

# FOCUS

THE ANDREWS UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

SPRING 2024  
Vol 60 No 2

PG 6—New Global Campus  
PG 9—Spring Graduation  
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PG 25—Griggs International Academy



# A Season of Change: Looking to the Past and the Future

John Wesley Taylor V, *president*

SPRING! THE WORD CONVEYS IMAGES of a vivid landscape awakening from winter, with warm breezes, green grass and a kaleidoscope of flowers. Spring also denotes a time of rebirth and renewal, reflecting the exciting transformations happening at Andrews University as we focus on fulfilling our mission with excellence and creativity.

This year, 2024, is a wonderful opportunity for our Andrews University family—faculty, staff, students, leaders and our treasured alumni—to embrace new and exciting prospects. While we look forward to the future with confidence in God's guidance and blessing, it's also important to reflect on our legacy, our beginnings in 1874. Precisely 150 years ago, a group of early Adventist believers came together to fulfill their dream of establishing a training school to support the Gospel Commission. That institution is now Andrews University.

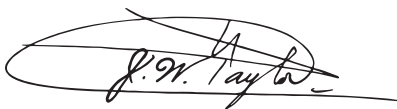
Today, we continue that mission by guiding young hearts and minds to a stronger walk with God, a passion for mission and a desire to change the world around them. We invite you to celebrate these past 150 years and join us in creating an environment where minds are nurtured and future leaders are prepared to fulfill God's mission. Andrews has much to be proud of, and even more to look forward to, as we shape the students entrusted to us. We ask for your prayers as we celebrate

this sesquicentennial year: *Founded in Faith. Forward in Mission.*

In this spring issue of FOCUS, you'll find updates on some of the latest achievements by our students and faculty; an introduction to our new assistant to the president for Mission & Culture, Willie Hucks; a farewell to our provost, who takes up his responsibilities as president of La Sierra University; and a look at Griggs International Academy and its global impact. We also feature profiles of Andrews faculty selected to receive the J.N. Andrews Medallion, the highest University honor our faculty can receive. Additionally, you can find a schedule of upcoming Alumni events—I encourage you to connect with our Alumni team in person or online at [alumni.andrews.edu](http://alumni.andrews.edu) to ensure they have the latest information on your life events and experiences.

Finally, I personally ask you to join me in praying for all our faculty and staff as they prepare for the new school year and for our students as they seek to fulfill God's purpose in their lives. Your support is deeply appreciated, and your prayers are cherished by each one on campus.

Enjoy the beauty of spring as you read this issue of FOCUS, and may God continue to bless you abundantly.



World Changers Made Here.

# FOCUS

THE ANDREWS UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

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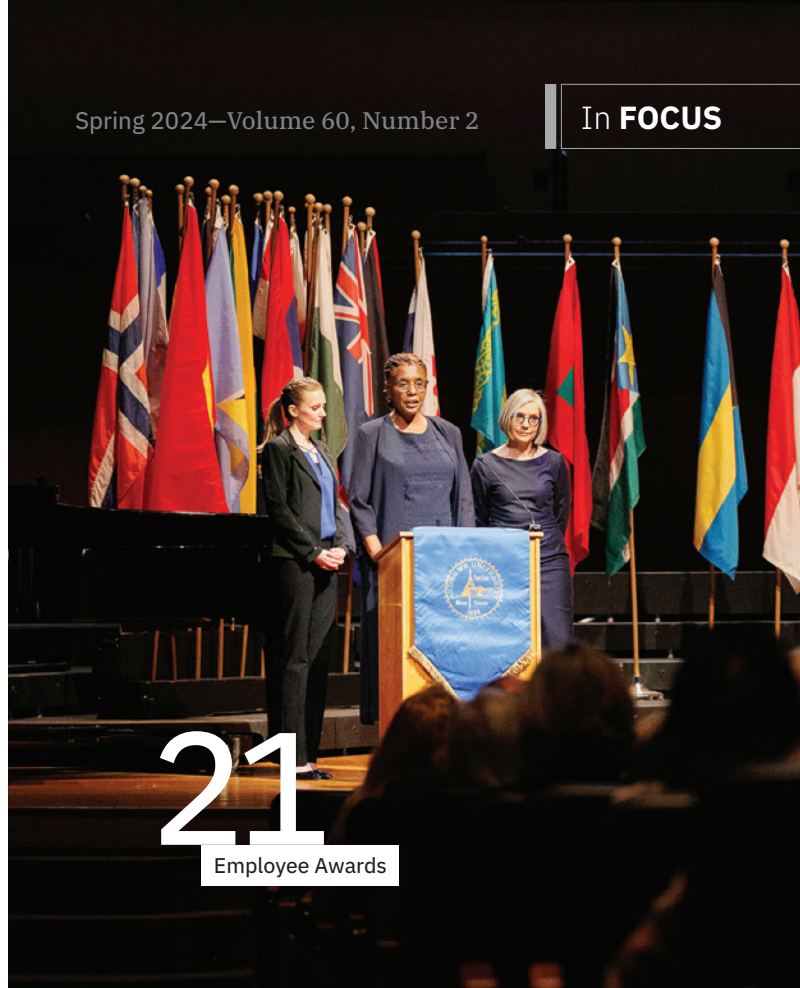
FOCUS (ISSN 1077-9345) is published quarterly, free of charge, for alumni and friends of Andrews University, an institution owned and operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The magazine's address is FOCUS, Office of University Communication, Andrews University, 8903 US Hwy 31, Berrien Springs MI 49104-1000. Copyright © 2024 by Andrews University. Reproduction in whole or part without permission is prohibited. Printed by Holland Litho Printing Service, Zeeland MI. Periodicals postage paid at Berrien Springs MI, and at additional mailing offices. Please send address changes to FOCUS Magazine, Office of Alumni Services, Andrews University, 8714 E Campus Circle Drive, Berrien Springs MI 49104-0950, email [alumni@andrews.edu](mailto:alumni@andrews.edu) or call 269-471-3591.



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**6**  
Global Campus



**21**  
Employee Awards

## Features

### 6 New Andrews University Global Campus

Andrews is set to begin serving students worldwide in this rebranded capacity for the 2024–2025 academic year.

### 21 Employee Awards Celebration: 150 Years of Andrews University

Andrews employees were honored at a special event that also launched the 150th anniversary year of Andrews University.

### 25 Griggs International Academy: A Church Bell for the World

*by Ben Kreiter and Deirdré Wilkens*

Griggs, an online distance education school, provides an educational experience grounded in Adventist beliefs.



**25**  
Griggs International Academy

Cover: The Battle Creek Bell, cast in 1875, displayed at the Employee Awards Celebration  
Photo credit: Darren Heslop (BFA '12, current staff)

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## Andrews designated a Minority Serving Institution

*Now eligible for various benefits*

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY HAS ONCE again been designated a Minority Serving Institution (MSI) by meeting criteria set forth by the U.S. Department of Education for services offered to minority populations, making the University eligible for various academic and financial benefits.

The University is now one of the 735 colleges and universities in the U.S. distinguished as MSIs, as defined by the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008. It also qualifies under the U.S. Department of Education as an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI).

Padma Tadi Uppala, associate dean for research and creative scholarship in the College of Health & Human Services and professor in the School of Population Health, Nutrition & Wellness, helped secure the University's standing as an MSI. A new application is submitted each year. She shares that the MSI distinction not only provides financial help to students but also provides a portion of financial relief for Andrews University as an organization. For the last several years, Andrews has also been eligible to accept Federal Pell Grants, designated for "undergraduate students who display exceptional financial need," according to the Federal Student Aid's website. Uppala notes that Andrews has either received an MSI designation or Pell Grant eligibility every year since 2019, which has allowed Andrews to compete for U.S. Department of Education grants, including one received in 2020 for \$2.25 million.

Cynthia Gammon, associate director of Student Financial Services, says, "The MSI title designation, received thanks to Padma Uppala and her efforts, allows Andrews University a waiver of the use of institutional funds. The amount of institutional funds we would have needed to spend without this support would have been \$78,933 toward work-study and \$83,064 toward SEOG [Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants] for the 2023–2024 aid year."

Examples of opportunities for Andrews University faculty and students include:

- Partnering with the U.S. Department of the Interior for volunteerism, diverse hiring, grants and scholarships
- Participating in the Minority University Research and Education Project (MUREP), which provides financial assistance and awards to Minority Serving Institutions
- Accessing NASA diversity workforce programs, including internships and fellowships
- Engaging with interactive education and outreach programs through the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

Uppala calls upon students to take the initiative to seek out opportunities for minority populations on campus. She hopes to see a student council composed of minority student leaders help promote the various existing opportunities and forge paths for new ones.

This MSI status will be in effect from July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025.



Visit Andrews University's YouTube channel to view Week of Prayer, AUGather, Spring Graduation and more. [andrews.edu/go/youtube](https://andrews.edu/go/youtube)

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### Don't forget to write

#### Letters 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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# World Changers Made Here.

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Change It Up  
Day 3.0, May 15



# LIFE ON CAMPUS



Tiny Desk Concert, Feb. 14

Student Involvement, Leadership & Activities Winter Festival, Jan. 27



Andrews University Theatre Wing "You Can't Take It With You," Feb. 25



Cardinal Yearbook  
Release Party, April 25

Honors Scholars and Undergraduate Research Poster Symposium, March 1



Founder's Day  
Celebration,  
March 11

Adventist Intercollegiate Association Conference, April 4-7



Andreasen Indoor  
Triathlon, Feb. 25





# New Andrews University Global Campus

*Continues Andrews' rich international tradition*

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY IS SET TO LAUNCH its Global Campus and begin serving students worldwide in this rebranded capacity for the 2024–2025 academic year.

With a long history of enrolling international students on the main campus in Berrien Springs and at partner institutions abroad, a global perspective has always been central to Andrews University's ongoing support of the world mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church through educational outreach.

This rich international tradition, together with its strong online and adult completion programs carried over in the 2011 merger with Griggs University, has equipped Andrews University to meet the post-pandemic demand for online and hybrid learning options that are globally accessible. A global campus model, which normalizes interaction between students and faculty from around the world through various learning modes and platforms, is the logical next step.

The Andrews University Global Campus emerges from restructuring several schools, programs and centers within the College of Education & International Services (CEIS) to bring a revitalized focus to the many Andrews University students, both international and domestic, who may never set foot on the Berrien Springs campus. Alayne Thorpe, CEIS dean and associate provost for graduate education, sees the Global Campus as an important new avenue for the University to "provide a resource and presence for students and

programs that are too often in the shadow of residential students."

Specifically, the Global Campus will streamline operations, coordinate efforts and prioritize representation of these students by bringing together the Adult Degree Completion Center, Center for Continuing Education, Center for Digital Learning and Instructional Technology, Griggs International Academy, the Office of International Student Services & Programs, and the Office of Off-campus Programs.

These previously distinct units will now overlap as a single University entity to serve both international and domestic students who may come to the Berrien Springs campus for part of their academic programs or may never come to the main campus at all. Janine Lim, associate dean for Online Higher Education, observes, "As delivery modes blur and all types of learning use digital methods and resources, it makes sense to tighten the

**A global campus model, which normalizes interaction between students and faculty from around the world through various learning modes and platforms, is the logical next step.**

relationship between Andrews University's online and international activities."

The Global Campus will indeed help navigate the University's continued international reach, ranging from student visa and immigration guidance to overseeing the implementation and maintenance of international partnerships. But it will also acknowledge the now blurred line between domestic and international perspectives when it comes to off-campus learning options made possible by digital technologies.

Adult students needing degree completion programs and flexible learning options are at the nexus of these two perspectives. Glynis Bradfield, director of the Adult Degree Completion Center, anticipates that "the Global Campus will enable continuous improvement in service to the growing number of students who study part-time while working full-time, engaged in their communities and families, with very different expectations of student life than students in residence."

Above all, the new Andrews University Global Campus will bring much-needed attention to Andrews University students who, in studying from a distance, have existed for too long on the periphery of learning and engagement while having so much to contribute to their Andrews University family.

