neighborhood that Pope Francis is from. For our weekly service project we chose the Soup Kitchen at the Basilica of San José de Flores. Neither of us had ever worked in a soup kitchen. We are still learning. I will confess to being more than a little overwhelmed by the speed of the operation. In about two hours, we work two periods that serve about 100 people each. It is fast-paced to say the least!

## MID-YEAR REFLECTIONS

We are just shy of being halfway through our year. It's too early to be able to predict how this year will turn out. The only thing I can say with any certainty is that this weather better be as cold as it will ever get this year (the summer months back home=winter in Buenos Aires).

I will say that I have learned a lot about the futility of amassing possessions. Acquiring more "stuff" is one of the most pointless things we do in life. As mentioned before, Jammie and I ended up donating a ridiculous amount of our possessions to our local thrift store when we left Northern California. It was mildly absurd. These were mostly things that had cost quite a lot to buy. And in the end it was all just stuff... stuff that was in the way of us and a better, freer life. This stuff didn't add value; if anything it was a hassle, a nuisance. The hours we spent giving or throwing it all away have taught me one thing as we walk past shop windows around the world: Keep walking.

I am extremely grateful for this experience. Many that travel talk about how much they took for granted at home; what they miss while abroad. Jammie and I are a lot more focused on how enriching this experience has been so far. We miss family and friends (and Mexican food) but we don't really miss home. In fact, one thing we are learning is that "home" truly is a fluid concept.

"Home" to us now is wherever we can create community and be of service. "Home" is not defined by conveniences, material things, an apartment or house. Home is a mindset. It is a decision to be present and to be grateful. ■

For more on Björn (BA '07) and Jammie's 2013 service and travel adventures, check out their blogs: [CultureMutt.com](http://CultureMutt.com) (Björn's issue-based blog covering cultural issues and service ideas from the road) and [GoKarlmanns.com](http://GoKarlmanns.com) (Jammie's blog covering the latest adventures, food and sights from their trip around the world).



RYAN McCABE

JASON LEMON

LEVON KOTANKO

JENNER BECCERRA

# LEARNING TO UNDERSTAND THE MISUNDERSTOOD: LEBANON

by Jason Lemon



**T**HE MIDDLE EAST is a region characterized in the West by conflict, political strife and instability. Lebanon, the small Mediterranean coastal country bordering Israel and Syria, is no exception to this stereotypical portrayal. But as I—along with two other Andrews alumni and one current student—have had the opportunity to find out firsthand over the past academic year, this perception comes more from ignorance and sensationalized media reports than actual reality.

Every year, the Student Missions office at Andrews University sends many students around the world to serve in various positions for a period generally lasting from eight months to a year. However, having four student missionaries in Lebanon is not typically the norm, especially when a civil war is raging just to the north in neighboring Syria.

Jenner Becerra, Levon Kotanko, Ryan McCabe and I have had the incredible opportunity to serve in Lebanon during the past academic year. Jenner, who studied theology at Andrews and graduated in May 2012, has taught religion to students at Bauchrieh Adventist Secondary School (BASS). Levon, a current student, Ryan (BFA '11) and I (BA '12) have worked in the Office of Communication at Middle East University, supporting the communication and marketing efforts of the only Seventh-day Adventist institution of higher education within the Middle East and North Africa region.

Levon, Jenner and I arrived in Lebanon in September 2012, just following the death of the American Ambassador to Libya. The entire Middle East region was highlighted by the media as a web of anti-American protests following the unfortunate circulation of the

film *Innocence of Islam*, through YouTube. Protests were scheduled in Lebanon, including a large one in Beirut on the day of my arrival.

My parents were worried, I wasn't. But as my departure approached and their fears increased, it couldn't help but rub off a bit and so I placed duct tape over the American flag logo on my American Tourist suitcase. Now, as I write this, nine months later, I smile and shake my head at that small silly precaution.

## WHY THE MIDDLE EAST?

So why would we throw ourselves into what to many people appears to be a hotbed of danger in a region too often defined by conflict? Ryan, who came to Lebanon in February to work as the graphic designer for MEU, sums it up for all of us:

"I was working at a design firm in Chattanooga, Tenn., and I was doing very well for myself. But I wasn't fulfilled by what I was doing, and I knew that this position gave me the opportunity to pour myself into something meaningful." Continuing, he adds, "My relationship with God was reaching the point where I couldn't read the Gospels and justify the life I was living in America. The imperative to spread the Word of Salvation to the whole world is passed over so flippantly in the West, and I was tired of saying, 'we have missionaries for that.'"

Jenner says something similar, "I felt the burden in my heart to do missions overseas. Ultimately it was divine guidance that led me here."

I found out about the opportunity a few months after graduation. I was finishing up a summer internship in Chicago and beginning freelance work, reaching some version of post-graduation success. However, there was an intense discontentment inside of me as I started to imagine the rest of my life playing out in the direction I seemed to be heading.



Levon shared the same sentiments, and he knew already that he wanted to serve as a student missionary during the next academic year. He had visited Lebanon briefly after participating in a summer project in Jordan with Brian Manley, former associate professor of art at Andrews who now lives and works in Lebanon for the Middle East North Africa Union (MENAUI). Intrigued by his short experience in the Middle East, he was interested in returning.

Levon says, "When I saw the call to MEU and that it was work directly related to my undergraduate degree—photography, I jumped at the chance to be involved...it's an exciting time to work in the Middle East because the [region] is so relevant in the world today. It's home to one of the largest and fastest growing religions in the world. And what's scary is so much of the West misunderstands it all."

And it is true; the region is misunderstood. Growing up in the shadow of September 11 has fostered a strong interest in the Middle East within me, to understand the culture, the people and the religions. Ryan has felt a similar tug at his heart, "I've been interested in the region, its people, politics and religions...and this kind of immersive experience offers the only real opportunity to discover the true essence of a culture. My wish was to walk a mile—or kilometer—in their shoes and do whatever I could to build bridges between two cultures that are growing farther and farther apart."

