

# FOCUS

FALL 2024  
Vol 60 No 4

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THE ANDREWS UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



# The Global Scope of Andrews University

John Wesley Taylor V, *president*

ANDREWS IS A GLOBAL UNIVERSITY. In at least three ways.

First, Andrews University spans the world. Through extension programs, affiliations and partnerships with institutions internationally, and online learning, Andrews students reside in nearly every region. From Hong Kong to Ukraine. From Canada to Chile. From Lebanon to Vietnam.

These students, from kindergarten to academy, and in bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs, enroll through Andrews University's Global Campus. Although some may not set foot on the Michigan campus until graduation, each student is a vital, valued member of the Andrews family. We are proud they are part of our Global Campus!

Second, Andrews University was established to form World Changers. A key rationale was the divine commission of Matthew 28—carrying the gospel into all the world.

John Nevins Andrews, an early church leader and our namesake, wrote an April 1873 editorial in *The Advent Review* stating: "The calls that come from every quarter, from men speaking other languages, must be answered by us. We cannot do this in our present circumstances. But we can do it if the Lord bless our effort in the establishment of our proposed school."

Since its origins 150 years ago as Battle Creek College, then Emmanuel Missionary College, and now Andrews University, thousands of individuals have gone forth to make a difference for God in the world. That commitment continues today.

In addition to graduates who go abroad, 25 Andrews University students currently

serve as student missionaries in places including Kenya, Austria and Micronesia, dedicating up to a year or more of service. Add to these the 80 students who will engage in short-term mission experiences this school year, in places such as Bolivia, Honduras and Zambia.

Third, in the lead-up to establishing Battle Creek College, George I. Butler, General Conference president, wrote in the May 7, 1872, issue of *The Advent Review*: "The School must commence at the earliest point practicable. Two brethren are coming from Europe, to be educated in the English language, and become more fully acquainted with our faith." Ademar Vuilleumier, from Switzerland, would soon enroll as the first overseas student.

Today 989 students at Andrews University are international students. They join us from nearly every region of the world, representing 105 countries. Andrews University, in fact, ranks in the top 10 for most international students, out of 436 national universities ranked in the 2025 U.S. News Best Colleges.

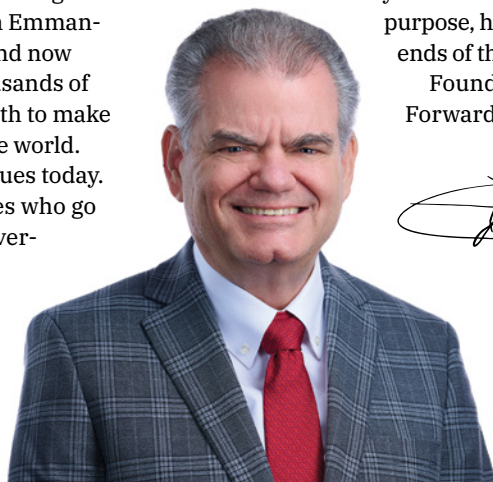
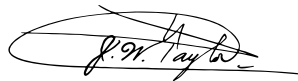
When I meet prospective students and their families, I often say: "Andrews University is where you meet the world. It is where you learn to live in the global village!"

So today, we celebrate and affirm our international students. Each one brings a special richness and vitality to the tapestry of our University. And we are thankful!

After His resurrection, Christ instructed His followers that they should be His witnesses "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8, NIV). Similarly, in this issue of FOCUS, you will read exciting stories of what takes place here on our Andrews University campus, in our local communities and around the world.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for Andrews University as we seek to fulfill God's purpose, here and "to the ends of the earth."

Founded in faith.  
Forward in mission!



World Changers Made Here.

### Editor

Gillian Panigot (BA '06, MA '08)  
focus@andrews.edu | 269-471-3348

### Assistant Editor

Kaara Harris (current faculty)

### Contributing Editors

Raelene Brower (att., current staff)

### Designer

Justin Jeffery (BMus '04)

### Photographers

Kimberly Agosto (current student)  
Daniel Bedell (BS '08)  
Jeff Boyd (MBA '04, current staff)  
Blaise Datoy (current student)  
Darren Heslop (BFA '12, current staff)  
Manuel Monchon (current student)  
Lydia Ruckle (current student)  
David Sherwin (BFA '82, current faculty)

### Writers

Anthony Bosman (current faculty)  
Roberta Colwell (current staff)  
Emily Ellis (current student)  
Andrew Francis (current student)  
Isabella Koh (BA '23, current staff)

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John Wesley Taylor V (MA '84, PhD '86)

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Wagner Kuhn (MA '94)

### Chief Financial Officer

Glenn "Chip" Meekma (att.)

### Vice President for Campus & Student Life

Frances Faehner (BSW '76, PhD '07)

### Interim Vice President for Strategic Enrollment, Marketing & Communication

Bordes Henry Saturné

### Vice President for University Advancement

Donald L. Bedney II (MDiv '90, MSA '91)

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Alumni Homecoming 2024



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“Forward in Faith”



## Features

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by Meredith Jones Gray

The second University history volume tells the Andrews University story from 1960 to 1990 and includes the origins of the Andrews flagwalk.

### 21 Alumni Homecoming 2024

Alumni celebrated Andrews University’s 150th anniversary.

### 26 Honoring Alumni

Four Honored Alumni and two Up-and-Coming Alumni were recognized during Homecoming Weekend.

### 30 Class Reunion Photos

Members of this year’s honored classes gathered with returning classmates.

Class Reunion Photos



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**Cover:** The original artwork “Founded in Faith, Forward in Mission: Our 150-Year Journey,” by Karen Jimenez Findley, was commissioned by the Office of Alumni Services for Homecoming Weekend and will have a permanent display space in the Adventist Heritage Center.



FOCUS | Summer 2024

## Autumn Conference on Religion & Science

Took place Nov. 7–9

THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH & CREATIVE Scholarship organized this year’s Andrews Autumn Conference on Religion & Science, with the theme “Creation Care.” Supported by the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists and a Climate Science in Theological Education grant from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (AAAS:DoSER), the conference invited faculty and students to explore the scientific and theological mandates to take care of God’s creation.

Sigve Tonstad, an accomplished author and research professor at Loma Linda University, gave the opening plenary titled “And Also Many Animals,” a reference to Jonah 4:11. In this verse, God desires even the animals of Nineveh to be spared from destruction. Noting that God cares for all forms of life, Tonstad encouraged attendees to consider how modern care for life ought to be aligned with God’s standards.