For more information about the Andrews University Global Campus, visit [andrews.edu/go/globalcampus](https://andrews.edu/go/globalcampus).

# Provost Arthur to serve as president of La Sierra University

*Beginning July 1*

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY PROVOST Christon Arthur has accepted the invitation to serve as the sixth president of La Sierra University in Riverside, California. He will begin his new role on July 1.

“Through his heartfelt service at Andrews University over the past 14 years, Dr. Arthur has forged a meaningful legacy,” says John Wesley Taylor V, president. “The varied initiatives he has led have demonstrated a passion for excellence and a deep commitment to Andrews University. We are thankful for Dr. Arthur’s leadership and contributions to Andrews, and we pray for God’s special blessing in this new responsibility.”

Christon Arthur began serving as the provost of Andrews University in July 2016. In that role, he oversaw the academic programs and operations of the University, as well as campus and student life. During his tenure, he was instrumental in establishing the Center for Teaching Excellence, the Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, the Career Center, and the Center for Vocation and Calling.

Prior to his appointment as provost, he served as associate provost since 2012, with responsibilities for faculty policy and faculty development, and as dean of the School of Graduate Studies & Research since 2010.

Alayne Thorpe, dean of the College of Education & International Services and associate

“Dr. Arthur brought to his leadership at Andrews University a deep integrity and a commitment to making Andrews University accessible to all students.”

provost for graduate education, says, “Dr. Arthur brought to his leadership at Andrews University a deep integrity and a commitment to making Andrews University accessible to all students. His care for students and faculty led to initiatives that enriched campus life and provided additional resources for both undergraduate and graduate students and faculty. We know that his ministry of care will continue at La Sierra University. The prayers of the Andrews University community go with him.”

Arthur is also a graduate of Andrews, earning his BA in theology in 1990, MA in education in 1995, EdS in curriculum and instruction in 1999 and PhD in educational administration & supervision in 2000.

Now, while a formal search process takes place, Wagner Kuhn, currently associate dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, has been appointed as interim Chief Academic Officer.



From Top, L–R: Farewell for Christon and Carmelita Arthur, 2024 ■ Fall Week of Prayer, 2017 ■ United Way Skid Steer Rodeo, 2018 ■ The Official 2021 Andrews Presidential Axe Throwing Competition ■ Christon Arthur, 2024

# Andrews becomes a Hispanic-Serving Institution

*Currently, the first and only school in the state of Michigan to receive such designation*

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY WAS RECENTLY designated as a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU). Currently, Andrews is the first and only school in the state of Michigan to receive such designation.

In addition to recognizing support and appreciation for the Hispanic students on campus, being a Hispanic-Serving Institution provides Andrews with opportunities to further serve Hispanic students in higher education. It enables the University to apply for grants that can be utilized to increase accessibility to education and support Hispanic students throughout their college careers. The HACU also offers external scholarships, advancement programs, internships and other forms of support to Hispanic students across the country.

“Being an HACU member opens doors for undergraduate and graduate summer internships with the federal government in museums, parks, Senate, Congress, the IRS, immigration and many more,” Pedro Navia, chair of the Department of International Languages & Global Studies, elaborates. “Hispanic students from all majors can apply and participate.” The designation can also benefit faculty members doing research or community projects within the Hispanic community.

Navia, who also serves as the sponsor for the Andrews University Latino Association (AULA), headed the application process for this designation. “The HACU used our fall semester numbers for Hispanics enrolled at both undergraduate

and graduate levels, which were between 24%–25% with a steady pattern of continued growth,” he says.

As Andrews continues to hold a ranking as one of the most ethnically diverse campuses in the nation, it is important to recognize the diverse people groups that are represented on campus, both among students and employees. Recent graduate Brandon Alvarez, who served as president of the Andrews University Latino Association during the 2023–2024 school year, notes his appreciation

“... I feel my culture is represented on campus, and to me, that is so comforting. It helps me feel like this is a place that I belong.”

for the numerous Hispanic student clubs and religious organizations found in the campus community, such as AULA, Makarios Ministry and Genesis Fellowship. “It really opens up the doors for Hispanic students to get involved and celebrate their origins,” he shares.

In addition to clubs and organizations, the University offers several scholarships for students of Hispanic descent. Andrews also recognizes Hispanic Heritage Month, which falls between Sept. 15 and Oct. 15 each year. In 2023, the campus community celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month under the theme “Estamos Unidos,” meaning “We Are United.” Programming included church services, vespers services, educational courses, a Night Market, Spirit Week activities and a Noche Latina program. Each event honored the diversity within the Andrews University community.

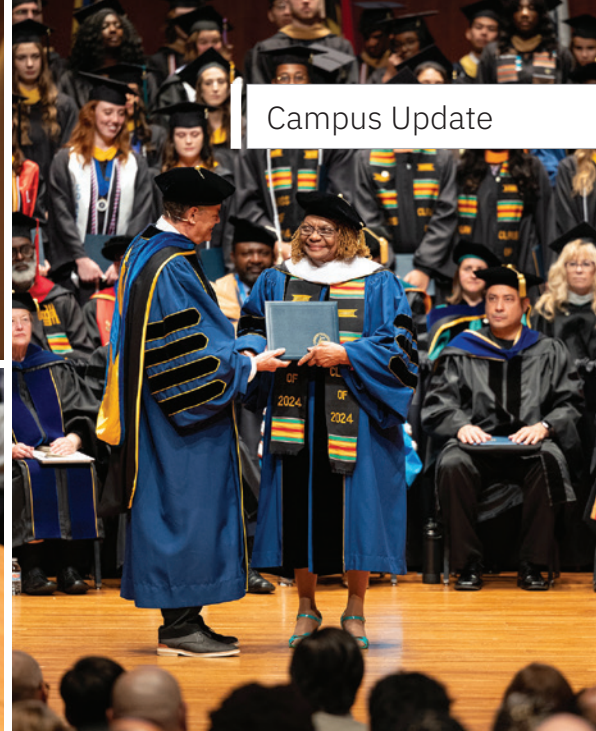
“Andrews has set up so much support for the Hispanic community that resides here,” says senior elementary education major Amanda Orosco, who is of Mexican and Dominican heritage. “From the undergraduate and graduate clubs to even the food served at the cafeteria, I feel my culture is represented on campus, and to me, that is so comforting. It helps me feel like this is a place that I belong.”

In the next few months, a website will be established with more information about and resources from the Hispanic-Serving Institution designation.

*A member of the Andrews University Latino Association (AULA) at spring graduation 2024*







**LEFT TO RIGHT, TOP:** Jo Ann Davidson at Commencement on Friday ■ Jim Micheff at a Sabbath Baccalaureate ■ Honorary degree candidate Dorothea Robinson ■ **MIDDLE:** Mickey Kutzner at Commencement on Sunday ■ **BOTTOM:** Honorary degree candidate Donovan Noble ■ Commemorating Andrews' 150th anniversary



# Spring graduation

From May 3–5

DURING ANDREWS UNIVERSITY'S SPRING graduation, 257 students were awarded undergraduate degrees, and 358 students were awarded graduate degrees. Overall, about 387 students received their degrees in person. The weekend's events included a Friday evening Commencement service, Baccalaureate services on Sabbath morning and two additional Commencement services on Sunday morning. Additional academic and cultural programs took place throughout graduation weekend.

On Friday, May 3, Jo Ann Davidson, senior research professor of systematic theology, spoke at Commencement for the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and the College of Education & International Services. Her talk was titled "One Last Time." Davidson was the first woman to teach in the Department of Theology & Christian Philosophy in the Seminary.

Honorary degree candidate Donovan Noble, president of Maranatha Volunteers International, was recognized at this service for his dedication to mission

and support of churches, schools and communities around the world. Noble became president of Maranatha in 1983. He has since spent over four decades leading construction projects in 88 countries and has involved nearly 100,000 volunteers in mission service.

On Saturday, May 4, Jim Micheff, president of the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, offered the address "World Changers" for the graduate and undergraduate Baccalaureate services. Before his presidency, Micheff was executive secretary for the Michigan Conference and previously served as youth director and as a local pastor.

Two Commencement services took place on Sunday, May 5, with the first for graduates of the College of Health & Human Services and College of Professions. Alayne Thorpe, dean of the College of Education & International Services and associate provost for graduate education, shared a Commencement address on behalf of Annetta Gibson, professor emerita of accounting. The message was

titled "Mind the Verbs." Before retiring from Andrews in 2013, Gibson served as a professor, department chair and dean of the School of Business.

Honorary degree candidate Dorothea Robinson was honored at this service for her dedication to mentoring young people and preparing them for lives of service around the world. Robinson spent her career as a nursing professional and educator. Over the course of her life, she has given special support to many youth ministries within the church and advanced several educational initiatives for students.

The second Commencement service was for graduates of the College of Arts & Sciences. Mickey Kutzner, professor emeritus of physics, delivered the address "Terminal Degree." He began work at Andrews in 1989 and continued to serve both Andrews and Griggs University until his retirement in 2022.

Central graduation events are available to view on the Andrews University YouTube channel.

## ELLEN WHITE ISSUES SYMPOSIUM

*Held virtually on April 1*

THE 2024 ELLEN WHITE ISSUES SYMPOSIUM AIMED TO break new ground in understanding Ellen G. White and issues relating to her life, ministry and prophetic gift.

The event featured six presenters: the vice director of the White Estate, three Ellen G. White Research Center directors and two graduate students. Each paper presentation was followed by a prepared response from a doctorate-level scholar with related expertise.

Attendance varied throughout the sessions from 60–90 individuals and included Andrews University students and employees, Lake Union Conference pastors, and viewers from the Ellen G. White branch and research center network worldwide.

Sessions were facilitated by two Andrews doctoral students who also invited questions from viewers. The questions were addressed during a panel discussion at the close of the symposium.

Denis Kaiser, symposium coordinator and associate professor of church history in the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, says, “We hope to inspire a fascination with faithful authenticity in the research of the person, life, and writings of Ellen White.”

The symposium was sponsored by the Center for Adventist Research, Ellen G. White Estate Branch Office and Department of Church History in the Seminary. Recordings of the programming are available on the Center for Adventist Research YouTube channel.

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*Presentation by Ingram R. London, assistant professor of systematic theology and ethics at Oakwood University (photo credit: Center for Adventist Research)*



photo credit: Justin Jeffery

## Andrews receives National Science Foundation grant

*For research on electromagnetic waves*

THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF) HAS AWARDED over \$550,000 to a new collaborative project between Andrews University’s Department of Physics, Augsburg University and the New Jersey Institute of Technology. The project is titled “Propagation and Dissipation of Electromagnetic Ion Cyclotron Waves in the Magnetosphere and Ionosphere.” Eun-Hwa Kim, physics research professor at Andrews, will be the lead researcher and principal investigator.

Under the NSF’s classification of a Geospace Environment Modeling (GEM) project, the research aims to use various detailed simulations to answer questions about the compression and stretching of Earth’s magnetic field due to electromagnetic ion cyclotron (EMIC) waves.

According to Kim, EMIC waves can be detected by satellites in the magnetosphere—the Earth’s magnetic environment—but only for very brief moments, making it incredibly difficult to study them.

“My observation team will research the frequency, polarization and where and when we detected these waves,” Kim says. “The simulation team will launch the wave near the source where we believe [the waves may be] and then see how this wave propagates in different environments.” The various simulations will then be studied and further explored before Kim’s team publishes the findings.

The EMIC wave propagation project was first approved for funding in September 2022, but the research start was delayed until this year. A four-year plan, ending in March 2028, has been developed. Kim expects the first project research paper will be submitted by the end of this year.

Jay Johnson, professor of physics and engineering at Andrews University, will work with Kim to set up the Andrews-based portion of the research. Mark J. Engebretson of Augsburg University and Hyomin Kim of the New Jersey Institute of Technology will be co-researchers on this project. Kim and Johnson are also currently seeking an Andrews physics student to join the team as a research assistant.

# Innovation Week fosters entrepreneurship

*Features the third annual Pitch Competition*

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY'S SECOND ANNUAL Innovation Week took place April 1–5 and included the Pitch Competition, networking events, a vespers service and an exhibit floor showcasing booths by student start-ups.