**ABOVE:** A view of Beirut, Lebanon and the Mediterranean Sea taken from just by the MEU campus **BELOW:** Jenner Beccerra teaches religion to students at Bauchrieh Adventist Secondary School **BOTTOM:** Jason Lemon at a recruitment event for Middle East University



# I KNEW THAT THIS POSITION GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO POUR MYSELF INTO SOMETHING MEANINGFUL



**ABOVE:** Students walking on the MEU campus among the beautiful spring flowers **BELOW, TOP TO BOTTOM:** Levon Kotanko takes a photo to be used for marketing purposes; Ryan McCabe assists in the MEU Office of Communication; Brian Manley, right, socializes with a group of students in his classroom



## ON THE GROUND IN LEBANON

English is incredibly common in Beirut, and almost all Lebanese speak at least two languages, while many speak three: Arabic, English and French. Dunkin' Donuts and Starbucks seem to be on every street corner. New BMWs and Mercedes line the streets. Leaving the Beirut airport by taxi, the first advertisement I saw was for Kentucky Fried Chicken.

With all of this abundant Western influence, it becomes difficult to connect one's preconceived ideas with the reality of how Lebanon actually is. Within the first few weeks in Lebanon, my American friend—who was studying Arabic through Adventist Colleges Abroad at MEU—and I would often joke to each other, "I just forgot that I'm not in the United States." At the university, the way Muslims and Christians lived and worked side-by-side was a microcosm for what we saw throughout the country.

## WORKING WITHIN THE CULTURE

Jenner was quickly thrown into daily hands-on interaction with students at BASS. As the only religion teacher at the school, he taught religion courses to students ranging from the early years of elementary on up to the secondary level. "Since I had never been a teacher, it was a little difficult to say the least," he says. "I do not know what I would have done without the help of the leaders of the institution."

The school is home to a wide spectrum of students: missionary children, refugees, students who were kicked out of other schools and immigrant children as well. "These kids have a lot of things on their minds, and this is the reason why many times they don't try as much in school." This makes the environment challenging and even sad at times but he adds, "ultimately there is hope at the end of the day."

The work of Levon, Ryan and myself has been less hands-on with students. We spend most of the day in an office, working on various marketing and communication projects or internal university needs. Outside of work hours, though, we've been able to interact a great deal with students, especially the dorm students, many of whom come from Egypt, Jordan and South Sudan. Day students are mainly Lebanese and Armenian. Few students at the University are Seventh-day Adventists but most are Christians, along with several Muslim students.

"The University is very diverse, with students and faculty from all over the world," says Ryan. "In many ways it's very similar to Andrews, so the 'culture shock' has been much lighter than I expected."

Levon adds, "It's always been easier to get to know the students in the dorm because they are around more than the community students. A couple of friends I've been able to get to know better just by hanging out in the dorm or playing basketball at the courts." He also points out that people usually make a place significant saying, "I've made some great friends here. Some I work with, some are students, but all have made this experience so much better."

Our experience in Lebanon has given us a better understanding of a country and a culture that many fear. We have seen it beyond the negative media coverage that is all many other people know. We have become friends with the people—Muslims, Christians, Adventists, refugees, international students and immigrants—and learned from them while they have also learned from us.

Perhaps this is the core of the Student Missions program. It is not wholly about helping others but also about building bridges and understanding with other cultures. It is a growing experience for the missionary as much as it is for the people they interact with.

And as Levon points out, Andrews University goes above and beyond in promoting this kind of mission mindset. He explains, "Not only did [professors] encourage me to get involved, but they actually helped me figure out how to do it."

For him, along with the rest of us who came to Lebanon, this kind of encouragement changed our lives and our perspectives. We hope that our work here at MEU has done the same—at least in a small way—for the individuals we have had the privilege to interact with.

And that is exactly what makes this kind of experience so valuable, the personal interactions and the realization that what was once "the other" actually becomes a friend instead. It opens one's eyes fully to all the misunderstandings so pervasive in Western society and humanizes something that was once foreign. ■

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Jason Lemon (BA '12) is deputy director of communications at Middle East University in Sabtieh near Beirut, Lebanon. He will begin graduate studies at the American University of Beirut in the fall while continuing to work at MEU.

## Regional events



### Arlington, Texas

*Tuesday, May 21, 2013*

In spite of the heavy rain and threat of bad storms, we were delighted to have a nice turnout for our regional gathering in Arlington, Texas. David Faehner, vice president for University Advancement, Ryan Keough, development officer, and Tami Condon, director of Alumni Services, hosted about 40 alumni and friends at The Spaghetti Warehouse.

### Phoenix, Arizona

*Sunday, May 19, 2013*

About 20 alumni attended this regional event, including 2012 honored alumnus Max Taylor and his family. Audrey Castelbuono, associate vice president for development, Ryan Keough and Tami Condon hosted the event. We enjoyed the healthy menu options at Seasons 52, as alumni visited and shared their memories. Tami presented campus news and pictures, and we finished the program with a discussion on the new Wellness Center project, where Audrey took questions and recommendations from the group.

## Join us, the meal's on us!

There's nothing quite like an alumni gathering to catch up with an old roommate, visit with local alumni, or maybe even network with a local professional. Be sure and bring your family and invite fellow attendees too, because the more the merrier. We're all about staying informed and connected. To find out if there's an upcoming regional event near you, see the Alumni Calendar on page 23.



# Celebrating Our Legacy

**ALUMNI HOMECOMING**  
SEPTEMBER 26-29, 2013



**Highlights of the weekend will include:**

- Wes Christiansen Memorial Golf Outing
- Harvest Picnic and Wagon Tours
- Andrews Filipino International Association (AFIA) 20th year reunion
- 5K/10K Run and Fitness Expo  
*...and much more*

**Honored Alumni 2013**

**Russell Lonser (BA '90)**  
**Elizabeth Johnston Taylor (BS '84)**  
**Thor Thordarson (BA '85)**  
**Roy Vartabedian (BS '77)**

**To make arrangements for lodging:**  
Contact Guest Services at 269-471-3295  
or visitors@andrews.edu.

**Honor Class Reunions**

**1943, 1953, 1963, 1973,  
1983, 1988, 1993 AND 2003**

*Please go online to update your class member information and the missing classmates list.*

For up-to-date information, schedule of events, or to RSVP and access forms, please visit [alumni.andrews.edu/homecoming](http://alumni.andrews.edu/homecoming).