The second day of the conference featured presenters from AdventHealth University, Burman University and Andrews University and began with a devotional by Michael Campbell, director of Archives, Statistics & Research in the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. Presentation topics included awareness of plant-based diets

and environmental issues, the future of environmental sustainability, designs for creation care efforts, and connecting theological concepts to environmental values. Martin Hanna, associate professor of systematic theology, ended the day with a vespers presentation titled, “Making Space for the Creator of Space.”

The Sabbath session began with a devotional by Willie Hucks, assistant to the president for University Mission & Culture. Jessica Moerman, president of the Evangelical Environmental Network, spoke on environmental stewardship as discipleship. Øystein LaBianca, senior research professor of anthropology, discussed how the Seventh-day Adventist tradition may be drawn upon to rediscover our potential to address the climate crisis. William Miller, assistant professor of biology at Calvin University, talked about how the One Health approach to creation care may help promote environmental stewardship within faith communities. Finally, Sigve Tonstad spoke about the renewed Earth of Revelation 21:1.

According to Gary Burdick, dean of research, “This conference provided a wonderful opportunity for dialogue between theologians and scientists on the topic of creation care, an area of great interest and importance for both disciplines.”



Visit Andrews University’s YouTube channel to view Faith360 programs, the Alumni Homecoming Gala Concert, Fall Week of Prayer 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.

#### By mail:

FOCUS Editor  
Andrews University  
Office of University Communication  
8903 Old US 31  
Berrien Springs MI 49104-1000

#### By email:

[focus@andrews.edu](mailto:focus@andrews.edu)



L–R: Jessica Moerman, Øystein LaBianca, Sigve Tonstad, William Miller, Gary Burdick

# LIFE ON CAMPUS



Wellness Week, 4x4 Co-ed Volleyball Tournament, Oct. 4



AU Almost Anything Goes, Sept. 14



Veterans Day program, Nov. 12



Preview, Oct. 20



Ministry and Club Fair, Sept. 11



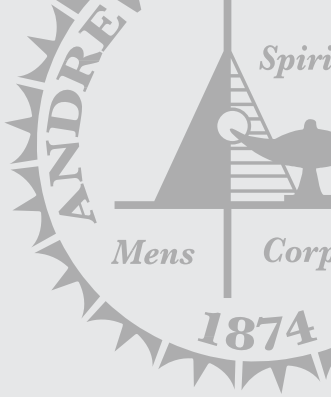
Fall Week of Prayer, Ty Gibson, Sept. 16-21



Barn Party, Oct. 20



Andy's Welcome Weekend, Aug. 31-Sept. 2



## New Vision Statement for Andrews

*Approved at October Board meeting*

DURING THE JUNE SESSION OF THE ANDREWS University Board of Trustees, board members and invited campus leaders engaged in a vision-casting session led by Olesea Azevedo, AdventHealth executive vice president and chief administrative officer; Craig Baker, AdventHealth senior vice president for Strategy and Corporate Communications; and Vickie White, AdventHealth senior vice president and chief brand and consumer officer. In that session, participants identified priorities and key outcomes for Andrews University.

The AdventHealth team then prepared a report for University administration that included a suggested vision statement that would align with the identified priorities and provide actionable direction for the University. At a leadership retreat held in mid-September, University leaders reviewed the proposed statement and adapted it to best fit the institution. The statement was then provided to focus groups consisting of undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff and alumni for their feedback.

This input was taken into account, and an updated statement was reviewed by the University Strategy and Policy Council (USPC). With a few further adaptations, the statement was recommended through President John Wesley Taylor V to the Board of Trustees, which approved the new vision statement at its October session.

Taylor says, “Our new Vision Statement consists of four key aspects: (1) for what will we be known, (2) why students and their families will choose Andrews University, (3) why faculty and staff will choose to be part of the Andrews team, and (4) how the University will make a difference in the broader community.”

He adds, “While our Mission Statement and our Core Values describe our core purpose and identify what we hold dear, the Vision Statement charts direction, shapes possibilities, and frames the future. Together, these core statements form the basis for the Andrews University Strategic Plan, which describes, in turn, our key goals and actionable initiatives. It should also be noted that while it articulates our aspirations for the future, the Vision Statement itself is written in present tense, recognizing that we are already on the journey toward our destination.”

To read the full vision statement, visit [andrews.edu/about/mission](http://andrews.edu/about/mission).



## Honors Church

*“Forward in Faith: 150 Years of Andrews University”*

THE 2024 ANNUAL HONORS CHURCH SERVICE TOOK PLACE Sabbath, Nov. 2. The program was held in the Seminary Chapel and featured participation from students, staff and faculty within the J.N. Andrews Honors Program. The Andrews University Singers, directed by Stephen Zork, also performed several songs for the service. In accordance with the sesquicentennial celebrations happening throughout campus, the service honored the University’s anniversary through scripture readings, excerpts of historical texts and special music.

Meredith Jones Gray, professor emerita of English and University historian, gave the homily. Jones Gray, who recently released her second volume of Andrews University history, titled “Forward in Faith,” drew an important connection between the development of the school and the growth in the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s worldwide mission work. Her talk emphasized the importance of Andrews University’s students, from the school’s founding to the present day, and their role in renewing and transforming the church and its mission. “We want to be partners with you in changing the world,” Jones Gray affirmed to the current students in attendance. “We need you.” She closed with a reminder to turn to God in this important work, noting, “If you seek Him, He will be found with you.”

**From Top, L-R:** Honors Scholars readers ■ Honors Church attendees ■ Andrews University Singers

# Andrews fall 2024 rankings and enrollment report

*Strong national rankings and enrollment increases*

**This sesquicentennial year, Andrews University celebrates national university rankings and growth in enrollment.**

## Rankings

Andrews University was named among the best national universities by U.S. News & World Report, climbing 47 spots from last year. Of the more than 1,800 colleges and universities assessed by U.S. News, less than a quarter are recognized as national universities. This designation signals Andrews' range of undergraduate offerings and doctoral programs, where students at all levels are taught by research-active faculty. Andrews is the only national university run by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

This year, the U.S. News ranking gave additional weight to metrics measuring a university's support for students from all social backgrounds. Andrews was included in the list of "Top Performers on Social Mobility," reflecting success at graduating students with family incomes under \$50,000.