The theme “High-Value Relationships” referenced the biblical model of lasting relationships and highlighted the importance of collaboration and networking throughout the innovative process. Pierre Quinn, CEO of The Cardell Group and an alumnus of Andrews University, was the week’s featured keynote speaker.

The final round of the third annual Pitch Competition took place Friday, April 5. Students presented original business ideas for the opportunity to win in-kind and cash awards. The event showcased a diverse array of innovative ideas and entrepreneurial ventures, each vying for the grand prize equivalent of over \$13,000. This year’s competition was sponsored by Andrews University, UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Glen Oaks, 52 Wall St, Andrews University’s School of Leadership, 38 Wall St, Andrews University’s Enactus Club and Adventist Young Professionals.

Among the standout participants was Sofiiya Ialysheva and her project Zahra, a menstrual resource app tailored for Muslim

women. Speaking about her inspiration and journey, Ialysheva shares, “This project is very close to my heart because I do believe that there’s a big gap in education in the Middle East, especially related to women’s health and menstrual health.”

Ialysheva’s project earned the first-place award of \$10,000 as well as the \$1,000 People’s Choice Award. Ialysheva also received one year of business coaching, co-working access, and business and mail service.

Second place was awarded to the project FreshNest, presented by Edd Joseph. FreshNest is a tech platform aimed at bridging the gap between short-term rental hosts and cleaners. FreshNest received \$8,000 in cash from the competition sponsors. Joseph states, “By expediting FreshNest’s entry into the market, we can fulfill our mission of ‘Creating Cleaner Possibilities’ for the cleaning industry. With FreshNest, hosts can save valuable time and energy, enabling them to concentrate on delivering exceptional experiences for their guests.”

Breaking the Mold Ministry by Devonte Gilchrist won third place and received \$6,000 in cash. Breaking the Mold is an online church ministry focused on providing a safe space for young adults to engage with Christianity and discuss real-life issues. It originated as a service for the youth of Gilchrist’s home church but expanded during the COVID-19 pandemic to reach a broader audience. Gilchrist says, “We plan on using [the winnings] to purchase VR headsets, create a blueprint

for building our Metaverse church building, have an in-person retreat and work toward baptisms.”

Two Social Innovation Awards, each totaling \$5,000 in grants for projects in Berrien County, were given to Joseph’s FreshNest project and the fourth-place winner, MicroGreens by Parker Muhlenbeck. Other winners and competitors included The Treehouse Initiative by Michael Owusu, Prehtis by Julison de Souza Mendonca and The Teacher Preacher by Ilka Ruiz.

Matías Soto, director of Innovation & Entrepreneurship, says, “Innovation Week provides us with the opportunity to frame innovation and entrepreneurship according to our context. It allows us to define how those terms relate to our Seventh-day Adventist beliefs and history, how to apply them to our unique University and how they can be used as tools to be world changers.”

He adds, “My conviction is that the students at Andrews University are amongst the most innovative and entrepreneurial in the country.”

Innovation Week was sponsored by the Andrews University Graduate Student Association (AUGSA), Center for Faith Engagement, Office of Innovation & Entrepreneurship and Student Involvement, Leadership & Activities (SILA).

*The third annual Pitch Competition*





**Left-right, first row:** Howard Presents ... Welcome Christmas, Dec. 9 ■ Andrews Academy Christmas Pops, Dec. 10 ■ AUGather: Dwain Esmond, Jan. 18 ■ Sunday Music Series, Licorice Stick Brigade, Jan. 21 ■ **Second row:** Howard Presents ... Canadian Brass, Jan. 28 ■ AUSA Young Artist Competition Concert, Feb. 3 ■ **Third row:** Howard Presents ... Steve Green, Feb. 4 ■ AUGather: Darby Ray, Feb. 8 ■ Honors Agape Feast, Feb. 9 ■ Andrews University Choirs: Chasing Away the Blues, Feb. 10 ■ **Fourth row:** Health Professions Career Fair, Feb. 12 ■ AUSA Speeches & Elections, Feb. 15 ■ AUGSA Speed Dating, Feb. 18





**Left-right, first row:** Band & Keyboard Music Festival, Feb. 28–March 2 ■ AUGather: Trauma Center, Feb. 22 ■ Music & Worship Conference Concert, Feb. 24 ■ **Second row:** Sunday Music Series, Aleksandra Kemble, Feb. 25 ■ Music Festival Showcase Concert, Feb. 29 ■ MSBOA Middle School Honor Band Concert, March 25 ■ Department of Music: Music Festival Concert, March 2 ■ **Third row:** Sunday Music Series, Andrews University Composers, March 10 ■ AUGather: Saundra Dalton-Smith, March 14 ■ Andrews University Choirs: Easter Tenebrae, March 29 ■ **Fourth row:** Sunday Music Series, Carla Trynchuk & Elena Braslavsky, March 31 ■ Howard Presents ... Wintley Phipps, April 7 ■ Andrews University Wind Symphony Spring Concert, April 13 ■ AUSO Spring Concert, April 20

# HOWARD

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*The group discussion during the Summit session  
“The Andrews Saga: Insights From Our Students”*

## 2024 Summit on Social Consciousness

*“Race. Religion. Reflections.”*

THE NINTH SUMMIT ON SOCIAL Consciousness took place on Thursday, Feb. 29, and Saturday, March 2, 2024, with the theme “Race. Religion. Reflections. Andrews University: The Institutional Saga (1960–1980).”

The first session of the Summit was titled “The Andrews Saga: Through the Eyes of Our Women.” The program featured a recorded interview with Hyveth Williams, director of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary’s Doctor of Ministry program. Williams is the first Black female pastor and female senior pastor in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

After the video, Williams joined a panel with Heather Thompson Day, associate professor of communication; Jennifer Burrill, assistant vice president for Campus & Student Life and assistant vice president for Residence Life; and Meredith Jones Gray, professor of English. Morgan Williams, executive vice president of the Andrews University Student Association (AUSA), moderated the discussion. Panelists highlighted many of the challenges women encountered in the University’s history. They also reported on the progress made by the University in developing a culture that promotes equal opportunities for women.

The second session, “The Andrews Saga: Insights From Our Students,” was held on Sabbath morning in the Howard Performing Arts Center. Attendees watched the screening of “The BSCF Alumni Stories” featuring five Black alumni who, in the late 1960s

and early 1970s, were involved in the early years of the Black Student Christian Forum. Christina Hunter, dean for Graduate Residence Life and associate dean for Student Life, then moderated a discussion. Panelists included Darius Bridges, assistant dean of Student Involvement, Leadership & Activities; Rock Choi, president of the Korean American Student Association; Loren Manrique, AUSA president; Hailey Prestes, AUSA social vice president; Skyler Campbell, BSCF president; Natasha Richards, president of the Black Students Association of the Seminary; and Foluke Arthurton, president of the Andrews University Graduate Student Association. The group shared admiration for the featured alumni who made cultural clubs such an impactful part of campus.

Following the panel discussion, Taurus Montgomery, pastor, presented a homily based on Galatians 3:26–29 for the gathering and members of New Life Fellowship. His treatise showed how the status quo of intolerance has been a threat to true spirituality from Bible times and the need

**“We hope the Summit helped to create a space where, as a community, we could have authentic conversations on difficult topics and learn to listen to each other.”**

for the true followers of Christ to recognize their first identity is in Christ.

The final session for the weekend was titled “The Andrews Saga: Through the Eyes of our Prophets” and centered on a recorded interview with Alvin Kibble, who served as vice president of the North American Division (NAD) of Seventh-day Adventists. Kibble attended the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary from 1967 to 1969, where he said he enjoyed learning from his professors. Kibble’s reflections, while optimistic about the progress at Andrews, included several deeply moving personal experiences.

The panel discussion that followed the screening of the Alvin Kibble interview included Andrew Tompkins, assistant professor of Mission and Intercultural Theology; Kevin Burton, director of the Center for Adventist Research; Morris Beckford, vice president of EDI and Poverty Reduction at TNG Community Services; Olive Hemmings, chair of Washington Adventist University’s Department of Religion; and Trevor O’Reggio, chair of the Department of Church History.

This year’s Summit was sponsored by an Institutional Saga grant from the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education - Council of Independent Colleges (Net-VUE:CIC) and Andrews University’s Office of the Provost, Office of Research and Creative Scholarship, Office of University Communication, Campus & Student Life, Department of Visual Art, Communication & Design (VACD) and Department of English.

“We hope the Summit helped to create a space where, as a community, we could have authentic conversations on difficult topics and learn to listen to each other. One of the aims of the grant was to create opportunities for minority voices to share their stories,” says Carlisle Sutton, sponsored research officer at Andrews and lead organizer for the weekend. “We hope we did that respectfully as we consider the progress and challenges we face in building communities that prioritize belonging in 2024.”

To view the interviews with Hyveth Williams, BSCF alumni and Alvin Kibble, visit [andrews.edu/go/2024Summit](https://andrews.edu/go/2024Summit).



WILLIE HUCKS HAS ACCEPTED THE invitation to serve as assistant to the president for Mission & Culture at Andrews University. In that capacity, he will also carry forward the role of diversity officer.

Hucks earned a BA from Oakwood College in 1985 and an MDiv from Andrews University in 1992. He went on to complete a DMin from Andrews University in 2006.

For almost 15 years, Hucks served as a pastor in the Southwest Region Conference. Then, from 1999–2006, he was faculty at Southwestern Adventist University, where he specialized in applied theology and taught several general education religion courses. He also coordinated the student pastor program with local conferences and the preparation and interview process for ministerial students to meet with potential employers. “I enjoyed shaping young minds and preparing young people for pastoral ministry,” he says.

Hucks next moved into the role of associate editor of *Ministry Magazine*, and from 2010–2016, he was associate ministerial secretary for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

In 2016, Hucks was invited to return to the classroom as associate professor and, later, chair of the Department of Practical & Applied Theology in the Seventh-day

## New assistant to the president for Mission & Culture

*Willie Hucks began role June 1*

Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. “The faculty and staff of Andrews are among the most dedicated and committed people I have ever met, and my interactions with them have made me a better person,” he says. “I especially can say that about my colleagues in the Practical and Applied Theology Department (PATH). *Colleagues* isn’t the right word to use. We are *family*.”

A prolific author and engaging presenter, Hucks writes and speaks on a wide array of topics, including homiletics, the intersection of church and community, ethnicity, justice, and ministry to “the least of these.” He has also chaired the Seminary Ethnicity, Race, and Social Justice Committee for eight years.

### Hucks hopes that, in his new work, the familial interaction he has had in the Seminary can be expanded campus-wide.

Hucks’ interest in the position of assistant to the president for Mission & Culture at Andrews began after hearing President John Wesley Taylor V’s passion for these themes. Hucks concluded that his gifts and life experiences could contribute to Andrews University’s culture and biblical mission.

Hucks says, “This role calls on me to foster a climate in which the

University’s core values—wellbeing, integrity, innovation, trust, humility, justice, compassion—permeate everything we do. Intentionally integrating these values gives us the credibility and efficacy to be world changers. The final two core values are most clearly seen when it comes to matters of diversity. Justice and compassion are integral to possessing a sense of belonging. And the concept of belonging stands front and center in Andrews University’s strategic plan. I don’t want Andrews to create spaces *for* belonging. I want Andrews to always be known as a space *of* belonging.”

Hucks hopes that, in his new work, the familial interaction he has had in the Seminary can be expanded campus-wide. He also wants to foster a broad sense of spiritual rest. Comparing the priorities of Mary and Martha in Luke 10, Hucks notes the significant work of the Andrews learning community while also emphasizing that “diligence to the tasks must not result in our spiritual, mental, social, psychological and physical harm. We must experience spiritual Sabbath.”

President Taylor says, “I am delighted that Dr. Willie Hucks has accepted this key role at our University. Over the years, I have observed and admired his commitment to the biblical worldview and his passion for extending the ministry of Jesus. It will be a special privilege to work closely together to deepen the connectedness of the Andrews University family and to vividly embody our core values as we move ‘Forward in Mission.’”