## Alumni calendar of events

For more information visit us online at [www.andrews.edu/alumni/](http://www.andrews.edu/alumni/) or contact the Office of Alumni Services at 269-471-3591 or [alumni@andrews.edu](mailto:alumni@andrews.edu).

### June

- 9 Indiana Regional Camp Meeting Event**  
5 p.m.  
Indiana Academy  
Cicero, Ind.
- 15 Wisconsin Regional Camp Meeting Event**  
5 p.m.  
Andrews University cabin  
Camp Wakonda, Westfield, Wis.
- 22 Michigan Regional Camp Meeting Event**  
5 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall, Cedar Lake Church  
Cedar Lake, Mich.
- 22 Lake Region Camp Meeting Event**  
5 p.m.  
Camp Wagner  
Cassopolis, Mich.

### July

- 27 Illinois Regional Camp Meeting Event**  
5 p.m.  
Camp Akita  
1684 Knox Rd, 1200 N, Gilson, Ill.

### August

- 3 UP Michigan Regional Camp Meeting Event**  
Immediately following lunch  
Camp Sagola  
Route 69, near Crystal Falls, Mich.
- 4 Combined Commencement Service**  
9 a.m.  
Pioneer Memorial Church  
Andrews University  
Berrien Springs, Mich.
- 8 ASI/Florida Regional Event**  
5 p.m.  
Rosen Shingle Creek Resort  
Orlando, Fla.  
We look forward to meeting with local alumni and those who will be attending the ASI Conference. More information will be available at the Andrews University booth for conference attendees.
- 14 Alumni Board of Directors Meeting**  
4:30 p.m.  
Conference Room, Griggs Hall  
Andrews University
- 18 Lend-a-Hand Move-In**  
Residence Halls, Andrews University  
Sign up to help new students

during this meaningful Orientation tradition. Two-hour shifts available throughout the day.

### September

- 11 Alumni Board of Directors Meeting**  
4:30 p.m.  
Conference Room, Griggs Hall  
Andrews University
- 26–29 Alumni Homecoming 2013**  
Andrews University  
We look forward to seeing you there! See facing page for further information.

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

### RSVP for an event

RSVP for the above gatherings online at AU&ME, our alumni community: [alumni.andrews.edu/rvsvp](http://alumni.andrews.edu/rvsvp).

## Who are alumni?

If you've attended, worked or taught at Andrews University we consider you alumni! And if you're a parent or a potential student considering Andrews, you're invited to be our honored guest at any of the above alumni gatherings.

L-R: Ruth Ann (Baldwin) Cottrell (MAT '61), Glenn D. Garbutt (BA '61), Bill Briggs (BSAS '83, BArch '86), Stanley Cottrell (BA '64), Bonnie Briggs (BBA '86)



Would you be interested in serving as a local host for an alumni gathering? Or maybe you'd be willing to sponsor an event in your area? How about serving on our Alumni Board of Directors? Connecting with students as a mentor? We'd love to hear from you! Email [alumni@andrews.edu](mailto:alumni@andrews.edu) or call 269-471-3591.



Rachel (Whitaker) &amp; Greg Cabose



The Lee family

## 1960s

**Bruce Campbell Moyer** (MA '64) retired as professor of world mission at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and associate director of the Institute of World Mission, responsible for training all Adventist missionaries. Prior to his service at Andrews University, he taught at Solusi University in Zimbabwe and Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University) and served for two years as the denominational spokesperson on HIV/AIDS, operating through the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).

Since retirement he has worked with a para-church mission organization, Gospel Outreach, overseeing a contextualized mission to Muslims on three continents. In addition to this responsibility he continues to mentor doctoral students at the Seminary. He and his wife, Shirley, continue to live in Berrien Springs, Mich.

## 1970s

**Leon C. Wilson** (MA '76), formerly the dean of Alabama State University (ASU) College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, has been promoted to ASU's interim provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

**Connie Collingsworth** (BA '79) was recently elected to the Board of Directors for Banner Corporation, the parent company of Banner Bank and Islanders Bank. Collingsworth serves as General Counsel and Secretary of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in Seattle, Wash., where she manages the Foundation's legal needs and has provided leadership in the areas of risk management, compliance and corporate governance. Since 2007, she has also served on the Foundation's Management Committee which is responsible for the development and execution of Foundation-wide strategy and policy and coordination of overall operations.

Collingsworth received her Juris Doctor from the University of Nebraska. She also earned a Master of Laws in international business legal studies from the University of Exeter in England.

## 1990s

**Rachel Whitaker** (BA '97) married Greg Cabose on Sept. 23, 2012, in Lansing, Mich. The Caboses reside in East Lansing, Mich., where they enjoy biking and other outdoor activities and are active in ministry at the Lansing Seventh-day Adventist Church. Rachel spent 10 years as associate editor of *Guide* magazine in Hagerstown, Md., and is now doing freelance writing and editing. She is pleased to have put her Andrews English (writing emphasis) major to use throughout her career!

## 2000s

Andrew D. Lee was born on March 7, 2013 to **Sarah (Spangler)** (BT '02) and **Martin Lee** (former staff). Sarah is a freelance photographer and graphic designer as owner of Ambient Light Studios. Martin runs an interactive design firm—Research + Design. They live in Berrien Springs, Mich., with their two-year-old daughter, Vania.

**Erica Russell** (BSELD '05), a fourth grade English teacher at Key Elementary School in Arlington, Va., was named the 2013 Arlington Public Schools Teacher of the Year. Russell is currently earning a master's in education in curriculum and instruction, specializing in English as a second language (ESL) from the American College of Education. She began her career with Volunteer REACH International in Honduras where she assisted in founding and managing a daycare facility for 30 inner-city children. She also helped develop programs for health awareness and early childhood development. Before joining Key Elementary in 2006, Russell was a math teacher at Lybrook Elementary School in Eau Claire, Mich. and at Milwood Elementary School in Kalamazoo, Mich.