U.S. News also awarded Andrews the top position for ethnic diversity among

national universities, tying for #1 with Stanford, Johns Hopkins and San Francisco University. Among national universities, Andrews placed #7 for most international students, with 20% of students coming from outside the U.S.

In the 2025 Niche Best Colleges in America rankings, which included over 500 Christian colleges and universities, Andrews University is #19 among Best Christian Colleges in America. Niche also recognized Andrews as the Best Christian College (#1 of 12), Top Private University (#1 of 24) and Best Small College (#1 of 25) in the state of Michigan.

The Niche rankings are based on analysis of the academic quality and financial value of the University as well as a comprehensive student review system. Niche assigned Andrews "A" grades in areas such as academics, value, diversity, professors, campus food and safety.

Andrews University was also named in the Wall Street Journal/College Pulse "2024 Best Colleges in the U.S." rankings. Andrews is one of four Christian universities in Michigan and the only Adventist university included in this ranking.

In the WSJ rankings, Andrews placed second among Michigan private universities in the student experience category, which takes into account student satisfaction with campus facilities, sense of community, mental health support and the quality of positive interactions within the ethnically and socioeconomically diverse student body.

"At Andrews University, we're proud to be providing an academically excellent and distinctively faith-based, world changing Adventist education," says Wagner Kuhn, interim chief academic officer at Andrews University.

## Enrollment

Andrews University's headcount enrollment for fall 2024 showed 3,021 students—a 2% increase from last year.

Graduate headcount enrollment was 1,598—an increase of 3%. The Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary's enrollment increased nearly 7%, and its MDiv program expanded to 460 students, the highest in the last six years.

Undergraduate headcount enrollment was stable at 1,423. Additionally, undergraduate transfer enrollment was up 13%.

An additional 321 students are also registered and studying at international campus partners and programs this fall semester, which makes for an overall worldwide Andrews University 2024 fall semester enrollment of 3,342 students. An annual unduplicated headcount analysis showed 4,003 different students overall who enrolled at Andrews at some point between summer semester 2023 and spring semester 2024.

"Andrews University is deepening its commitment to being a truly Global Campus, which means we offer the same quality and commitment to Andrews students who study around the globe on partner campuses and through distance education options," says Alayne Thorpe, dean of the College of Education & International Services and dean of Graduate Studies.

President John Wesley Taylor V says, "As this year of celebration continues, I want to assure you that Andrews University remains fully committed to God, His calling for our lives—students, graduates, faculty, staff and administrators—and His ongoing mission for our University."





**From Top, L-R:** Robert and Lillis Kingman Speaker Series on Science & Society ■ Celebration of Community Engagement ■ Adventist Mission Conference ■ John O. Waller Lectureship on the Arts ■ Celebration of Research & Creative Scholarship



PHOTO: L. Monique Pittman

# Research Week 2024

Took place from Oct. 17–28

RESEARCH WEEK, HOSTED BY THE Office of Research & Creative Scholarship, provided five opportunities for students, faculty and staff to explore present interests, develop new understanding and collaborate with others.

The opening event, the Adventist Mission Conference from Oct. 17–20, was themed “Celebrating the Past, Looking to the Future.” It commemorated 150 years since J.N. Andrews began his work as the first official Seventh-day Adventist missionary and celebrated 150 years of consistent overseas mission work of the Seventh-day Adventist church. Presentations by scholars explored ways to enhance current and future mission engagements and investigated the history of Adventist missions, mission challenges and strategies. Programming also included the singing of traditional advent hymns, a Sabbath message from Ted Wilson, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and a tour of the Historic Adventist Village in Battle Creek, Michigan.

On Wednesday, Oct. 23, the Robert and Lillis Kingman Speaker Series on Science & Society featured Michael Downer, distinguished teaching professor in the Department of Physics at The University of Texas at Austin. Downer spoke on “Small Particle Accelerators for Big 21st Century Science.” In his plenary presentation, he helped the audience understand the basic theory of atomic physics that has driven today’s high-energy particle accelerators. He also described how a growing international community of physicists is using “plasma” to accelerate electrons and protons to energies sufficient for X-ray lasers and proton therapy on tabletops inside university laboratories.

The Celebration of Community Engagement, held on Thursday, Oct. 24, centered on the theme “Founded in Faith. Forward in Mission.” The event featured a poster session and videos showcasing both local and international community engagement initiatives led by Andrews University departments.

The keynote address, delivered by Carlisle Sutton, sponsored research officer, and Mordekai Ongo, research integrity and compliance officer, explored the rich history of Adventism’s growth in Africa, highlighting the pivotal role health and educational institutions play in advancing the Church’s mission. In the summer of 2024, Sutton and Ongo visited Botswana, Lesotho, Kenya, Nigeria, Zambia and Zimbabwe to provide grant writing and research ethics training. This was the beginning of a new initiative, the Global Institute for Research and Community Advancement, that aims to strengthen collaboration between Andrews University and its sister institutions in Africa to develop innovative research programs that tackle pressing health and socio-economic challenges faced by these communities.

The Celebration of Research & Creative Scholarship, held Friday, Oct. 25, included plenary presentations given by the recipients of the 2023–2024 Siegfried H. Horn Excellence in Research & Creative Scholarship Award: Felix Cortez, professor of New Testament, and Shannon Trecartin, professor of social work. The event also included oral presentations and poster presentations from a variety of academic disciplines.

Research Week concluded on Monday, Oct. 28, with the John O. Waller Lectureship on the Arts, co-sponsored by the Department of English. Zack Kruse, a professor at the University of Wisconsin, Green Bay, shared a presentation titled “Culture in the Gutters: American Comic Books as Instruments of Political and Philosophical Change.” Kruse is a scholar of comics, film and American literature and publishes broadly in these areas.

Gary Burdick, dean of research, shares, “I am thrilled by the diverse learning opportunities enabled by the exceptional quality of research conferences at Andrews. Our team in the Office of Research & Creative Scholarship is grateful for the chance to partner with departments across campus to advance research.”



## Students and alumni win communication awards

*At the Society of Adventist Communicators convention*

DURING THE 35TH ANNUAL SOCIETY OF Adventist Communicators (SAC) convention in October, several Andrews University communication students and alumni were recognized by SAC for exemplary work. SAC aims to nurture the professional growth of Adventist communicators in a spiritual and social environment.