## Professor awarded Lifetime Achievement Award

*For significant and sustained contributions to the community*

HARVEY J. BURNETT JR., CHAIR OF ANDREWS UNIVERSITY'S School of Social & Behavioral Sciences, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Buchanan Chamber of Commerce. The award recognizes individuals who have made significant and sustained contributions to the community.

Burnett says, "I was nominated along with several other well-deserving candidates from the Buchanan area that have put a lifetime of investment into making the community of Buchanan better."

Burnett has extensive experience in law enforcement—his work spans more than 25 years and includes his current role as police chief of the Buchanan City Police Department. He also serves as president of the Buchanan Community Schools Board of Education and has been a member for over 26 years.

Patricia Robinson, superintendent of Buchanan Area Schools, expressed gratitude for Burnett's service, stating, "Our school district and community feel privileged to have Dr. Burnett here in the community serving in so many ways. He is well deserving of this award."

Michigan's 37th District State Rep. Brad Paquette presented Burnett with a special tribute, saying, "Harvey Burnett brings out goodness in those around him. This exemplary trait stands out, even among his own extensive list of personal accomplishments."

Reflecting on his achievements, Burnett attributes his success to God's grace and the support of his community. "It's just humbling," he said, "And I know that some of the other nominees, they deserve it just as much or even more than me."

# Professor receives Excellence in Impact Award

*From the United Way of Southwest Michigan*

CURTIS VANDERWAAL, CHAIR OF THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL Work and professor at Andrews University, recently received the United Way of Southwest Michigan's annual Excellence in Impact Award.

The award came as a surprise to VanderWaal. "It was very graciously given," he says. His involvement with the United Way spans more than a decade, during which he has served on committees and spearheaded program evaluations that measure community impact.

For VanderWaal, the essence of the award lies in its reflection of collective effort. "They're saying, 'Thank you for your contributions to the United Way over the years,'" he says, emphasizing the collaborative spirit driving social change.

At the heart of VanderWaal's work is a commitment to real-world impact. His class "Advanced Program Evaluation" offers students unique opportunities to engage with community agencies, conducting evaluations that shape real-world interventions.

"Students love being able to actually do a project that matters," says VanderWaal, highlighting the transformative impact of experiential learning. Through partnerships with community agencies, students gain practical skills while making tangible contributions to societal wellbeing.

Beyond accolades and awards, VanderWaal's passion lies in amplifying voices that are often left unheard. "The United Way goes into the community and asks normal folks what they need," he explains, emphasizing the organization's inclusive approach to community engagement.

VanderWaal continues to engage his students and fellow faculty members in positive projects that impact the community.



*Curtis VanderWaal (right), receiving the Excellence in Impact Award*

photo courtesy of the United Way of Southwest Michigan

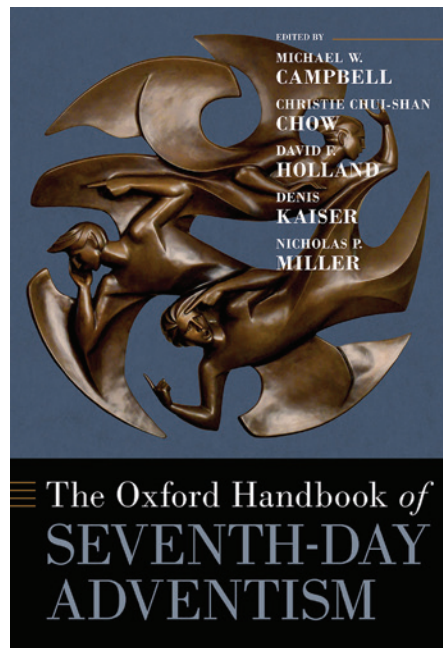


## New Oxford Handbook covers Seventh-day Adventism

*Editors and authors include Andrews faculty*

“THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF SEVENTH-day Adventism,” conceptualized over seven years ago, is now complete. Published by Oxford University Press, it contains 38 original chapters and has more than 600 pages.

The five editors of the book say, “Broad and comprehensive in scope, each chapter addresses the history, theology and social aspects of Adventism and maps the development of its most influential manifestation. Authors from around the world, and from both inside and outside the Adventist tradition, have come together to produce this authoritative work on Adventism.”



*The book cover, featuring a sculpture found at Union Adventist University (courtesy Denis Kaiser)*

Two of the book’s five editors are currently affiliated with Andrews—Denis Kaiser, associate professor of church history, and Nicholas Miller, research professor of church history and director of the International Religious Liberty In-

stitute. A third editor, Michael Campbell, is a two-time graduate of Andrews.

Andrews is also well represented in the book’s authors. Of 38 contributors, over half have an Andrews connection, either as alumni or an employee. Five authors are current Andrews University employees: Denis Kaiser; Denis Fortin, professor of historical theology; David Williams, associate professor of worship and sacred music and co-director of the International Center for Worship & Music; Boubakar Sanou, chair of the Department of World Mission; and Kevin Burton, director of the Center for Adventist Research and assistant professor of church history.

Two additional authors are research professors, John Peckham and Nicholas Miller, and one is an adjunct professor, Christie Chui-Shan Chow.

Kaiser highlights the project’s significance, saying, “This reference work, published by the largest and second-oldest academic publisher in the world, will likely become available in many university libraries worldwide.”

## Recognition & Awards Ceremony

*Teacher of the Year selected by student body*

THE ANNUAL RECOGNITION & Awards Ceremony on Thursday, April 25, recognized student scholarship and honors as well as exemplary leadership in student employment and extracurricular activities. During the “Student Choice” portion, one award was given from the Andrews University Student Association (AUSA) to a faculty member.

Daniel Weber, chair of the Department of Visual Art, Communication & Design, was honored as Teacher of the Year. The designation followed a poll of the undergraduate student body that asked students to nominate a teacher they had a good experience with.

During the 2023–2024 academic year, Weber taught Intro to Film and Video, Podcasting, Media Ethics and Awareness, Cinematography, and Television and Film Production. He says, “I love the daily interactions with my stu-

dents in class. I also enjoy sitting down with students and helping them find classes that best help them prepare for their future careers. This past semester my Media Ethics and Awareness class had some very interesting discussions, and I appreciated the honest conversations we shared in the classroom.”

Weber was humbled and shocked to learn of his award. “I’ve only been teaching for three years, so to have the students vote me as Teacher of the Year was surprising,” he says. “I’m honored to be a member of the Andrews faculty, and there are many incredible professors who have been in the classroom for a long time and teach at a very high level. To have the Andrews students select me to receive this award is encouraging and serves as an affirmation of my decision to leave corporate work and enter academia.”



# J.N. Andrews Medallion recipients

*Daniel Gonzalez-Socoloske and Carla Trynchuk were honored*

DURING THE SPRING 2024 GRADUATION WEEKEND, two faculty members received the prestigious J.N. Andrews Medallion at the College of Arts & Sciences Commencement on Sunday, May 5.

■ **Daniel Gonzalez-Socoloske**, professor in the Department of Biology, was honored for his ongoing commitment to integrating faith, science and a biblical worldview for environmental stewardship at Andrews University and beyond.

“Being awarded the J.N. Andrews Medallion was a wonderful surprise and a great honor for me,” says Gonzalez-Socoloske. “I am deeply grateful to my wife and two

daughters for their continual encouragement and understanding during my many trips for student study tours and research. As the son of two lifelong Adventist educators, I can’t help but reflect on the amazing example both my parents provided me as teachers, scholars and mentors to so many students. This significant achievement would not be possible without the steadfast support of my family.”

Gonzalez-Socoloske earned his Bachelor of Science in biology from Andrews University in 2003. He continued his education at Loma Linda University, where he obtained a Graduate Certificate in GIS in 2006 and a Master of Science in biology in 2007. Then, in 2013, he received a PhD in ecology from Duke University.

In 2013, Gonzalez-Socoloske returned to Andrews University as an assistant professor of biology. He became an associate professor in 2017 and achieved the rank of professor in 2021. Throughout his time at Andrews, he has mentored numerous students in undergraduate and graduate research. He has also spearheaded the development of the Field Ecology class and has enhanced the student experience with excursions to Cuba.

In addition to being a valued member of the Department of Biology, Gonzalez-Socoloske is an accomplished scholar. In 2020, he was awarded a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award for his continued research in manatee detection. He was able to pursue further studies on the subject in



Brazil when he became a National Geographic Explorer in 2022. In 2023, he received a Siegfried H. Horn Excellence in Research & Creative Scholarship Award from Andrews University for his studies. The nature of his scholarship is highly collaborative, and he has built bridges between Andrews and several other academic institutions.

Gonzalez-Socoloske serves as a science advisor to the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and curator for the Museum of Nature & Science, where he plans to expand on the museum's mission of environmental education. He serves on several committees, both at Andrews University and in the wider academic world. Gonzalez-Socoloske also works as associate editor of the Latin American Journal of Aquatic Mammals and has shared his expertise in conservation biology at scholarly conventions, including the 2019 Andrews Autumn Conference on Religion and Science and the 2023 Biologos Creation Care Summit.

His rigorous scholarship has given him credibility in the world of manatee biology and a platform for sharing his passion for responsible stewardship of God's creation. He has published his findings in peer-reviewed journals, engaging educators worldwide in discussions of faith and science.

■ **Carla Trynchuk**, professor of music and director of the string program in the Department of Music, was honored for her exemplary ability to encourage the love of music in young lives and her dedication to high musical standards that honor God.

"It was a complete surprise and truly an honor to be selected for the John Nevins Andrews Medallion," says Trynchuk. "I am grateful to Andrews University to receive this award and have my work recognized in this way. I look forward to continuing to contribute to our University's future and goals of excellence."

Trynchuk joined the music faculty in 1991, only a few years after completing her

bachelor's and master's degrees in violin performance from The Juilliard School.

During her time at Andrews, she has taught violin lessons, chamber coachings, string pedagogy and string literature. She has also advised undergraduate and graduate students and carried out numerous demonstration recitals, masterclasses, coachings, guest lectures and presentations. She is deeply invested in each of her students, whether they are prospective, current or alumni, and has fostered many successful careers by modeling professionalism, camaraderie and spirituality.

Over the course of her career, Trynchuk has served as a faculty-artist around the world, including in England and Puerto Rico, and often for music festivals and seminars. She worked at the DePaul University School of Music, Oregon Music Festival and Brian Lewis Young Artist Program, among others. She has also served as a judge and adjudicator for string and chamber music competitions and festivals throughout the United States and Canada.

Trynchuk has completed hundreds of performances worldwide and has participated in several professional recordings. In 2015, she gave the Brazilian premiere of the Samuel Barber Violin Concerto, and in 2022, she soloed in the premiere performance of the "Violin Concerto No. 2 'Teshuah,'" written on commission from the Howard Performing Arts Center by Andrews University alumnus James Lee III.

In recognition of her professional accomplishments, Trynchuk received the Award for Faculty Research and Creative Activity in 1999–2000, which she used to create the premiere recording of "Kittyhawk" by Randall Davidson. In 2001–2002, she received the Andrews University Grant for Creative Activity and performed, for a professional recording, the Tibor Serly "Violin Concerto" in conjunction with the Czech National Symphony Orchestra. Trynchuk received the Siegfried H. Horn Excellence in Research & Creative Scholarship Award in 2015 and most recently received the Daniel A. Augsburg Excellence in Teaching Award in 2022–2023.



# Legacy Nightingale Award

*Presented to Nancy Carter*

ON FRIDAY, MAY 3, DURING THE ANNUAL SENIOR PINNING celebration, the Andrews University School of Nursing presented Nancy Carter, assistant professor emeritus, with the inaugural Legacy Nightingale Award.

The award honors an Andrews faculty member or graduate whose service and dedication left a lasting impact on the School of Nursing and the nursing profession.