## Deaths

**Joseph Perry Priest** (MA '72), 70, of Berrien Springs, passed away at Lakeland Regional Medical Center in St. Joseph on May 19, 2013. He was born to the late James and Josephine Priest on August 15, 1942, in Oliver Springs, Tenn.

Joseph received his BA in music from Southern Missionary College in 1970. In 1972 he earned his master's degree in English from Andrews University, where he also met his wife, Barbara Ann Swope. They were married on June 7, 1971.

Joe loved people and loved to talk. His deep bass voice always rang out in the crowd, whether making quips in the checkout line at the grocery store or sharing insights in Sunday morning Bible class. Joe was an accomplished pianist and vocalist, and a true lover of music. In his college days he worked in radio, first as a DJ at WNIL, later becoming program director of WAUS. Joe was also a stay-at-home father for his three sons. This was such a novelty at the time that in 1983 he appeared on the *Phil Donahue* TV show as a guest!

Although illness often confined Joe indoors, his interests ranged far and wide: tinkering with computers, writing poetry, and composing music were just some of his many hobbies. Joe was an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church & School in Berrien Springs, where he served as an elder and on the school board. Joe was a passionate lover of Scripture and enjoyed nothing more than sharing his Christian faith with anyone, anywhere.

Joseph is survived by his wife Barbara and three sons: Jonathan and his wife Beatrice of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Michael Priest and Jeremy Priest of Berrien Springs; and one granddaughter, Evelyn Priest.

**Wilfrida Ruiz** (MA '95), 91, died at her home in Berrien Springs on Sunday, May 19, 2013. Wilfrida was born October 12, 1921 in Ica, Peru, South America, the daughter of Felix Maximiano Tenorio and Austregilda Bendezu Tenorio. She married Clodomiro Ruiz Rodriguez on July 28, 1955 in Lima, Peru, and he preceded her in death on June 10, 1975.

She dedicated her life as an Adventist educator for 31 years in Peru, her native country. Her passion to educate children extended to her students' homes where she was also able to minister to their families. Her years of teaching extended from elementary to college level. In tune with her desire to minister, she accepted a summer position as women's dean. The students remember her as friendly and caring, gaining not only their love but their respect.



At the age of 53 she became a widow with two teenage daughters. Her determination, perseverance and unshakable trust in God were instrumental in finding the way to send her two daughters to the U.S. in June 1979. In 1981 she retired and moved to the U.S. to be with her daughters, first at Southwestern Adventist College in Keene, Texas, then at Loma Linda University, Riverside, Calif., but it was when they moved to Andrews University that she was able to fulfill a long-time goal to

complete her master's degree in religious education.

After she graduated from Andrews University she moved back to Texas where she had the opportunity to have her own radio program to reach the Spanish community. Her programs were mainly about the importance of a Christian education, health, family and prayer. Her radio program lasted only a year due to declining health, but her service and willingness continued to the end. She willingly attended the last four GC Sessions and still hoped to attend the next one in San Antonio. She loved her church and its mission—the salvation of souls for Christ.

Survivors include her two daughters, **Willyta** (Douglas) **Wamack** (MAYM '06, current staff) of Eau Claire, Mich. and **Luz Haydee Ruiz** (AA '85, BA '97, MDiv '00, current staff) of Berrien Springs, Mich.; three grandchildren, Tanya Wamack-Simpson, Heather Wamack-Hall, and Kimberly Wamack-Allen; five great-grandchildren; and her brothers, Raul Fernando Tenorio Bendezu.

**Neal C. Hamel** (BA '43) passed away at his home on April 15, 2013. He was born in 1921 in Abbotsford, Wis.

After graduating from Loma Linda Medical School and taking residencies at the University of Pennsylvania and Olive View Medical Center in Sylmar, he practiced medicine as a cardiothoracic surgeon in the San Fernando Valley for over forty years. He practiced primarily at Valley Presbyterian Hospital, where he served as Chief of Medical Staff in 1976, St. Joseph's Hospital, Holy Cross Hospital and Olive View Medical Center.

He was part of a team that performed the first open-heart surgery in the San Fernando Valley and was a founding

member of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons. Neal was also a veteran and served in the Army. He was honorably discharged as a Captain in 1949. He was also a very accomplished private pilot and was a flight doctor for the FAA. He flew many thousands of hours including flights to Costa Rica, Mexico, Baja California, Alaska, British Columbia and cross-country flights on many occasions. He was a charter member of the Association of Flying Physicians and served as president. He also spent time as a volunteer surgeon and instructor for Project Hope in Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and Ecuador.

He enjoyed fishing and pheasant and duck hunting with his faithful black lab.

Neal is survived by his wife Ann and children, Marcia Politi (Greg), Neal Halcyon, Ian, Lois Irene, Louis, and Jennie. He has four grandchildren. He is also survived by two brothers, **Lyle** (BS '49) of Waverly, W.V., and **Paul** (DIP2YR '40, BA '48, professor emeritus) of Berrien Springs, Mich.

**Vinamae Pearl (Clark) Losey** (DIP2YR '26) of Horton, Mich., passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her loving family on April 7, 2013, at the age of 108.

She was born Jan. 4, 1905, to William and Mary Clark in Battle Creek, Mich. At the age of 10 she joined the crowd at the Battle Creek Tabernacle on the day of Ellen White's funeral there.

She married Kenneth Losey in 1928 in South Bend, Ind. Before she was married she was a teacher for three years in a one-room schoolhouse. Her passion was teaching and learning and she often tutored children and adults.

After marriage she became a homemaker and a 4-H leader. She loved being outdoors; she enjoyed gardening, planting fruit

trees, and growing garden vegetables. She and Kenneth were beekeepers and Vinamae was known as “The Bee Lady.”

She was a lifelong member of the Seventh day Adventist Church and contributed her longevity to her vegetarian lifestyle and trust in God. She was the oldest alumna of Andrews University.