### Envision Magazine Awards

Envision Magazine, a Christian collegiate lifestyle publication, is produced entirely by students from the Department of Visual Art, Communication & Design at Andrews.

For her work as a graphic designer and illustrator on the Envision Magazine story “Oranges for Dinner,” Chloe De Leon, senior graphic design major, won “Best Student Print Design.”

The award “Best Student Artistic/ Design Photography” went to Nate Reid, junior digital communication/digital media major, and Skyler Campbell, senior graphic design major, for their work on Envision’s cover.

Sophomore elementary education major Amanda Park won the “Best Student Long-Form Feature Writing Award” for her article “Hidden in the Waiting.”

Htet Myint, MLS certificate recipient, also received an honorable mention in the long-form feature writing category for his article “Sponsorship and Solidarity.”

Kaara Harris, assistant professor of journalism and communication and

managing editor of Envision, says, “I’m so proud of the work our students did on Envision! ... I’m especially thrilled that they were recognized across categories—writing, design and photography—because it shows their depth as creative storytellers. We don’t do this for awards, but the recognition is a great affirmation that there is a place for our students to excel in the gifts God has given them.”

### Individual Student Awards

Nicholas Gunn, sophomore elementary education major, received the “2024 Student of the Year Award,” for his communication work across multiple platforms, including writing, radio and online. Gunn’s work was also highlighted through several honorable mentions. In the podcast category, his interview with gospel singer K-Anthony was highlighted. Two of his writing projects, “Alumni Highlight: Emma Kinnard Now Commissioner” and “Zach Fedoruk Continues Fifth Annual Hotdog Giveaway Tradition,” also received recognition.

Moraya Truman, junior digital communication/digital media and religion major, received the “Best Student Microcopy Award” for her work on social media copy for “The Hopeful,” a film released in 2024 focusing on the founders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Truman was recognized for her posts promoting the film’s theatrical release. Additionally,

**“We don’t do this for awards, but the recognition is a great affirmation that there is a place for our students to excel in the gifts God has given them.”**

Truman received an honorable mention for campaign design on the project.

Several other students received honorable mention recognition throughout the ceremony, as well. Alina Weber, senior photography major, was recognized for her work on the January/February 2023 Lake Union Herald cover featuring Sojourner Truth.

A group of students from an Andrews cinematography class were acknowledged in the web video category for their work on the project “Eliza’s Gift,” created for the Lake Union Conference. The class included students Kara Shepard, Nate Reid, Lia Glass, Moraya Truman, Nigel Emilaire, Solana Campbell and Yohance Mack.

### Alumni Awards

Andrews University alumni were also well-represented at the awards ceremony. Among them were Kurt Johnson (MDiv ’75), Richard Aguilera (BArch ’92), Alexander Carpenter (BA ’03), Stephen Adetumbi (BT ’06), Raquel Mentor (BSELED ’14), Pablo Fernandez (MA ’15), Danni Thaw (BA ’17), Randy Fishell (BA ’83, MDiv ’88), Debra Anderson (BBA ’86), Charles Tapp (MDiv ’90), Tompaul Wheeler (MDiv ’01), Francis Tuffour (MA ’17, DMin ’17) and Shawn Ellis (MAPM ’17).

Three alumni were specially recognized: Claudia Allen (BA ’13), who received the Young Professional Award; Olivia Woodard (BFA ’20), with the Reger Smith Cutting Edge Award; and Gary Burns (MA ’98), who was recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award.



PHOTO: Pieter Damsteeg / North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists



# Shabbat and the Creation

*Priorities at Andrews University*

THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT IS developing a deeper emphasis on two Andrews University priorities.

The first is a commitment to each member of the campus community growing in a shared experience of Shabbat. Willie Hucks, DMin, assistant to the president for University Mission & Culture, says, “By Shabbat, we refer to a rest that pervades us wholistically and manifests itself in a Shalom that positively impacts our vertical and horizontal relationships—our walk with God and others. This focus on Shabbat does not invalidate the holiness of the seventh day; rather, it enhances its beauty by restoring a faith-based approach that governs our daily lives.”

He continues, “It is our goal to ensure that a culture exists here at Andrews where each of us can experience the biblical and practical rest that God has designed for us. If Andrews is to ultimately fulfill its mission, we must promote an environment that emphasizes our foundational and genuine commitment to the University’s core values of wellbeing, integrity, innovation, trust, humility, justice and compassion.”

Toward that goal, the working group, established by Hucks in the summer of 2024, pursues a journey toward a scriptural and authentic focus on Shabbat for Andrews. Hucks invited the campus community to share thoughts on Shabbat, and the working group reviewed the articles and other responses that were submitted. In response, the working group is creating a guiding document that will outline actionable steps to accomplish Shabbat at both institutional and personal levels. Those actionable steps are critical because without

them, a work climate can exist that honors the holiness of the Sabbath day, yet leads to burnout the other six days of the week.

Hucks says, “In the biblical framework outlined in Genesis 1:26, we are defined by who God is and our response to Him. I believe this Shabbat emphasis will contribute to a heightened sense of value and worth, a healthy mental outlook and increased physical wellbeing.”

The second Andrews priority is a culture of creation care. In the spring 2024 semester, President John Wesley Taylor V initiated the “Creation Care Community” to better fulfill the Andrews community’s responsibility as Christians to follow biblical teaching about caring for the Earth, a divine commission (Genesis 2:15) that has never been rescinded. To implement the mission of this community, the Creation Care Council

was formed. Taylor says, “The Creation Care Council is composed of students, faculty, staff and leaders across campus and works to generate ideas that can be implemented by the campus community to promote environmental care and help solve real world problems.”

The Creation Care Council surveyed campus to obtain a baseline understanding of the attitudes, knowledge and practices of creation care already in place. Initiatives already underway include energy conser-

vation, a focus on renewable resources, recycling and waste management, enhancing the biodiversity of the campus, and communication and education on environmental stewardship.

As an additional part of its commitment to environmental stewardship, Andrews University is now an affiliate member of the Higher Education Climate Leadership Network, a Second Nature initiative. This was made possible by the Creation Care Community’s climate action initiative led by Padma Tadi Uppala, PhD, associate dean of the College of Health & Human Services and professor of environmental health, and Title III grant initiatives. This network rallies educational institutions to take on bold climate commitments, expanding campus climate programs and devising innovative climate solutions.