Carter graduated from Andrews University with a bachelor's degree in nursing in 1974 and later completed her master's degree at the University of Michigan in 1982. She has worked in several acute care settings, including Med/Surg, Obstetrics, the Newborn Nursery and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and has also worked in community health settings. She taught Community Health Nursing in the Andrews nursing program from 1983–1991 and 1993–2014, and she returned in 2019 to assist in the Skills Lab.

Barbara Harrison, interim chair in the School of Nursing, says, "Over the years, the School of Nursing has been blessed with God-fearing, highly skilled, compassionate professors who have dedicated themselves to growing the next generation of nurses. With 2024 being the 150th anniversary of Andrews University, we reflected on God's leading and the many professionals who have given so much to our students. Nancy Carter's 50-year career exemplified one of service—and she gave almost 30 of those years to teaching in the classroom, mentoring and believing in her students."

Carter says, "I truly believe Community Health Nursing is where the Lord wanted me to be ... I was surprised that people who finished working for Andrews so many years ago could get such an award. That was very humbling—I truly appreciated that. It was dear to my heart."



*L.S. Baker Jr.  
in Luxor, Egypt*

photo courtesy of L.S. Baker Jr.

## Andrews archaeologist returns to Egypt

*Continues Great Hypostyle Hall project*

THIS SPRING, L.S. BAKER JR., ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF Andrews University Press and archaeologist, joined a project with experts from a consortium of institutions under direction of Egyptologist Peter Brand, from the University of Memphis.

With authorization from Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, the project team creates facsimile representations of wall reliefs associated with the famous Great Hypostyle Hall at Karnak Temple in Luxor, Egypt. Brand assigned Merenptah battle reliefs and the Hittite Peace Treaty to Mark Janzen, associate professor at Lipscomb University and Egyptologist at the Lanier Center for Archaeology at Lipscomb.

Baker is a Lanier Center research associate on Janzen's team and serves as an epigrapher, or an expert in deciphering inscriptions, due to his specialty in ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs, history and culture.

Baker's task was to finish work on the treaty with Janzen's team. He was also assigned to document inscription reliefs of battles in the Holy Land on a section of the wall beside the peace treaty.

"The hieroglyph version that we are working on is 38 lines of extremely small text that is mostly intact, but portions of it are missing due to damage over time," Baker says. "My task both last season and this season is to identify each hieroglyph, including those in the damaged areas, so the artist can quickly recognize what is damage and what is glyph."

Each year, Baker reports, the team has recognized God's hand in helping them accomplish much more than expected.



# EMPLOYEE AWARDS CELEBRATION

150 YEARS  
OF ANDREWS  
UNIVERSITY

*On Sunday, March 3, 2024, the Employee Awards Celebration took place in the Howard Performing Arts Center. The evening honored Andrews University employees for their years of service as well as excellence in service, teaching, research and creative scholarship, wellness, and faith engagement.*

# YEARS OF SERVICE

THE PROGRAM ALSO OFFICIALLY launched the Andrews University 150th Anniversary Year with a series of brief features. As hosts Darius Bridges, assistant dean for Student Involvement, Leadership & Activities, and David Nowack, professor of biochemistry, welcomed attendees and shared an opening prayer, Nowack pointed out the first historical point of interest of the night—the lectern on stage that had existed for decades in the main auditorium of Griggs Hall.

Ronald Knott, director of Andrews University Press, presented a segment titled “A Long-time Very Big Deal” explaining the history of the Employee Awards Celebration and its start 40 years ago. He noted that every employee present had already received the big award, “the tremendous honor that the Lord has given each of us to work at this great institution.”

As co-chairs of the 150th Anniversary Committee, L. Monique Pittman, professor of English and director of the J.N. Andrews Honors Program, and Paulette Johnson, dean of libraries, were joined by Suzanne Hayes, project manager, for “Ringing in the Big Year.” They noted the start of the 150th anniversary year and introduced the theme, “Founded in Faith. Forward in Mission.” Pittman said, “Throughout the months ahead, our celebrations will elaborate upon the concepts embedded in that tagline, both looking back at our heritage as a site of Seventh-day Adventist higher education and forward to a future defined by the call of mission in its many forms.”

They also highlighted a tangible emblem of Andrews’ history, the Battle Creek Bell. Commissioned by the Seventh-day Adventist Educational Society and cast in 1875 for Battle Creek College, the bell kept hourly time and signaled the start of classes. When Battle Creek College relocated to Ber-

rien Springs, the bell came, too. In 1903, when an administration building for Emmanuel Missionary College was dedicated, it included a tower where the bell rang to mark vespers and worship time. Then, when Nethery Hall was built as the new administration building in 1942, the building included a belfry where the bell has remained since 1959. For the Awards program, the University’s Plant Service team brought the bell to the Howard Performing Arts Center, and Dan Fisher, University locksmith, rang the bell on stage.

Meredith Jones Gray, professor of English, shared the feature “Four Hundred Scholars, or More” and the story of how the first Seventh-day Adventist college formally began. Once the Seventh-day Adventist Educational Society had been formally organized and land purchased, George I. Butler, then president of the General Conference, revealed plans for a substantial college building “three stories in height capable of holding 400 scholars or more.” Jones Gray noted the founders’ concerns for intellect, faith and an influence in the world. She said, “Every time we remember and invoke our own mission statement we’re echoing those committed founders: Seek Knowledge. Affirm Faith. Change the World.”

She also noted how the number of scholars has grown to 400 and many, many more, saying, “The combined alumni of Battle Creek College, Emmanuel Missionary College, the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, Andrews University and its affiliates now numbers over 100,000 from 131 countries. Here we are—150 years and moving forward in this sacred work.”

Kevin Burton, director of the Center for Adventist Research and assistant professor of church history and Adventist studies, told of “Littlejohn and the Battle Creek College Hood,” a time of



## 5

**L-R:** Marcelo Goncalves Martins, Michelle Allyn, Jeffrey Hudon, Margaret Adeogun, Injae Son  
**Not Pictured:** José Bourget, Jaime Brievea, Cindy Cancel, Monica Cervantes, Lileen Coulloudon, Darcy De León, Roy Gatón, Michael Gayle, Regina Jackson-Ezell, Jenica Joseph, Jason Judson, Michele Keyes, Billie Klesitz, Benjamin Kreiter, Melinda Nwanganga, Luz Otero, Zorislav Plantak, Carlisle Sutton, Peter Trine, Gilberto Tuesta-Rodriguez, David Williams, Rita Wright



## 10

**L-R:** Daniel Gonzalez-Socoloske, Evangelina Lawson, Khonnah Weithers, Nadia Nosworthy, Amy Rhodes, Jay Brand  
**Not Pictured:** Carmelita Arthur, Petr Činčala, Felix Cortez, Jeannie Leiterman, Benjamin Navia, Mordekai Ongo, Darrin Peck, William Scott, Edith Segui-Weiss, Twyla Smith, Rebecca Turk, Samuel Villamizar



## 15

**L-R:** Kenley Hall, Sonia Badenas, Chi Yong Yun, Benjamin Panigot, Gillian Panigot, John Schnepf  
**Not Pictured:** Karen Alford, Gregory Almeter, Silmara Ferreira, Erhard Gallos, Ronald Graham, Jean Hakiza, Aaron Moushon, Patrick Warner, Carole Woolford-Hunt



## 20

**L-R:** Ronald Coffen, Michelle Bacchicocchi, Evelyn Perez  
**Not Pictured:** Harvey Burnett, Helena Gregor, Heidi James, Cynthia Ross-Swanson, Kristin von Maur

*Hosts Darius  
Bridges and  
David Nowack*



dissension and healing in Andrews' history. When Alexander McLearn served as president of Battle Creek College, he suspended a rule about students dating. While students praised the action, faculty Goodloe Harper Bell disagreed with that decision and others. Controversy grew to the point that Bell resigned and McLearn was asked to leave. As a result of the related upheaval, Battle Creek College closed for a year. When the school reopened, Wilcott H. Littlejohn, a pastor known for his spiritual discernment and academic rigor, became its president. He counseled with students and guided a broad healing process with members of the community, then resigned after two years. Burton said, "Peace was restored, and the college was now on stable ground with the trust and support of students, faculty and parents."

In "16mm Memories: Andrews University on the

Silver Screen," Katharine Van Arsdale, professor of library science and digital librarian in the Adventist Digital Library, explained her work in the lower level of the library digitizing the history of Andrews. She said, "... because Andrews University is the oldest school in the Adventist system, we've collected so much history that it's truly the history of the Adventist Church and our people." Van Arsdale shared one of Andrews University's home movies from 1965, an abridged version of a 22-minute commercial for the Graduate School and Seminary. The film showed the sights and sounds of Andrews and highlighted the shoe size of a dinosaur, campus jobs you could work as a graduate student and a mindless calculator.

The final historical segment, "Ellen, Elvis, and a Lady From Flint," was presented by Ronald Knott. He explained Ellen White's sig-



**L-R:** Gary Burdick, Jifi Moskala, Cynthia Gammon, John Beal, Roberto Rothermel, Stephen Yeagley, Shelly Erhard  
**Not Pictured:** Betty Gibson, Frederick Guerrero, Gunnar Lovhoiden

**25**



**L-R:** Denis Fortin, Kathleen Allen, Paul Ray

**30**



**L-R:** Scott Moncrieff, Bernard Helms

**35**

Michael Harrington

**40**



# AWARDS & RECOGNITION



**Faith Engagement:**  
Fares Magesa

**Wellness Champion:**  
Cynthia Birney

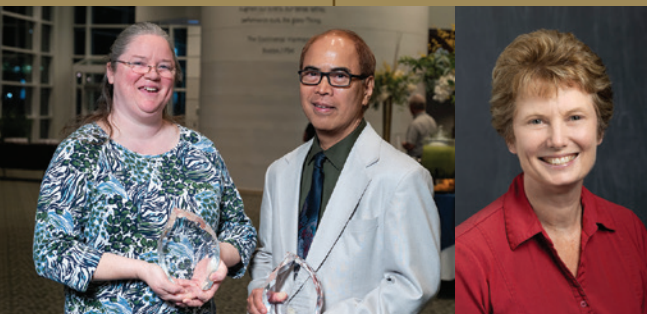


**Siegfried H. Horn Excellence in Research & Creative Scholarship (L-R):** Shannon Trecartin, Felix Cortez



**Daniel A. Augsburg Excellence in Teaching:**  
Carmelita Troy

**Adjunct Faculty Excellence in Teaching (L-R):** Lilia Moncrieff, Arlyn Drew



**Staff Excellence in Service (L-R):**  
Laura Carroll, Wilfredo Diaz, Glynis Bradfield

*Congratulations to the runners-up in the Excellence in Service category: Darren Heslop, Rachel Keele, Mona Sarcona, Noe Velez.*

nificant connection to what is now Andrews. As Edward A. Sutherland and Percy T. Magan worked to build the campus, they were struggling with an \$84,000 debt (comparable to \$34 million today). White had just written “Christ’s Object Lessons” and said she would take no royalties on the book if the publishing houses donated the labor of printing and if students, employees and church members donated their time to sell the book and turn proceeds over to the debt. Sutherland and Magan coordinated the project of preparing a special edition of the book that said, on the title page, “The College Press, Berrien Springs, Michigan.” The money collected helped fund campus buildings and reduced the debt by about \$50,000.

Knott noted that while Ellen White was never given an award, interest in her remained. In the 1989 April Fools edition of the Student Movement, the editors, following the cultural phenomenon of the time, wrote of an Elvis Presley—and Ellen White—sighting (which resulted in some negative responses). Knott also recalled receiving a phone call in 2004 from a lady in Flint, Michigan, who had just found the Sutherland and Magan edition of “Christ’s Object’s Lessons” in her family member’s belongings. She had read the book, thought it was wonderful and wanted to read more Ellen G. White books. Knott said, “Of course I don’t know for sure, but I’m guessing that the Lord cares less about whether we have actually given Ellen White an award than He does about whether we actually honor the gift He has given us through her ministry.

It’s that incredible gift that founded us in faith. And is pushing, pushing, pushing us forward in mission.”