Pearl is survived by her children, **Florence (Laurence) Jerome** (BA '55), Joan (Carl) La Roe, **June Losey** (DIP2YR '62, BS '73), **Kenneth George (Betty) Losey** (MDiv '87); seven grandchildren; many great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Kenneth Losey, in 1974.



**Olav Michele LaBianca** (BA '64, MA '65), 89, was born July 29, 1923 in Oslo, Norway, an only child of his Swedish mother and Italian musician father. He died on March 13, 2013, in Springfield, Ore.

As a young man of 20 years, he contracted polio. During his recovery, he was treated by a physical therapist whose Christian witness convicted Olav to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church, a decision which would completely change his future. Olav's adult career path began with training as a physical therapist. It was around this time that

Olav met and married Kirsten Olsen. Together they began their family, which in the course of three years became complete with a daughter and two sons.

Though educated as a physical therapist, Olav was eager to work for the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a pastor. He began in Norway in 1952 as a literature evangelist and weekend pastor of small congregations along the western fjords. Because of his success in selling books and magazine subscriptions in sets, he was soon appointed as leader of the colporteur work for all of Scandinavia.

But Olav's sense of calling, which was rooted in his traumatic encounter with polio, was to the gospel ministry—to serving God as a full-time pastor. He was determined to qualify himself academically. This led him to study at Onsrud Skole in Norway, Newbold College in England, and eventually, after immigrating in 1962 to the United States with his family, at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Mich.

Olav and Kirsten's first post as a ministerial couple here in the United States was in Findlay, Ohio, where they set the pattern for the rest of their years of service. Theirs was to be a ministry devoted to empowering local congregations through building new or renovating old churches; strengthening local church schools; conducting evangelistic series; visiting church members and seekers; and opening their home nearly every Sabbath to church members and visitors. After leaving Ohio, they served similarly in Michigan, Wisconsin and Oregon. He served the Adventist Church for nearly 60 years.

Olav will be remembered for many things: his infectious smile, his enthusiasm for every-

thing and everyone he believed in, his pure delight in listening to Italian operatic music, his diligent practice on the trombone, his persistence in fighting the limitations resulting from polio, his daily reading and marking in his Bible, his unflinching conviction of God's leading in his and Kirsten's life, his gratitude and patience during his final months, and his devotion to his best friend and one true love, Kirsten.

He is survived by Kirsten, his wife for nearly 66 years; Anne-Mari, daughter; **Øystein** (BA '71, current faculty) and wife **Asta** (MA '08, current faculty), and **Tormod** (BA '73) and his wife **Jette** (BA '75), sons; Kristina, Sonja and Ane, granddaughters; **Erik** (BS '01), and his wife **Lisa** (BS '98, MA '02), Stian, **Aren** (BA '07, BS '08), Ivan and Theo, grandsons; and Leif, his great-grandson.

**Beverly Jeanne (Jorgensen) Soper** (BA '56) was born August 9, 1933. She was the only child of Raymond and Berniece Jorgensen. She died on May 2, 2013, only seven weeks after a cancer diagnosis on March 13, 2013.

She graduated high school from Wisconsin Academy and then attended Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) graduating in 1956 with her degree in elementary education. While attending EMC she met the love of her life, **Marley Huber Soper** (BA '58, MA '77). They were married in 1957 and were married for 55 years. Beverly began teaching school and Marley finished college.

The 1960s brought two children, Scott and Sheila. Marley was teaching at Stanton High School and Beverly was substitute teaching for the local elementary school. Then they moved from Stanton, Mich., to Wisconsin Academy located in Columbus, Wis. During the summers Beverly cared for the

children while Marley earned his master's degree in Library Science.

After six years at Wisconsin Academy they moved back to Michigan. They lived in Berrien Springs for 26 years while Marley worked in the James White Library and Beverly was primarily a stay-at-home mom. Later she began teaching elementary school and eventually she started the first daycare center at Andrews University. She loved planning events and trips for the family and camping outings with friends. One of her goals in life was to step foot in each of the 50 states—and she did!

For several years Beverly was the leader of the cradle roll Sabbath School at Pioneer Memorial Church. She loved working with little children.

Then Marley got a job offer at Florida Hospital College (now Adventist University of Health Sciences) and a new adventure started in Florida. For a few years Beverly worked as an assistant manager for a local RV campground. Then she retired from working but not from planning. She continued to plan cruise trips and excursions to see friends and family.

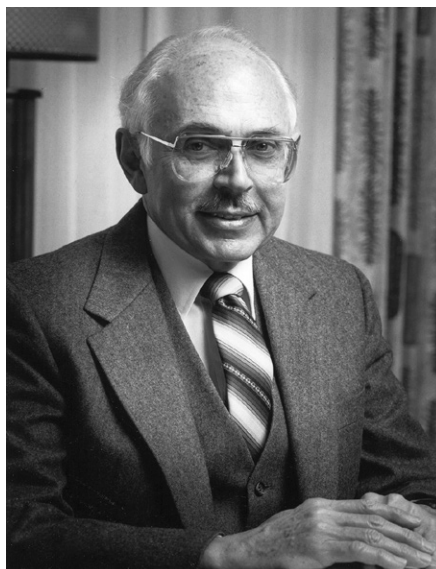
She is survived by her husband Marley, children Scott Soper and **Sheila (Soper) Evans** (BS '85), and three grandchildren: Alicia, Lorelle and Nicholas.

**Richard William Schwarz** (BA '49), 87, was born on Sept. 11, 1925, near Wataga, Ill., to and Mildred Imschweiler and George W. Schwarz. He died on May 16, 2013 in Hawaii.

After graduating from Broadview Academy in 1942, Schwarz attended Emmanuel Missionary College for a year. In the midst of WWII, he returned to the family farm in Illinois and received an Agricultural Deferment from the U.S. Government. In 1944 Dick and his cousin Dale went to the Great Lakes Naval Station northwest of Chicago for basic military training, after which he was dispatched to Madison, Wis., as a radioman. Upset with his refusal to work on Sabbath, he was sent to San Francisco for general sea duty. Schwarz found himself working in the Fleet Post Office for a Jewish supervisor who gave him Sabbaths off and allowed him to live in civilian housing. In 1945 Schwarz was sent to the Philippines, working in Fleet Post offices until the war ended. He was honorably discharged in 1946.