Second Nature also collaborates with prominent global leaders to advance pressing climate priorities through the University Climate Change Coalition (UC3) and surveyed the Andrews University campus

“It is our goal to ensure that a culture exists here at Andrews where each of us can experience the biblical and practical rest that God has designed for us.”

to gauge climate awareness. At Andrews, climate action connects with initiatives promoting vegetarian diets and planetary health, supported by Title III grants for the Lifestyle Medicine Clinic & Training Center.

Taylor says, “At Andrews University, God’s priorities are our priorities. These include entering into God’s rest (Hebrews 4:9–11) and caring for God’s creation. As a University family, we commit to these sacred priorities—in our lives and throughout our campus.”



**From Top, L-R:** South Bend Youth Symphony Orchestra Fall Concert, Nov. 10 ■ Howard Center Presents: LOTUS Quartet, Sept. 22 ■ Faith360: Alex Bryan, Oct. 24 ■ Faith360: Johnny Schnepf, Oct. 31 ■ Sunday Music Series: Aleksandra Kemble and Joe Clark, Oct. 20 ■ Andrews University Wind Symphony Fall Concert: Honoring Our Past, Oct. 26 ■ Howard Center Presents: Ensemble 4.1, Oct. 27 ■ Andrews University Choirs Fall Concert, Nov. 2 ■ Southern Adventist University and Andrews University Symphony Orchestra Concert, Nov. 16 ■ Department of Music Fall Voice Vespers, Nov. 22 ■ Andrews University Symphony Orchestra Fall Concert: Festive Memories, Nov. 7 ■ Howard Center Presents: Moanin' Frogs, Nov. 24 ■ Sunday Music Series, Dawn Wohn, Nov. 17



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# Faculty publish book on alcohol risks

*Challenging misconceptions surrounding the dangers of alcohol*

A NEW BOOK TITLED “Alcohol: All Risk, No Benefits” aims to challenge the cultural myths and misconceptions that often surround the dangers of alcohol consumption. The lead editors are Dr. Peter Landless, a physician and director of Health Ministries for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and Duane McBride, PhD, senior research professor at Andrews University and director of the Institute for Prevention of Addictions.

According to McBride, faculty members from Andrews University, Loma Linda University and Harvard University authored many of the chapters, along with students in the School of Social & Behavioral Sciences and School of Social Work at Andrews. Several other working professionals in the fields of

medicine, social science and theology also contributed to the completion of the book.

The book uses the latest medical insights and scientific evidence to educate readers that consuming alcohol in any quantity is not worth the many risks posed to those who consume it or anyone they interact with while under the influence. The book was created to appeal to a broad audience while also addressing the unique challenges faced by youth and young adults.

“One of the biggest myths surrounding alcohol is that it’s good for you in moderation, that it prevents heart attacks,” McBride says. “Our focus is to dispel that myth and shed light on the profound impact of alcohol’s harm on the brain, body and mind.”



## Professor named Berrien Springs village president

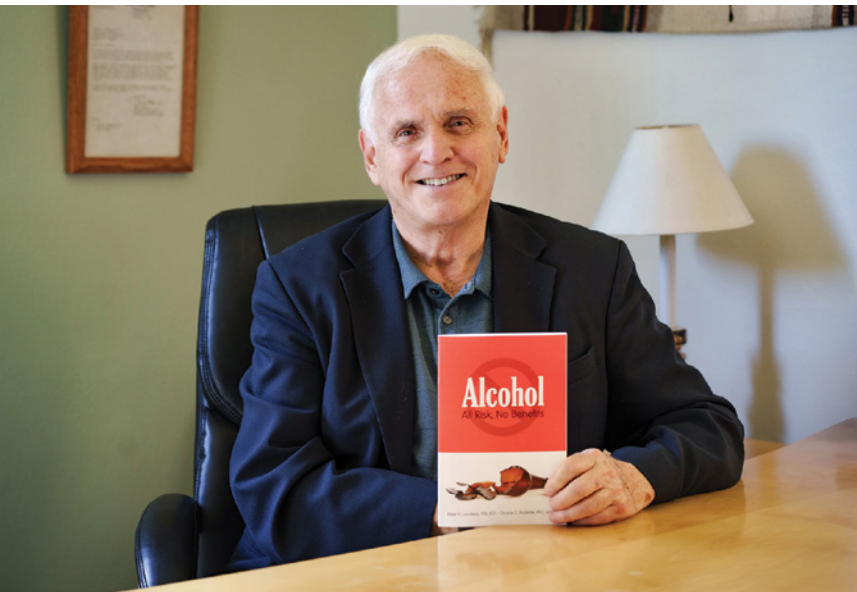
*Sheila Snyder voted into role*

ON TUESDAY, NOV. 12, SHEILA SNYDER, ASSISTANT professor of marketing in the School of Business Administration, was elected president of the Village of Berrien Springs. This prominent role is a testament to her long-standing dedication and service to the community.

Snyder has been a valuable member of the Andrews University faculty, bringing her expertise in marketing and passion for community engagement into the classroom and beyond. Her contributions to the village have been significant; she has served faithfully as a trustee for many years, advocating for community needs and promoting growth and collaboration.

“We are incredibly proud of Sheila and this well-deserved recognition from the community she serves,” says Kimberly Pichot, dean of the College of Professions. “Her commitment to both Andrews University and the Village of Berrien Springs is inspiring, and we know she will continue to bring the same dedication to her role as village president.”

This accomplishment highlights Snyder’s commitment to making a positive impact locally, a value that resonates deeply with Andrews University’s mission to Seek Knowledge, Affirm Faith and Change the World.



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World Changers Made Here.

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## Andrews welcomes Jacob Gibbs

*To the CFE and PMC teams*

THIS SUMMER, ANDREWS UNIVERSITY welcomed Jacob Gibbs to the Center for Faith Engagement team. Gibbs serves in a dual role as associate chaplain for the University and associate pastor for Pioneer Memorial Church.

University President John Wesley Taylor V shares, “Chaplain Gibbs has a heart for God and a heart for people. I have seen his deep passion for connecting people, especially young people, with God and His Word. And he makes those connections in creative and memorable ways. We warmly welcome Pastor Gibbs to Andrews University and pray for God’s special blessing on his ministry.”