At the end of the evening’s programming, President John Wesley Taylor V talked about celebration and its three important dimensions: to commemorate, to honor and to give thanks. He said, “... tonight we certainly have expressed, through our applause, through our joy, through the awards, gratitude. ... But our greatest gratitude is to God, who has guided us on this journey. In fact, to use the words of Ellen White, ‘We have nothing to fear for the future because we can remember how God has guided us in our past.’”

Artur Stele, chair of the Andrews University Board of Trustees, shared closing comments, as well, saying, “It is marvelous when you travel the world, wherever you come, you meet Andrews graduates. ... Thank you to all on behalf of the Board of Trustees for your life of service to this great institution. ... May God use you for the best that we expect is yet to come for Andrews University.”

Hosts Darius Bridges and David Nowack invited the audience to stand for a choral benediction—an audio recording of “The Parting Blessing” performed by the Andrews University Singing Men and directed by James Hanson in May 1985. The song concluded with the line, “And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.” ■

*For written tributes and images for all award recipients, visit [andrews.edu/services/hr/employeeawards](http://andrews.edu/services/hr/employeeawards).*

*To learn more about Andrews University’s 150th anniversary year, visit [andrews.edu/150](http://andrews.edu/150).*







**E**very Sunday at noon—if I am listening carefully—I can hear the church bells ringing from one of the churches in my small Michigan town. This practice has existed for hundreds of years as local congregations have sought to bring those outside their physical walls into the presence of God for worship. The bells signal to the farmers in their fields, the sick in their beds and the rest of the community that God’s people are engaged in the Lord’s prayer and all are invited to participate, even those not present in body.

GRIGGS INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY IS AN accredited, online distance education school that has carried on this practice of communing with God as part of a larger faith community, regardless of where one is. From its origin in 1906 as the Fireside Correspondence School, through its time as the Home Study Institute, Home Study International and up through its present era, Griggs has served families of all kinds who desire an educational experience that is grounded in Adventist beliefs and traditions but is academically rigorous and flexible to meet their needs. There is no physical bell loud enough to reach the hundreds of thousands of American and international students who have been part of Griggs in the last hundred-plus years. But the staff and students of today have a wide range of tools to facilitate community, worship and learning across time zones. And maybe the bell just has a

different tone in a technological age.

In a single week, students in Lesotho might celebrate with students in the United States over the baptism of a family member. Students in Colombia might review for the SAT with classmates in Trinidad. Students from Missouri, Jerusalem, Dubai, Warsaw and Nairobi might meet together to pray and socialize. When Jesus told the disciples that one day the gospel would reach the very ends of the earth (Acts 1:8), they almost assuredly didn’t think it would happen via video conferencing and instant messaging that make up just part of a typical school day at Griggs!

As the world responded to the pandemic a few years ago, with regions around the globe electing to close schools to prevent the spread of the virus, many families turned to distance education to help their children continue learning. Griggs was an

easy decision because distance learning wasn’t new. Systems and curriculum were already established for convenient and flexible access from anywhere. Even as in-person schooling opened back up, many families decided they wanted to continue this experience for their children.

The range of reasons that families choose to enroll their students with Griggs is wide. For some, Griggs provides the ability to work from anywhere. We have families who are full-time missionaries, and their students may start the school year in Argentina and end it in Zimbabwe or Mongolia. These students can successfully and seamlessly complete their studies no matter where they are located. For other families, Griggs provides Adventist education in a part of the world that has no physical Adventist schooling, like many of our students in countries that are predominantly Muslim or Buddhist. Perhaps there aren’t enough Adventists (or even Christians) to form a school. Or in some cases, the government doesn’t allow Christian schools to operate. Griggs provides the solution so students can work in any geographic area that has reliable Internet.

For some students, the matter of timing makes Griggs an easy option. For example, we have students who pause their studies for days or even weeks at a time so they can travel with their parents in the mission field for medical work, disaster relief, or participating in evangelistic outreach. Griggs offers self-paced learning so families can set their own academic schedules to allow for travel times that are not dictated by a school calendar. Others have found that online learning allows students to work at their own speed, whether working quickly through material they are strong in or taking the time to really dig in deep when they are struggling to understand a new concept. Perhaps a student wants to take two classes, but their local school offers the classes at the same time. The student can take one class at the school and one through Griggs and bypass the schedule conflict.

Another reason students choose Griggs might be they need to retake a credit to graduate or to take a summer course as a prerequisite for a dual-enrollment course in the fall. No matter the reason, Griggs families have long shared that the flexibility in time and lo-

## Griggs International Academy STUDENT TESTIMONIES



At Griggs International Academy, I've learned various skills including time management, self-pacing, effective communication, adaptability and resilience to excel not only in this

stage of education but in higher education, as well. Griggs isn't the type of school from which you walk away empty-handed or without any sort of experience or level of growth. In just four years, the Griggs teachers and staff have pushed me to reach my full potential while encouraging critical thinking skills, problem-solving and teamwork in all aspects of the curriculum and Griggs Life. Griggs has shown me their commitment to ensuring every student is heard, cared for and supported, which not only proves their dedication and passion for their roles in students' lives but reveals the positive environment within the academy. Because of Griggs International Academy, I've gained so many wonderful experiences, friendships and skills that I know I wouldn't have gained in any other place the same way. As an online school with rigorous academics, a thorough curriculum and a spiritual aspect, Griggs is the perfect place for a student to grow and learn to be prepared for the future. —Elsa B., Maryland, U.S.



My name is Evans, and I'm in my junior year here at Griggs. I'm currently living in Zimbabwe. Transitioning to doing school online back in my freshman year, one of my biggest questions

was about my social life. Would I still have friends? Would I still get to interact with other kids my age? Well, Griggs Life Events have been a major part of answering that question. We get to do so many different things. We get to learn, we get to have fun, we get to even worship together. Some of my favorite events are "The Amazing Race," which we have annually. That's always a blast. Talk-O Tuesday is also always a good time. We get to talk about different things, especially college readiness, which is a major part of what I'm looking for especially in my junior year. And Momentous Monday is also always a very important part of beginning my week with God. So I think Griggs Life Events are great. We get to interact with kids from all over the world. I get to interact with kids in America and do important things. We have fun and learn and spend time with God. —Evans M., Zimbabwe



Griggs International Academy has been a blessing in my life in many ways. To learn at my own pace gave me the flexibility of time I needed to

thoroughly understand all coursework. Whatever traveling my family and I had planned, school could be easily weaved into and around our trips. The courses themselves are rigorous; they lift and continue to raise the standards of Seventh-day Adventist Christian education. Furthermore, involvement in Griggs Life Events outside of the coursework itself has molded my character. Griggs advocates connection and a safe community of its students and teachers through Zoom and other online resources. Participating in these events has not only opened my understanding of cultures thousands of miles away but has improved my interpersonal, communication and speaking skills. Griggs has given me an education and experience that will remain with me years into the future. —Joazer R., California, U.S.

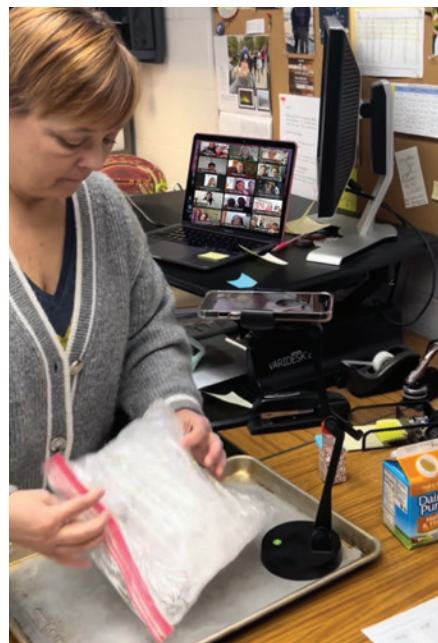
cation allows them to make this quality schooling work well for them.

In order to best serve this rapidly growing population of students around the country and around the world, Griggs is prayerfully partnering with several other departments on the campus of Andrews University to form the Global Campus. This new initiative strives to efficiently and effectively use combined resources to reach students who may never step foot in Berrien Springs, Michigan, but who seek the kind of high-quality education they would receive if they were here. In the current era, online learning isn't a niche program for a small group of students. It is a way of life that is becoming as normal as a community or boarding student has been in the century before. Even in-person students at high school and university levels participate in some version of online learning, no matter whether they are on campus or learning from a distance.

In addition to directly enrolled stu-

**TOP LEFT:** Ben Kreiter online with a group of Griggs International Academy students

**BELOW:** Wendy Baldwin does a scientific demonstration in an optional synchronous activity to supplement Griggs' asynchronous education. Other options include Chapels, Study- and Life-skills workshops, Devotionals, Talk-O Tuesdays and Brain Breaks.



dents, Griggs serves the North American Division (NAD) by providing single courses or full grade-levels to schools that would like to grow from an elementary school to a junior high school or from junior high to a high school. Sometimes an NAD school unexpectedly is without a certified teacher in a particular area, so they turn to Griggs to bridge the gap for a year or two until they are able to fill their schedule with their required courses. We count it a privilege to help as needed.

We also serve a large group of students internationally who attend brick-and-mortar schools. They contract with us to supervise their American curriculum so their students can earn American diplomas. We work closely with the administration and teachers to ensure that the required standards are taught so their students can easily enter university in America.

We are proud of our record of serving over 200,000 K-12 students globally. We love that we are impacting lives in

over 60 countries. Griggs' track record of using and growing with technology has withstood the test of time! Wherever you may find yourself in life, know that there are students and families at Griggs International Academy who are seeking out Jesus and would love to have you join them in that journey. Next time you hear a church bell ringing, take it as a little note from God (and us) to remind you that God's people are gathered everywhere. If you want to gather with us, you don't have to find a building; you can simply send us a message, even if you live in Antarctica! We are dedicated to continuing our mission of inspiring learning, transforming lives and serving the world through Seventh-day Adventist Christian education in continued partnership with Andrews University and the new Global Campus. ■

**Ben Kreiter** manages the online learning platform at Griggs. He also designs and teaches Bible courses at the school. He is passionate about exploring technology as a redemptive tool and walking with students toward a better relationship with Jesus. **Deidre Wilkens** is the course manager at Griggs. She also helps with marketing and teaches health and science courses. De loves doodling and often shares her passion with students and other teachers as brain breaks or a strategy for self-care, reflection and personal growth.

*Principal LaRonda Forsey meets with student leaders.*



### *Griggs International Academy* **STUDENT TESTIMONIES**



With over a year of illness and recovery, the online platform of Griggs has enabled me to progress through my studies at my own speed. The dedicated staff and well-organized curriculum have not only helped me to stay on track academically but also allowed me to thrive. I could engage in virtual events, hand in assignments digitally and join student discussions right from the comfort of my home. This journey with Griggs has also deepened my faith by illustrating how God is present in every aspect of my academic, emotional and physical wellbeing. I appreciate the prompt responses of my teachers, the thoughtful comments on my assignments and the many stories that were told to me in Discussion Based Assessments (DBAs). I will always be grateful for the blessing that Griggs continues to be to me. —**Ethan J., Connecticut, U.S.**



I'm currently a junior living in New York. One thing that I appreciate about Griggs International Academy is the Bible courses. Although Bible is a core subject for all grade levels regardless of personal or religious beliefs, I believe that the content of each Bible course does not in any way shame or condemn other religions. In fact, in my opinion, anyone from any religious background, whether or not they are Seventh-day Adventists, can take a Bible course without feeling judged or ashamed and they can still learn something whether or not they agree. Additionally, I would like to say that Bible has also allowed me to reevaluate my relationship with Christ through interactive videos, interactive Bible studies and good discussions that not only challenge my beliefs but allow me to learn more—not only about God but about myself and what I need to become a better person. Bible has immensely changed my view of both God and also of people around me, and I am so excited to learn more. And though I am nearing the end, I only have one more year left of Bible, I will never ever forget how much I have learned, and I certainly look forward to applying it to my life. —**Avianna C., New York, U.S.**



This last school year I was able to join the student task force, and thus I was also able to go to the Strategic Planning Meeting. At this meeting, we talked about the Griggs mission statement, and I was able to see how the staff is working toward it. I loved how they took the time to hear from every one of us, and collectively we felt heard and understood. One student had this to say about the meeting: "It was interesting how the teachers had questions for us, and they were very receptive to our feedback. I can see that they are making plans to this day to implement what we said, which I think shows their dedication to our education and forward progress of Griggs International Academy." Another student said, "I like that they made a very comfortable space to say how we felt and talk about our unbiased opinions about different topics." In the meeting, we were able to talk about how to better connect students, how to implement God into the school, how to prepare students for college, and much more. I was able to see how the staff is working to inspire our learning, transform our lives and serve the world by presenting a great Adventist education. —**Shayla R., Arizona, U.S.**

# REGIONAL EVENTS

SPRING  
2024

Since the start of the new year, the Office of Alumni Services has hosted *eight* regional events. Raelene Brower (att.), director of Alumni Services, President John Wesley Taylor V (MA '84, PhD '86), Donald L. Bedney II (MDiv '90, MSA '91), vice president for University Advancement, and other Advancement personnel have enjoyed meeting alumni and prospective students to share the latest University news and upcoming initiatives. *Thank you to everyone who attended!*



Denver, Colorado,  
Sunday, April 7, 2024



Dallas, Texas,  
Wednesday,  
April 10, 2024

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Please visit [alumni.andrews.edu/rsvp](http://alumni.andrews.edu/rsvp) to register and receive up-to-date information on upcoming events. If you've moved recently, please contact our office with your new address so you can receive regional event invites for locations near you.