Schwarz graduated from EMC in 1949 with a major in history and minors in business, education and English. Following graduation he returned to Broadview Academy, where he taught history and business courses while serving as librarian and registrar and working on a master's degree in library science at the University of Illinois. On June 11, 1950, he married Joyce Frances Anderson. Their first child, Constance Kay Schwarz, was born on August 30, 1952. In 1953 they accepted a call to Adelphian Academy near Holly, Mich., where Dick taught government, history and economics while serving as assistant librarian. Here their son, Richard Paul Schwarz, was born on March 18, 1955. During his two years at Adelphian, Dick completed his Master of Science in Library Science in 1953 and worked as an assistant librarian at the Minneapolis Public Library.

In 1955 Schwarz began working at Andrews University as an assistant librarian and history economics instructor. After 1958, he taught full-time in the history department while Joyce taught art at the Village SDA School. During those years he taught the first Black History course ever offered at Andrews University, as well as graduate history courses. In 1959 he earned a Master of Arts in history at the University



Richard W. Schwarz

of Michigan and became an assistant professor of history. Their son Dwight Luther Schwarz was born on April 8, 1962. In 1964, Schwarz completed his PhD in history at the University of Michigan.

Schwarz became history department chair in 1966, a position he held for 11 years. In 1968 he was advanced to professor of history and two years later, his revised dissertation was published by Southern Publishing Association as John Harvey Kellogg, M.D. Schwarz also wrote a college-level Adventist history textbook, published in 1979 as *Light Bearers to the Remnant*.

Schwarz became vice president for Academic Administration in 1977. His administrative responsibilities took him to Africa, Mexico and the Caribbean as he consulted with educational institutions affiliated with Andrews University. During the summers, he taught workshops, codirected study tours of Europe, and maintained a rigorous scholarly schedule. In 1987, he resigned as academic vice-president and returned to teaching until his retirement in 1990.

Schwarz published numerous articles and book reviews in journals including *The Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, *Andrews University Seminary Studies*, *The Library Journal*, and the *Dictionary of American Biography*. He presented scholarly and professional papers at conferences nationwide, and was a member of many professional organizations including the

American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Alpha Theta, and Phi Kappa Phi.

In addition to his teaching, administrative and scholarly contributions, however, Schwarz dedicated his life to service. From 1971 to 1983 he served on the Board of Editors for Studies in Adventist History. He was frequently consulted by both the Kellogg Museum in Battle Creek, Mich., and the Ellen G. White Estate in Silver Spring, Md. For many years he served as a consulting editor for the *Adventist Heritage Magazine* and editor of the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Historians newsletter. Schwarz spoke often at local volunteer clubs as well as at the Dowagiac Human Relations Council. He also served as a deacon, Sabbath school superintendent, and Seminary Sabbath School teacher at Pioneer Memorial Church. He enjoyed gardening, traveling across America with his family, reading, and volunteering as a reference librarian at the Berrien Springs Community Library.

In 1994 Dick and Joyce moved to Hendersonville, N.C., near Fletcher Academy. During the next 13 years, Dick was an elder in the Fletcher Seventh-day Adventist Church, sat on the board of the Hendersonville Rescue Mission, and joined the Hendersonville Christian Business Men's Club. In 2007, Dick and Joyce joined their son Dwight and his wife Launnies in Kaneohe, Hawaii.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Joyce Frances (Anderson) Schwarz of Kaneohe, Hawaii; daughter **Connie (Schwarz) Smith** (BS '74) and her husband Roger Smith of Eau Claire, Mich.; son **Richard Schwarz II** (BS '77) and his wife Stephanie (VanWart) Schwarz of Visalia, Calif.; son **Dwight Luther Schwarz** (BBA '84) and his wife **Launnies (Reinholtz) Schwarz** (BS '84) of Kaneohe, Hawaii, as well as his grandchildren Kimberly, Chantel, Scott and Caitlin, and several great-grandchildren.

Donations may be made to the Richard Schwarz Memorial Fund at Andrews University. This fund will help to sustain and preserve the Andrews University Arboretum by purchasing commemorative trees. Online donations may be made at [andrews.edu/go/give](http://andrews.edu/go/give). Check and credit card donations may be mailed to: Andrews University, 8903 U.S. 31, Berrien Springs MI 49104-0660.

**Steven Parfitt Vitrano** (BA '45, MA '58), father, pastor, evangelist, missionary, educator, teacher and author, passed away on May 4, 2013 in Auburn, Calif.

Vitrano was born on Oct. 18, 1922, in New London, Wis. When he was four weeks old his family moved to Chicago where his father had been called to be the pastor of the Italian church. It was there that he met **Tony Castelbuono** (BA '48), who he considered one of his best lifelong friends and was fortunate to work together with at Andrews University for years. When his father fell ill 12 years later, Vitrano moved back to Milwaukee to live with an aunt and uncle and go to school at Boys Technical School. It was during his high school years that he worked on a dairy farm, a sawmill and in residential construction. The skills he learned helped him to build several churches and a personal residence in later life. During that time, he also traveled with a physician uncle to Texas and Mexico and seeing poverty at its worst had a significant impact in future life decisions.

Out of high school, his career plans were to be a graphic artist, but that changed when he committed to serving his church. He worked various jobs for two years until he had enough money to enroll at Emmanuel Missionary College.

After graduating in 1945, and marrying **Charlene Smith** (BA '46, MA '69) in 1946, Vitrano spent seven years as an evangelistic pastor in the Illinois Conference, serving as pastor of the Centralia church. It was there that he met Frank Vessels, who had also graduated from EMC and the two of them became like brothers, building the Centralia church and holding evangelistic series throughout the state. They could be best described as the Cliff Barrows (Frank) and Billy Graham (Steve) of the Adventist Church.