This year, President Taylor approached the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists with a proposal to expand the team at the Center for Faith Engagement. Jim Micheff, conference president, and the administrative team prayed, reviewed the financial and strategic considerations, and concluded that the Holy Spirit was leading them to respond affirmatively.

Following a search process with representatives from the conference administrative team, President Taylor, Shane Anderson, lead pastor for Pioneer Memorial Church, and University Chaplain José Bourget, lead for the Center for Faith Engagement, extended an invitation for the new position to Jacob Gibbs.

Affirming Gibbs’ calling and gifts, Micheff notes, “Chaplain Gibbs came to know Jesus as a young adult and understands from experience how lonely and chaotic life can be without God. He has a passion to help students experience the joy and peace that comes from a living relationship with God. He is a gifted communicator who enjoys making new friends.”

Gibbs felt a call to ministry when he accepted Jesus as his savior in 2002. Over the next nine years, he pursued his purpose and training at Mission College of Evangelism and Andrews University, gaining experience as a Bible worker and literature evangelist. He graduated with his bachelor’s degree from



**“He has a passion to help students experience the joy and peace that comes from a living relationship with God.”**

Andrews in 2011, majoring in art and theology. Later, he returned for his master’s degree in pastoral ministry.

During his undergraduate years, he met his wife, Emily Knott, and they were married in 2012. They have two daughters, Eva and Avianne. Gibbs has served in the Michigan Conference for 13 years, starting with a three-church district in the central part of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula and, most recently, as the senior pastor of the Cedar Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church at Great Lakes Adventist Academy. His passions in ministry include hobby-based outreach, small groups, applied arts and personal Bible studies.

“Joining Andrews University has been a rejuvenating experience, breathing new life into my calling in ministry,” Gibbs

affirms. “I’m passionate about engaging with students as they embark on their journey into adulthood, and I’m grateful for the opportunity to help nurture their connection with a loving Savior. One of the most exciting aspects of this role is being part of a community of employees and students who are pursuing the dreams and desires God has placed on their hearts.”

With the addition of Chaplain Gibbs, President Taylor has asked the Center for Faith Engagement to formally extend chaplain services to Andrews University employees. CFE has also been asked to oversee a shared strategy with Willie Hucks, DMin, assistant to the president for University Mission & Culture, and Anneris Coria-Navia, EdD, chief learning officer, providing resources and support to employees that will help them integrate faith through their relationships and interactions with students.

“We are excited to welcome Chaplain Jacob Gibbs to our team,” says Bourget. “His enthusiasm to share Jesus with young adults and to journey alongside them through the challenges and hallelujah moments will be a gift to all.”

# Creating connections

*Honoring Cynthia Birney's service to Andrews*



Photo courtesy of Cynthia Birney

**“I’VE COME TO THINK OF ANDREWS AS ‘MY UNIVERSITY’** although I didn’t graduate from here,” says Cynthia Birney.

Cyndi, her husband Dayle and their daughters moved to the Berrien Springs, Michigan, area in 1995, when Dayle was offered a position at Andrews University. Cyndi started working at Andrews that same year.

Previously, Cyndi studied early childhood education at Pacific Union College. With a move out of state and then two daughters to raise, she chose to stay home

and work part-time. She worked as a nurse’s assistant in nursing homes and in the obstetrics department of a hospital. She also worked as a custodial supervisor at Walla Walla College.

At Andrews, Cyndi’s first role was in housing. She later worked in the office at the Dairy until it closed, then spent a summer at Custodial Services. When the Andraesen Center for Wellness opened in 2019, Cyndi became a co-manager of the custodial student employees.

As Cyndi worked in the different areas across campus, she came to greatly appreciate the close connections that developed with coworkers and students. She says, “My most favorite thing about Andrews is the many lifetime friends I’ve made with the students and staff over the last 29 years.”

**“I’ve learned, in this situation and others, to let go and let God take over every aspect of my life.”**

She recalls planning parties and events, like an alumni brunch, for Agriculture. “Dayle and I became good friends with the agriculture students back in the day,” she says. “It was fun as we saw couples get together, marry and have children. We’ve ‘adopted’ some kids of our former agriculture students.”

Cyndi enjoyed similar experiences in her other work teams, as well. “I also had a fun time being involved with the down-to-earth Custodial team—I view them as family,” she says. “In my five years with the Andraesen Center, there has been a different ‘family’ feel since I could be the mother of everyone else that works there. They were kind enough to give me a ‘Wellness’ award this last year.”

The family feel has deepened as Cyndi has taken note of special events or times of need in others’ lives. “I’m driven by helping people, making birthday cakes when it’s their birthday or bringing flowers to brighten up their day. I’m always up for making and bringing food to work to share,” she says. “The Bible says to do good to others and encourage them.”

Cyndi has received encouragement herself in seeing how God moves at just the right time. This was evident recently, when Cyndi saw God’s hand in the extended process to hire her new co-manager. “It was so overwhelming in a good way when it did finally come to fruition,” she says. “I think God delayed the process so He could be glorified in a big way and we would be transformed by seeing His workings. I’ve learned, in this situation and others, to let go and let God take over every aspect of my life.”

In retirement, Cyndi plans to remain in southwest Michigan. She continues to work part-time at the Andraesen Center for Wellness, and she and Dayle are enjoying more frequent trips and vacations.

# A storied career

## *Celebrating Meredith Jones Gray*

MEREDITH JONES GRAY GREW UP AT Andrews. She attended the campus nursery school, elementary school, junior high and academy before earning a BA in French and an MA in English at Andrews University. Then, while completing doctoral studies at the University of Michigan, Meredith began teaching in Andrews University's Department of English in 1982—work she continued for over 40 years until her retirement in 2024.

"I knew for a long time that I wanted to be a teacher," says Meredith. "When I got to college and graduate school, my career choice was further influenced by strong women role models such as Merlene Ogden, Edith Stone, Stella Greig, Elaine Giddings, Luanne Bauer and my dissertation advisor at the U of M, Frances McSparran."

Throughout her Andrews career, Meredith taught a wide range of classes, including English as a Second Language, History of the English Language, composition classes, survey courses in early English literature, Literature for Children, Literature by Women, and seminars in Chaucer and medieval romance. She also had the opportunity to team-teach with her husband, Gary Gray, including a course titled Literature of Love.