Who are alumni? If you've graduated, 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.

## AUGUST

### 1 Alumni Gathering at ASI Convention Orlando, Florida

Dinner at 6 p.m. at the Convention Center; meeting location and meeting details at the Andrews Booth



Loma Linda/Riverside,  
California, Sunday,  
Feb. 25, 2024



Huntsville, Alabama,  
Monday, Feb. 12, 2024



Orlando, Florida, Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024

photo courtesy of Donald L. Bedney II



Upcoming

# 150TH

ANNIVERSARY  
EVENTS

**AUG. 24, Employee Dedication Sabbath, Pioneer Memorial Church**  
Commemoration: Emmanuel Missionary College classes began in the Review and Herald building on Aug. 24, 1874.

**OCT. 17–19, Academic Conference and Symposium**  
This conference is hosted by the Departments of World Mission and Church History in the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and in collaboration with the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Programming will focus on how Adventist mission has made a global impact.

Save  
the Date

*Alumni Homecoming Weekend*

**SEPT. 26–29, 2024**

FOUNDED IN FAITH. **150** FORWARD IN MISSION.

**Honor Classes—1954, 1964,  
1974, 1984, 1994, 1999,  
2004, 2014, 2019, 2024**

*Will you be a member of an upcoming honor class?* Start planning now to partner with us to make Homecoming more meaningful for both you and your classmates. If you're interested in serving as a reunion leader or willing to volunteer in any capacity, please contact the Office of Alumni Services at 269-471-3591, [alumni@andrews.edu](mailto:alumni@andrews.edu).

*Getting involved is a great way to make a difference!*

## [ The wait is finally over... ]

... Andrews University is proud to announce the forthcoming release of the second volume of the Andrews University Heritage Series,

## Forward in Faith



...the story of Emmanuel Missionary College becoming Andrews University and growing into a global institution of higher education. This volume spans the time period from 1960 to 1990. Written by Meredith Jones Gray, professor of English and author of "As We Set Forth," the comprehensive history of BCC and EMC, "Forward in Faith" will be unveiled on Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024, at the Alumni Gala Banquet.

The 384-page hardcover display book is only **\$39.99!** Pre-orders available through the Andrews University Bookstore. Special two-volume pricing of **\$49.99** for both "Forward in Faith" and "As We Set Forth."

*Shipping and handling extra.*

## 1960s

**Dick Stenbakken** (MA '64, BD '65) recently began working with the Desmond Doss Foundation as chairman of the Educational Committee. The committee is tasked with producing a series of educational episodes, or edusodes, promoting personal character growth for individuals and groups. Dick is serving as the principal author of the episodes.

## 1980s

**Lenita (Neal) Skoretz** (BA '82, MA '84) was appointed Superior Court judge in the county of San Bernardino, California. She was sworn in Dec. 8, 2023.

## 1990s



**Jorge A. Ramirez** (MDiv '90, DMin '14) has 38 years of service for the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a pastor and administrator. He is currently serving as the undersecretary for the North American Division in Columbia, Maryland.

## 2020s

**Ephraim S. Palmero III** (BS '20, MSCID '22) was recently promoted to program officer, policy & engagement, at Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Indianapolis. He was also recently appointed by the mayor of Indianapolis to the Indianapolis Greenways Development Committee for a four-year term. The committee advises the Board of Indianapolis Department of Parks and Recreation to encourage use, preservation and improvement of the Indianapolis greenways with regard to present and future operations, development, recreation and natural environment.



**Margaret Morgan Schwitzgoebel** (DIP2YR '67), 76, born Nov. 23, 1947, peacefully passed away on May 12, 2024.

Margaret grew up in Green Bay, Wisconsin, graduating in 1967 from Andrews University, where she studied secretarial science. She worked several different secretary jobs but was primarily a stay-at-home wife and mother. Margaret will be remembered for her personality, friendships, humor and the love of going to the beach. She was a member of the Collegedale Community Church.

She is survived by her husband of 54 years, **Buz Schwitzgoebel** (BS '68); son, **Jamie Schwitzgoebel** (wife, Stassey); daughter, **Joely Schwitzgoebel Hudson** (husband, Greg); five grandchildren, **Jordan, Jackson, Sophia, Peyton and Brandon**; sister, **Lisa Morgan Waid** (husband, Donnie); and brother and sister-in-law **Ty** (BSMT '71) and **Alice Schwitzgoebel**.



**Dean E. Flint** (BA '62), 91, born Aug. 18, 1932, in Whitefish, Montana, died Feb. 29, 2024, in Charlotte, North Carolina, at the home of his daughter, after a short illness. He was the second of four children born to Roy and Sadie Flint.

In 1953, Dean graduated from Mt. Ellis Academy in Bozeman, Montana, where he gave his life to Christ. After graduation, he served

two years in the U.S. Army as a medical records specialist stationed in Panama. Upon completion of his military service, he attended Emmanuel Missionary College, graduating from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, in 1962. While there, he met and married Donna Roelof.

Dean taught in Seventh-day Adventist elementary schools in Jackson, Michigan; Calgary, Alberta; the Raleigh/Durham area of North Carolina and Nashville, Tennessee. After retirement as a teacher, he continued his life of service to others and enjoyed his work as a volunteer director of the Adventist Community Services Center at the 403 Center located in Madison, Tennessee, for several years. His last years were spent at Fletcher Park Inn in Hendersonville, North Carolina.

In addition to the hundreds of students whose lives he touched, Dean is survived by his son, Douglas, of Garner, North Carolina; his daughter and son-in-law, Deanna and Stephen Berrier of Charlotte, North Carolina; his former wife, Donna, of Hendersonville, North Carolina, as well as several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his son, Dale, and all of his siblings, Luella McFadden, Raleigh and Robert.

**Nadine Adele (Platner) Dower** (BS '71, former staff) passed away on Jan. 5, 2024, in Seattle, Washington, at the age of 79 (6 hours short of her 80th birthday). Born on Jan. 6, 1944, in Spokane, Washington, Nadine was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother and friend.

Nadine was a happy and hospitable person who found joy in helping others. She had a passion for art and graphic design, which led her to start her own design firm called Dower Power. Throughout her career, she worked at various institutions including the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Maryland; Andrews University's music department and University Press; and the Lake Union and North Pacific Union Conferences



of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Nadine also volunteered for Your Story Hour and actively participated in numerous ministries. She was deeply committed to her faith and actively involved in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Nadine worshiped at the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan, Orchards Church in Vancouver, Washington, and the Walla Walla University Church in Walla Walla, Washington.

In her free time, Nadine enjoyed reading, scrapbooking and volunteering. Her creativity and passion for the arts shone through her hobbies.

Nadine will be dearly missed by all who knew her. Her kind spirit, artistic talents and dedication to her faith and family will be long remembered. Her family and friends look for the day of Christ's second coming when she will rise to meet us all again.

Nadine cherished her family and is survived by her husband, **Richard (Dick) Dower** (BA '65). She leaves behind her daughter, **Mona Dower Sarcona** (BBA '92, current staff) (Joe), and her grandchildren, Matthew and Nina Sarcona. Nadine is also survived by her son, James Dower (Noel Chaves), and her granddaughter, Paloma Chaves-Dower. She was preceded in death by her parents, Wayne and Adele Platner, as well as her brothers, Wally, Elwyn and Leroy Platner.

**Herman Kibble** (BA '52, MA '66, BD '69) passed away Dec. 27, 2023. He was born to Harvey W. Kibble Sr. and Thelma L. (Winston) Kibble on July 16, 1931. After turning 16, Herman began studying at Emmanuel Missionary College, now Andrews University. His freshman year, Herman won first place in an oratorical contest. He took this as a sign that he should enter the ministry like his father.

Herman graduated with his bachelor's in 1952. He later completed two graduate degrees from the same university and a doctorate from the Pacific School of Religion. He began interning at Wadsworth Avenue Seventh-day Adventist Church (now University Adventist Church), then pastored the Ivy Avenue Adventist Church (now All Nations Adventist Church).

Herman married Marquita Hamilton. They had three children: **Kevin** (MDiv '88), **Kraig** and **Kimberlee**. In 1957, Herman was ordained and began pastoring in Long Beach, California. In 1964, he was transferred to Pasadena, California, where he led in building the Altadena SDA Church. In 1969, he began officer's training to become a U.S. Navy chaplain. He served in the Navy for 23 years in various duty stations. He received many military awards including the Presidential Unit Citation (Navy), Vietnam Gallantry Cross (Civil Actions Medal) and the Philippine Presidential Unit Ribbon.

Herman was the first Adventist to serve as head chaplain for an entire U.S. Navy Carrier Battle group. He shares the distinction of being the first Adventist chaplain to be promoted to rank O6 (second highest rank) in the military. When **Barry Black** (MDiv '73) began serving as a Navy chaplain, Herman became his mentor. In 1993, Herman became a chaplain at the Veterans Hospital in Loma Linda, California, for 20 years.

Herman was preceded in death by his parents and three

siblings: **Harvey Kibble Jr.** (BA '52), **Marie Robinson** (BS/BS '58) and **Alvin Kibble** (BD '69). He is survived by his wife, Marquita; three children and their spouses; four grandchildren; and two siblings.



**Donna Mae (Winslow) Wheeler** (former staff), 101, died Dec. 25, 2023, at Hendersonville Health and Rehabilitation in Flat Rock, North Carolina.

Donna was born Jan. 9, 1922, in Imlay City, Michigan, to Roy E. and Myrtle Winslow. In 1942, she married the love of her life, George Lynn Wheeler.

After high school, she attended County Normal School and taught for several years in one-room schoolhouses. After teaching for many years at public schools in Imlay City and Dryden, Michigan, she earned a master's degree in library science from the University of Michigan.

In 1970, she and George moved to Downers Grove, Illinois, where she reorganized the nursing library at Hinsdale College. Subsequently, they relocated to Berrien Springs, Michigan, and she worked as librarian at Ruth Murdoch Elementary School, on the campus of Andrews University, for several years. Later, she became librarian at Andrews Academy, where she served for 19 years. She and George were members of Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs for many years.

In 1992, after she retired, they moved to the Fletcher Park Inn, in Hendersonville, North Carolina, where she became

librarian for that retirement community. When George was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, they moved back to Berrien Springs to be closer to family. After George's death in 2009, Donna moved back to the Fletcher Park community. Then, in September, her health took a turn for the worse and she was moved to the rehab center where she lived until her death in December.

She is survived by a daughter, **Sallie** (BS '68, MSA '00, former staff) (**Vernon** (BA/BA '67)) **Alger** and two sons—**Larry** (Shirley) **Wheeler** and **Brian Wheeler**. Other survivors include five grandchildren and several great-grandchildren, as well as many nieces and nephews.