During that time, he felt the calling of the Lord to become a missionary and, beginning in 1952, he and Charlene spent five fulfilling and enjoyable years in India. While there, he was the ministerial secretary of the Northwest India Union and pastor of the New Delhi Church. As a result of his evangelistic efforts, one of his many converts established more than 50 churches in the region. His house was full of Indian me-



Steven P. Vitrano

mentos and his files were full of letters from those he came into contact with during that time, including the family servant who also converted to Seventh-day Adventism.

In 1957, with every intent to return to the mission field after a yearlong furlough, he completed his MA at the Seminary in Takoma Park, Md. While there, he received an invitation to become a faculty member at his alma mater, which he couldn't resist primarily due to the influence of one of his other professors at EMC, Edwin Thiele.

Beginning in 1958 and for the next 40 years, he served EMC, later renamed Andrews University, as a professor of religion and philosophy, serving both in the Religion Department and the Theological Seminary. During his long tenure, in which he delighted in preparing students for the ministry, he was chair of the Department of Religion, director of Field Education, chair of the Department of Church & Ministry and, for a short time, served as acting dean of the Seminary. His files were similarly filled with letters of appreciation and requests for references from the leading preachers in the Church and it would be safe to say that, for a while, not one Adventist preacher in the nation, dare say even the world, had not come under the tutelage and guidance of Steven Vitrano.

During his time at Andrews, he worked on his doctorate at Michigan State University during the summers and took a 15-month

sabbatical in 1962 to complete work on his dissertation, entitled "The Chicago Sunday Evening Club: A study in Contemporary Preaching." It was later published by that organization as *An Hour of Good News*. Vitrano authored more than four other books on preaching and wrote numerous articles appearing in both Adventist and non-Adventist religious periodicals, the last one as late as 2009. He had several sermons in the series of books entitled *Best Sermons*, which were printed in the late 1980s. He loved discussing hermeneutics and homiletics with contemporaries and was a member of the Academy of Homiletics.

He technically left the tenured employment of Andrews University in 1988 as a professor emeritus in Preaching, Worship and Evangelism, but continued as a contract teacher until full retirement in 1998, when he moved to Auburn to be closer to family. Even then, he served his church by teaching at Weimar Institute up the road in Colfax, Calif., as well as serving on its board of directors.

Vitrano was buried on June 9, 2013, next to his beloved Charlene, whom he was married to for 60 years. Charlene preceded him in death in 2006 but not before they fulfilled a promise made to each other in their 20s to roller skate at the age of 80. A roller rink in Roseville, Calif., opened early and played "Unforgettable" while Steve and Charlene skated, hand-in-hand, around the rink.

He leaves behind a sister, **Ruth Merkel** (BA '89, former staff); three children, a daughter, Joyce Dirnberger and sons **Edwin** (BS '73) and **Roger** (BA '82); six grandchildren (Marc, Brian, Alle, Amy, David, Douglas) and three great-grandchildren. Fittingly, **Roy Castelbuono** (BA '79, MDiv '83, DMin '01), Tony's son, officiated at the graveside service.

The following was found in a biographical sketch in his files. "Teaching at Andrews University for 40 years is, to a major degree, the story of my life. For me, it could not have been better. Andrews will always be 'at home' to me. A wonderful place...a wonderful life."

**Allan R. Buller** (BA '41), 95, of Worthington, Ohio, passed away at home Saturday, March 23, 2013, holding the hand of his wife Mickey and surrounded by other family.

He was born Dec. 2, 1917, in Morse, Sask., Canada to the late Jacob and Stella Buller, who later emigrated to South Dakota and then Michigan.

Allan attended grade school in Michigan, graduated from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, and later received an MBA at Ohio State University. He served in the U.S. Army during WWII as a staff sergeant. At 24, and supervising a staff of 8, he accomplished in 1 month the complete stocking of a 1,400-bed military field hospital

He married college sweetheart Mildred Elizabeth Walberg in 1942. After the war, they moved to Worthington for Allan's new job at Worthington Foods, where he joined an innovative team of pioneers in the vegetarian food industry. He was CEO of Worthington Foods when he retired in 1985, and continued with the company on their Board of Trustees.

He was a longtime member of the Worthington Seventh-day Adventist Church and was instrumental in planning and

building both churches and the associated school.

Allan was a great accomplisher; he worked hard and played hard. He was a fan of any OSU Buckeye team, and was a lifelong golfer, once playing in a dream foursome with Jack Nicklaus and Bob Hope.

He was a founding member of the Worthington Prayer Breakfast, and a member of the Worthington Chamber of Commerce, Lions, Rotary Club, Harding Evans Foundation and many other organizations. He was involved in a wide range of charitable projects, too many to list; all were close to his heart.

He was a great traveler; with his wife, he traveled to 50 states and 48 countries on six continents. He was very active in hiking, camping, and planning the famous "annual family vacation." He enjoyed carpentry, a skill he learned from his father. He kept an immaculate yard and was proud to win "Yard of the Month."



Allan Buller, for whom Buller Hall was named, at the dedication of the building on July 29, 2011

Allan was a devoted and loving son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, uncle and friend. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Lloyd Buller and sisters, **Verda Trickett** (BA '44) and Bertha Steeger. He is survived by his beloved wife of 70 years, **Mickey** (DIP2YR '39, BA '41); daughters C.B. Buller, Jann Buller (John Curran), Suzy Juarros (Thom), and son Allan "Al" G. Buller; and grandchildren, Amanda Crump, Sierra Juarros (Chris Arnett), and Savannah Juarros.

**Edith C. Davis** (MA '65), 99, of Berrien Springs, died on Wednesday, May 1, 2013, at Lakeland Specialty Hospital in Berrien Center, Mich. Edith was born April 5, 1914, in Hyde Park, Vt., the daughter of Harry and Alice (Holbrook) Davis.

She received her elementary education in a one-teacher school in the small community of Garfield in the town of Hyde Park. Her junior high and high school years were spent in the village of Hyde Park at Lamoille Central Academy, graduating in 1931.

Edith earned her Bachelor of Arts in 1935 at Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Mass., with majors in English, Bible and education. After graduation, she taught elementary and junior-high church schools in Maine, then served as Bible instructor in the Northern New England Conference from 1938–42. During that time their district of seven churches was without a pastor for six months and she was asked to pastor the district. This including taking three church services each Sabbath, meeting with

the church boards and instructing local elders on how to conduct communion.