Meredith says, "The Department of English has been my community, my haven and my home. It is a place where we value the importance of words and language and story. We are by no means perfect, but we try to listen to everyone's story and encourage interest in ideas and the others in our world. ... My students and their life stories, their creativity and their ideas have broadened my horizons and my understanding far beyond the campus of Andrews University."

She adds, "During my student years at Andrews I was blessed to sit in the classrooms of professors who were committed to their Adventist faith and encouraged excellence, exploration and discovery, questioning and discussion, all within the context of our shared

beliefs. They inspired me to return to teach at Andrews. I hope I have been able to pass along their legacy to the students who have sat in my classrooms."

In the late 1990s, Meredith added another dimension to her Andrews experience. She was asked by Douglas Jones, then director of University Relations, to write the text for a new history of Andrews University. This led to the publication in 2002 of "As We Set Forth," the story of Battle Creek College and Emmanuel Missionary College from

"Reviewing and narrating the sweep of Andrews University's history has given me a new perspective on how God works with and guides us fallible human beings."

the founding in 1874 until 1960, and this year's "Forward in Faith," which chronicles 1960 to 1990.

"I thoroughly enjoyed delving into the primary sources available through James White Library and especially the Center for Adventist Research and am eternally grateful to the entire team there for their gracious support," says Meredith. "It has also been rewarding to have a second 'home' at University Communication all these years and to work with everyone in that department as the production team and publisher for both history volumes. Reviewing and narrating the sweep of Andrews University's history has given me a new perspective on how God works with and guides us fallible human beings."

In retirement, Meredith will remain in Berrien Springs, Michigan, where she and Gary plan to enjoy a flexible schedule with the blessing of time to read. Meredith also looks forward to time with their son. She says, "When I wrote the first history volume, our son Jeremy was a student at Ruth Murdoch Elementary School. On this second volume I had the special joy of collaborating with Jeremy as he wrote two of the sidebar articles for the book. We have talked about future co-authoring projects—we'll see what happens!"



# Continued learning

*David Nowack retires after 33 years at Andrews*

**“I LOVE TO LEARN,” SAYS DAVID NOWACK.** “I enjoy gaining perspectives from other people’s viewpoints, and I enjoy experiencing new skills in a variety of subjects and topics.”

In high school, Dave’s interests centered on science and math, and when he attended Union College (now Union Adventist University) he realized he wanted to teach chemistry, especially biochemistry. After graduating in 1976 from Union College with a degree in chemistry education, he began teaching at Lynwood Academy. Then, from 1979 to 1984, he worked as a science and math teacher at Andrews Academy.

Later, in 1998, after completing graduate degrees at Purdue University and 10 years teaching at Union College, he returned to Andrews—this time Andrews

**“I learned that no one person knows everything. That all of us are smarter than any one of us.”**

University—to teach biochemistry. Dave’s favorite part of teaching was getting to know so many students who are outstanding human beings. “Andrews University attracts some truly remarkable students and families,” he says. “I have confidence in the future of the world and of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with these students becoming future leaders in the world and church.”

Dave also served as chair of the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry from 2009 until 2019.



Photo courtesy of David Nowack

During that time, he took on a major project: renovating the third floor organic labs, first floor instrument lab, and chemistry amphitheater. “It was through the financial management of Larry Schalk and the administrative skills of Dick Scott that we were able to reconfigure and renew the organic chemistry labs and every fume hood in the department,” he says. “The two stockrooms were renovated as well with new shelving and cabinetry. In other smaller projects, through the wonderful support of alumni and other donors, we

were able to purchase several new instruments and replace outdated ones. I am grateful to God for those blessings.”

Another significant aspect of Dave’s work was hiring professionals to fill both teaching and staffing positions in the department. He says, “I am humbled that these intelligent, thoughtful, God-loving men and women said ‘yes’ to my invitation to join Andrews University.” He greatly appreciated the camaraderie that developed within the chemistry team and with other STEM departments. “It was a real privilege to work in such a warm environment.”

As Dave reflects on his career, he says, “I learned that no one person knows everything. That all of us are smarter than any one of us. That there are always two sides to every story. That listening is better than talking. That you never please everyone all the time but you can make sure that everyone has been heard. I realize that these are not earth-shaking platitudes but, in reality, they define a good leader. I just wish I had applied them more often in critical situations. Yet, God was good and turned many of my less wise decisions into blessings anyway.”

In retirement, Dave will most miss the people at Andrews. He plans, though, to stay connected through volunteer service roles in the community and church. He and his wife, Judy, will remain in the Berrien Springs area, and they look forward to travel opportunities, hobbies and grandchildren.

Over the next few years, Dave also hopes to become a skilled bread maker and a better than average photographer—continuing his lifelong love of learning.



# The World Comes to Andrews

Austria flutters next to Uruguay. Or maybe Ghana and Greece, neighbors on the official flag list, actually do fly side by side. Perhaps there are no graduates from Vanuatu this year, or from Qatar. But every name on the flag inventory proves that, at some point since 1974, a student from that country graduated from Andrews University. Because the flags on display are not a random selection—for each graduation, the University Communication<sup>1</sup> office receives a list of the home countries of the graduates and pulls those specific flags out of storage to be mounted on the flagwalk for that commencement season. Then, if need be, they fill in with representative flags from around the globe.

Big groups gather around the Korean flag pole, and the Filipino flag, as well. Sometimes a lone student represents an adopted country. Up at the church end of the mall fly the flags of Canada and Brazil, which boast the largest contingents of international students attending Andrews. They're joined by the flags of the countries represented by the University president and provost and the Swiss flag—for J. N. Andrews and his mission field.<sup>2</sup>

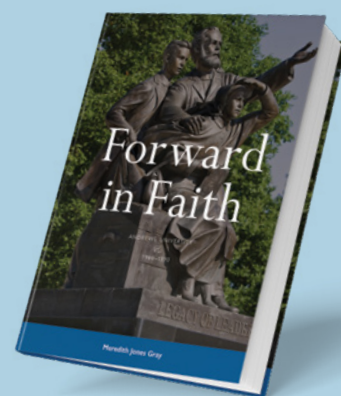
The flagwalk has woven its way into the life of Andrews University, commemorating the high moments of each academic year and creating new traditions over the years. It appears at

Convocation, Alumni Homecoming, at one-time College Days and now First Stop/New Student Orientation, International Student Week, all commencement weekends as well as special events such as inauguration ceremonies.