George preceded her in death, as well as a brother and sister, and a son, James Lee. Also preceding her in death was a beloved daughter-in-law, **Carolyn** (Brian) **Wheeler** (BS '00).



**Carol Beal** (BBA '95, former staff), 84, passed to her rest on Dec. 25, 2023. She was a graduate of Andrews University, a former employee and the mother of current employees **John Beal** (AT '86, BT '88) and his wife, **Marsha Beal** (BT '89). She was also grandmother to **Karyl Beal** (BS '24) and **Emily Cancel-Vyhmeister** (BS '19, MA '22).

Beal is survived by her three children, **Linda** (BBA '84) (**Ted** (BBA '84)) **Vallejos**, **Shawna** (BSELED/BS '86, MAT '90) (**Ron**) **Vyhmeister** and **John** (Marsha) **Beal**; her three grandchildren, **Alexander** (Joy) **Vyhmeister**,



**Erik (Emily) Cancel-Vyhmeister** (BS '16, BS '17) and Karyl Beal; four great-grandchildren, Kristina and Orion Vyhmeister, Max and Margarita and Julian (recently born) Vyhmeister; brother Robert (Dorothy) Jones; sister Phyllis (Thomas) Clayton; and many beloved nephews, nieces and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her high school sweetheart, Orville Beal; her parents, Ivan and **Marjorie Jones** (ONEYR '44); and sister, Connie Dacre.



**Donald "Don" H. Rhoads** (BA '58, former faculty) was born in Fargo, North Dakota, to James and Mary Rhoads on Sept. 17, 1937. He was the youngest of three sons.

After completing his studies at Southwestern Junior College, Don enrolled at Emmanuel Missionary College (EMC) where his primary focus of study was mathematics. There he met his future wife, **Jean Schlunt** (BS '58). They were married on June 15, 1958. Don was accepted into a PhD program at Rice University but completed only an MA, which he received in 1961. He went on to earn his PhD at the University of Michigan in 1968.

In 1963, Jean had their first baby, **Karl** (BA '86). Anne-Marie followed in 1965 and Jill in 1968.

In 1962, Don started teaching at Andrews University and continued in that role until 1972. Don and Jean moved the family to Bloomington, Indiana, to start a "hi-fi" store. He also built a house in Modesto. Don finally sold the business in 1986.

In 1987–1988, Don built a

house for his parents. In 1992, he added a major addition to his own house. For the next few years, he kept busy in various endeavors. When a job in the Math department at Andrews University opened up in 1998, Don applied for his old job and was rehired. In 2000, Don became chair of the department and remained in that role until he retired in 2006.

After retirement Don busied himself with finishing "Euclidean Geometry and its Subgeometries," a book started by his mentors at Andrews, **Ed Specht** (former faculty) and **Harold Jones** (former faculty). Don and **Keith Calkins** (BS '81, MS '82, MS '91, MAT '02) worked together on editing it, and it was published in 2015.

In 2018, shortly after their 60th wedding anniversary, Don's beloved Jean fell ill and died of liver cancer in November of that year. In 2022, he, too, was diagnosed with cancer. In mid-November 2023, after the doctors told him there was nothing else they could do, he went on hospice and passed away a month later on Dec. 16, in his own bed, in the house he had built 50 years before.

He is survived by his three children, five grandchildren, and numerous great-grandchildren.

**Arlan Prescott Nelson** (former staff), age 88, of Berrien Springs, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023, at Corewell Health Lakeland Hospital in St. Joseph, Michigan, after a short illness.

Arlan was born in Nicollet, Minnesota, on Sept. 20, 1935. Due to nerve damage during the birthing process, Arlan was born deaf and could not benefit from a hearing device. When he was 4 or 5 years old, Arlan attended a special school for the deaf in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he was taught the ABC's, how to lip read well enough to communicate with the family and teachers, and how to read. After two years he returned to Berrien

Springs, Michigan, and was a student on the campus of Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University), attending elementary school, the Academy, and two years of college.

He then began work as a lineo-type operator setting type for the Emmanuel Missionary College Press. After working there a short time, he was offered a position doing the same work for a printing company in Benton Harbor, Michigan, which he did for many years until the company relocated. Arlan then worked at the Berrien Book Bindery at Andrews University. When the bindery closed, Arlan worked with his brother Perry on their farm. Perry was Arlan's guardian for his last 36 years.

Arlan had numerous hobbies and interests, such as weather tracking, photography, stamp collecting, doing 1,000-piece puzzles, and gardening. He also enjoyed playing games with the family.

Arlan was a long-time, faithful member of Pioneer Memorial Church.

He is survived by his brother, **Perry Dean** (CERT '72) (Sue) **Nelson**; and his two sisters, **Sharen Nelson Stubbs** and **Clara Lou Nelson** (**Jerry** (BA '69, MDiv '72) **Johns**). He was privileged to be an uncle to five nieces and three nephews, plus 11 great-nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, **Prescott John Nelson**, and his mother, **Mildred Vera Yaeger Nelson**; his baby brother who died in infancy; and his brother-in-law **Ken Stubbs**, **Sharen's** husband.

**Larry Stewart Ulery** (MA '80, former faculty) of Berrien Springs, Michigan, passed away suddenly on Dec. 6, 2023. He had just celebrated his 75th birthday on Nov. 30.

Larry was born in St. Joseph, Michigan, to **Bruce** and **Mary Ulery**. He thrived in the loving community there along with his three brothers, **Jim**, **Ron**, and his twin brother **Harry**. He



went on to honorably serve in the United States Army, then diligently pursued his higher education. He earned his Bachelor of Science in health from Western Michigan University (1976), his Master of Arts in counseling and guidance from Andrews University (1980) and a Master of Science in administration from the University of Notre Dame (1990).

At Andrews University, he experienced two major impacts on his life. First, he became a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1977. Second, he married the love of his life, **Lally John** (MA '80), in 1980 in the presence of a loving community in Pune, India. They had two beautiful children, **Shawn** and **Richelle** (BSELED '15, MSW '22).

Larry valued higher education and had a fulfilling career as a professor at Lake Michigan College, Western Michigan University and Andrews University. He was beloved by his students, who appreciated his passion for service and stress management. He also taught Sabbath School along with his wife and held various roles as an active church member at All Nations and Pioneer Memorial Church.

He found solace and strength in reading his Bible and was a faithful member of the Adventist Church for most of his life. Larry enjoyed working out at the YMCA and frequently walked at Silver Beach in St. Jo-

seph. He was a big fan of sports, both as a player and fan. Larry most enjoyed spending time with his family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Lally and his parents. He is survived by his children, Shawn Ulery and Richelle (Shaun) Kuriata; his siblings Jim, Ron (Betty) and Harry; and a host of family and friends.

**Ivan T. Blazen** (BA '57, MA '58, BD '62, former faculty), 89, was born Sept. 17, 1934, in Buffalo, New York. He died Dec. 4, 2023, in Loma Linda, California, surrounded by the love of his wife and daughters.

Blazen graduated from Cass Technical High School. He received a BA from Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) and then pursued graduate studies at several universities and seminaries. These included Potomac University, the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, Union Theological Seminary, The University of Heidelberg, Drew University and Princeton Theological Seminary, where he received his PhD in 1979.

Blazen was a true scholar and a man of faith who dedicated his life to the study and teaching of the Bible. He served as an instructor at Emmanuel Missionary College for several years in the 1960s while he continued his education. Later, he served at Andrews University and the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary from 1970 to 1988, eight of those years as chair of the Department of New Testament. He was also professor of religion at Pacific Union College from 1990 to 1993 and professor of biblical interpretation and theology at the Loma Linda University School of Religion from 1988 to

1990 and from 1993 until his retirement in 2010.

Blazen was one of the preeminent New Testament scholars of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He had an unquenchable desire for knowledge and a fierce love of his students. His greatest passion was teaching others about the Gospel and the miraculous love and salvation through Jesus Christ. Blazen's insights continue to inspire through his written and recorded words, including two books as well as numerous book chapters, articles and other church publications.

Blazen was preceded in death by parents, Matthew and Antoinette Blazen; former wife and mother of his daughters, **Paddy Jean Blazen** (BS/BS '56, MA '64); brother, Matthew Blazen; and stepchildren, Shawn and Leanna Peterson.

He is survived by his loving wife, Deanna Blazen; daughters, **Lynell** (BBA '84) (**Steve** (BS '84) **Babienco**, Yvonne (Darik) Doggett and Jean Blazen; grandchildren, **Ryan** (BS '10) (Brianna) **Babienco**, Michael (Caitlyn) Babienco, Kristin Babienco, Chad Doggett and Lauren Doggett; and great-grandchildren, Clarkston Babienco and Adelyn Babienco.



**Gregory J. "Greg" Rosenthal** (former staff), 55, of St. Joseph, Michigan, passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023, at Hanson Hospice Center in Stevensville.

Greg was born July 10, 1968, to Jon and Colleen

(Udstuen) Rosenthal in Robbinsdale, Minnesota. He attended Maplewood Academy graduating in 1987 and continued his education at Union College where he would earn a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1992.

On July 28, 2002, Greg married the love of his life, Amy Rebok.

Greg worked as an administrator for a senior living center for a number of years before he relocated to Andrews University to work in the financial records department.

Greg was an avid sports fan, specifically Minnesota sports such as the Vikings, Twins, Timberwolves, Golden Golfers and Minnesota Wild. He also enjoyed watching NASCAR and playing golf.

Greg is survived by his mother, Colleen Rosenthal; loving wife of 21 years, Amy Rosenthal; daughters, Lexi and Jonni Rosenthal; siblings, Barbra Schoeneberger and Dan (Jeni) Rosenthal; and two four-legged companions, Dakota and Bayleigh. He was preceded in death by his father, Jon Rosenthal, and sister, Jerri Linn Brown.

**Gwynne Milton Richardson** (MA '65) was born Feb. 18, 1934, in Mount Vernon, Ohio, to Charles and Gladys (Slade) Richardson. Gwynne died Nov. 14, 2023, in Walla Walla, Washington, surrounded by his family.

Gwynne graduated from Pacific Union College Prep in 1952 and earned a BA in theology at PUC in 1958. He earned three master's degrees: MDiv from Potomac University, MA in education from Andrews University and MPH from Loma Linda University.

In Maryland, he met **Ione Markel** (BS '57) who became the love of his life and ministry partner. For eight years, he taught Bible and history in Adventist academies on Amer-

ica's East Coast and heartland, before coming to Laurelwood Academy in Oregon as teacher and campus pastor. From there he transitioned to pastoring 14 congregations over 46 years in the Oregon Conference.

Gwynne is survived by wife Ione, married 64 years; son Paul (Teri) of College Place, Washington; daughter Kari (Eric) Olson of Boring, Oregon; grandchildren, David (California) and Kristen (Australia); brother, Jerry (Marian) of Gresham, Oregon; nephew, Bill (Jenn) Harn of Pennsylvania; nieces Kristi (Adam) Cornwell and Heather (Seth) Mills of Washington; and stepsister Angie Rueb of California. His brother, Duane, and nephew, Kelvin, preceded him in death.

**Leonard Marsh** (BA '59) passed away on April 6, 2023, in Lafayette, Colorado. He was born Jan. 6, 1938. He is survived by his wife, Janet Marsh, and two daughters, Kelly Marsh and Sherry Marsh.


*CORRECTION: The obituary for Esther Virginia Tyler in the fall 2023 issue of FOCUS incorrectly stated that she was a "member of the Daughters of America." She was a member of her local Algonquin Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.*

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A close-up portrait of Karen Snyder, a woman with short, wavy white hair, wearing a dark turtleneck sweater. She is smiling slightly and looking upwards and to the right.

**Karen Snyder, BA '76**  
Associate broker and proud member of four generations of Andrews alums.

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*Spring 2024 graduates were invited to ring the Battle Creek Bell following each Commencement service.  
Photo credit: Darren Heslop, University Communication staff photographer*