She responded to a call to teach at Middle East College in Beirut, but because of wartime, the trip to Lebanon via South America took 11 months. She studied Arabic en route. She taught at the college from 1945–1960 and also served as dean of women, principal of the elementary and secondary schools, and chair of the education and languages departments. In 1950 she received her master's degree from Pacific Union College in Angwin, Calif., with a major in education and a minor in English.

She came to Andrews Academy in 1962,



Edith C. Davis

where she taught English with distinction until 1985. She was one of two first women elders in the Village Seventh-day Adventist Church, where she held membership for 33 years.

In 1965 she was granted her master's from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich., with a major in English and a minor in education. To receive teacher's certification, she took postgraduate work at Andrews University in history, speech, and journalism.

Edith dedicated her life to teaching and mentoring, both in formal and non-formal settings, serving her church as teacher, Bible instructor, pastor, dean of women and missionary—making a difference in hundreds of lives.

**Reger Cutting Smith** (BA '49) was born on Oct. 19, 1926, to Rothacker and Pearl Smith in Conneaut, Ohio. He died on March 6, 2013, in Berrien Springs, Mich.

When he was six months old his mother died, and Eleanor Williams became his stepmother and truly his mother. The youngest of three boys, Reger was known for his intellect and individuality, and loved displaying his knowledge by using big words. His experience with Christian education began at Adelphian Academy in Holly, Mich., and continued at Emmanuel Missionary College in Berrien Springs, Mich.

After one year of college Reger was inducted into the U.S. Army and served one year. At the age of 19 he returned to EMC to continue his education. His father, a minister with the Lake Region Conference, was assigned to a new congregation in nearby Benton Harbor. He told Reger about one of the newly baptized young ladies, someone he thought “was just the type of future wife he was looking for.” Upon meeting Katherine Baker, then 16, Reger wholeheartedly agreed with his Dad and courted her for four years. Reger graduated with a BA in English with minors in French, education and history in 1949, and married Katherine in 1950. To this union was born Merridith, Reger Jr., Marjorie and Susan. All four children are graduates of Andrews University. This marriage lasted for 63 years.

Following graduation, Reger became a principal/teacher at a 10-grade Adventist church school, first in Inkster and then in Cassopolis, Mich. After five years of teaching, he was required to go back to school to maintain his teacher certification. He had no money. His salary as a church school teacher was \$35 dollars per week; when he married, his salary was raised to \$36.50. The State of Michigan was offering to help pay for a master's in social work in exchange for five years of service. Reger earned a Master of Social Work from Michigan State University in 1960 while at the same time, from 1954–1962, he worked for the Michigan Department of Social Services.

From 1962–1964 he headed a branch of a state-wide adoption agency, and also worked for the Children's Aid Society. In 1964 the family moved to Arizona, where he was a social worker for the Bureau of Indian



Reger C. Smith

Affairs on the Pima Indian Reservation, near Phoenix. From 1966–67 he accepted an offer to develop and head a multiservice center in Phoenix as a part of the War on Poverty. This center was unique in that it offered 17 services, housed under one roof, and provided free transportation.

In 1967, Andrews University invited Reger to develop a social work program. He was half-time faculty, teaching in the Behavioral Sciences department. During the other half-time, he directed the Tri-County Community Action Program of Southwestern Michigan, another War on Poverty Program in Benton Harbor, Mich. active in the 1960s, and also worked as a counselor for the Samaritan Counseling Center in St. Joseph, Mich. He later taught part-time at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, and began working on his doctorate at Michigan State University in Lansing, Mich. In 1978 he earned his PhD, an interdisciplinary doctorate in the areas of social work, sociology and anthropology. He was also a licensed marriage and family therapist, with a private practice. He and Katherine, also a social worker, conducted many seminars on marital growth and development throughout the United States and Bermuda.

He wrote more than a dozen articles for lay journals and authored a book, *Two Cultures, One Marriage*, on premarital counseling for mixed marriages. From 1967–1979 he

taught at Andrews where he developed the undergraduate social work program, one of the first in an Adventist college to receive accreditation, and he then began the development of the graduate program.

During 1980–1988 he left the teaching of social work to become the vice president for Student Affairs. In 1989 he returned to the social work department to reactivate the dormant BSW program, leading it through another successful accreditation process two years later. He was a major driving force in the establishment of the MSW program, which was completed after his retirement.

Being an active church member was important to him. Throughout his adult life he was a deacon, head elder, choir director, Earliteen Sabbath School leader, and pathfinder director. He and Katherine were the first couple to serve as co-head elders at Pioneer Memorial Church, which they faithfully did for eight years. They then served as church social workers for seven years. Reger also taught the same Sabbath School class for 25 years, with Katherine serving as hostess and outreach planner. He enjoyed being a member of PMC for 45 years. In the community he was chair of the board for the Adventist Community Services Center, and was instrumental in developing it into the current Neighbor to Neighbor. He retired from Andrews in 1996 but continued to teach until 1998. In 2001, Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Ill., invited him to serve as chair and teacher of their social work department while they sought program accreditation. He commuted and stayed three days each week for five years. In 2006 they received their accreditation and he retired for the second time, at the age of 80.

He is survived by his wife, **Katherine (Baker)** (BA '71); two daughters, **Marjorie (Russell) Bates** (BS '79, current staff) and Susan Smith; his oldest brother, **Rothacker (Dorothy) Smith** (BA '49) of Huntsville, Ala.; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his daughter, **Merridith Smith-Dickerson** (BS '74) in 1998; his son, **Reger (Sonny) C. Smith Jr.** (BS '76) in 2008, and his middle brother, **Nelson** (BA '56), in 2007.

Charitable bequests.  
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Photo by Christa Betts, IMC student photographer

As part of International Student Week, the annual International Student Sabbath was held April 6, 2013, at Pioneer Memorial Church. The colorful procession of international flags carried by students dressed in native attire added to the celebration of the diversity in God's family represented at Andrews University.