## “A Window on the World”

The flagwalk was the vision of Pietro Copiz, in 1973 assistant professor of French in the Modern Languages Department and sponsor of the International Student Affairs Committee. Born in Romania, a citizen of Italy, and educated in Romania, Italy, France, and Switzerland, Copiz married Herta Kipp, who came from Germany. In the 70s he was completing his doctorate in the United States, at the University of Michigan.<sup>3</sup> He had impeccable credentials for mentoring and speaking up for the international students of Andrews University.

Hoping to generate pride in the international student community and interest across the campus, the International Student Affairs Committee, a subcommittee of the SA's Human Relations Committee, planned its first International Student Week in 1973, with special programs and cultural displays, under the theme of “One World in Christ.”<sup>4</sup> For their display during the special week, the group tried to solicit flags from various embassies but did



“Forward in Faith,” by Meredith Jones Gray, professor emerita of English, documents Andrews University’s history from 1960 to 1990. The book was unveiled to the public on Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024, during Alumni Homecoming.



not receive much cooperation. The few that they did get and display looked very good and added to the international atmosphere in the Campus Center. Students from other countries found themselves wishing that their flags could be exhibited, too.<sup>5</sup> That planted the seed of the idea: Copiz wanted to do better the next year, especially as it was Andrews' centennial year and deserved "a bit of meaningful pageantry."<sup>6</sup> When he contacted the president's office, Copiz discovered that others may have been thinking along the same lines and that graduating classes had already donated some money for such a project. President Hammill asked him if he would study the possibilities.

Copiz took on the task with all of his natural enthusiasm, the same verve that made him an inspiring classroom teacher. The University had just relocated its American flag from over by Nethery Hall (the old administration building) to its new flagpole in the middle of the lawn by the new administration building. That seemed like a good starting point. Copiz saw significance in locating the flagwalk on the newly created mall "in front of the Church, from where the students enter the world at graduation; near the Seminary, where students come from 'all the world' before going back 'to all the world,' in front of the library, where most of the people go every day; and in a place not too far from the students' life and visible enough to the outside community."<sup>7</sup> The sidewalk offered an already established design for laying out the flagwalk, he thought.

Bill Davidson's students surveyed the area, and academy teacher Alan Anderson, assisted by his students Dan Cress and Paul Howard, spent nearly 100 hours designing and building a model of the proposed flagwalk in the fall of 1973.<sup>8</sup> The president and his council heartily approved of the overall plan, and the attention turned to the details of equipment and costs: "80 one-piece aluminum 20-foot flag poles and 3 by 5 foot flags."<sup>9</sup> The total cost would come to about \$12,000,<sup>10</sup> at an individual target cost of \$200 for the most expensive flags with their poles and much less for many of them.<sup>11</sup>

To Copiz's consternation, when the idea made its official debut to the whole campus in an article in the *Student Movement*, a lot of student reaction in particular proved hostile, even mocking, focusing primarily on what they deemed to be the impractical use of so much money.<sup>12</sup> A student showed up at the AU Senate meeting with a petition signed by more than 400 students as well as some faculty opposing the

flagwalk plans.<sup>13</sup> One diplomatic member of the Andrews Alumni Board labeled the “furor” as “vigorous and refreshing,” saying, “At least we know that the student body is alive and concerned.”<sup>14</sup> But, she suggested, the campus should look beyond mere cost and ask what such a symbol might inspire. If it inspired a renewed dedication to the church’s global mission, then it was well worth the outlay. President Hammill, ever a champion of the international students and always looking for ways to integrate them into the Andrews community, wholeheartedly supported the project and became impatient with the controversy. When students suggested that the money would be better applied to scholarships for needy students, Hammill testily pointed to his own efforts to grow the scholarship fund to \$700,000 and suggested that if those students were so concerned about the fund, maybe they could contribute.<sup>15</sup>

No one seemed to think of asking the international students what they thought of the idea. Neither the international students nor the International Student Affairs Committee had requested the flagwalk.<sup>16</sup> In spite of the debates, the project moved forward, with donations from various groups and individuals, but was not ready for spring commencement as everyone had hoped. August became the goal.

An “unusual sight” appeared on August 11 on the Andrews University campus: sixty flags from around the world flying up and down the sidewalks from the library to the church.<sup>17</sup> “After all the concern, resistance, and discussion, the flagwalk unfurled for the very first time in the celebratory atmosphere of Summer Commencement, August 1974, during Andrews University’s centennial year.<sup>18</sup> “A group of students went up to sing while others took pictures by the flags of their countries during the summer graduation,” according to Copiz. He had spent countless hours on realizing the flagwalk and saw it as a statement of “equality.” And Erwin Sicher, new, Austrian-born faculty sponsor of the International Student Committee, felt that it helped international students define their “identity” in a place far from home.<sup>19</sup>

### “Christian International Camaraderie”

What international students thought about the flagwalk may have been demonstrated most powerfully when the flags flew for one of the first times in the fall of 1974. The international display was raised especially for the opening of the University’s second Centennial Convocation, a series of special events centered on the dedication of the new science complex and exploring the theme “Seeking Understanding of God’s Creation.” The convocation featured famous speakers such as Wernher von Braun, German-American pioneer in rocket development and space technology, and John Hope Franklin, noted historian at the University of Chicago, best known for his book *From Slavery to Freedom*.<sup>20</sup> The University would also be hosting the highest ranking international dignitary to ever visit the campus in the person of the first Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Eric E. Williams, who gave the dedicatory address for the impressive new complex of academic buildings. It felt as if the world truly was coming to Andrews that week in October. And Andrews University pulled out all the stops.

“The ceremony was very moving for me. When my flag was going up I felt proud—proud that my flag was represented, proud of my heritage. And looking around at everybody else I felt a spirit of unity, and a thankfulness that my color, my race does not have to come between myself and any other person.”





“Forward in Faith” is available at the Andrews University Bookstore and on the Andrews University Press website ([universitypress.andrews.edu](http://universitypress.andrews.edu)).

Starting in 1974, that meant putting up the flagwalk and displaying the impressive fleet of flags that represented the international population of Andrews University and its students. The flags went up on Thursday, the first day of the convocation. The International Student Committee, under the leadership of history professor Sicher, started to receive inquiries and “urgent complaints” about the flags that were not there.<sup>21</sup> In other words, if there was going to be a flagwalk, the international students wanted their countries to be represented! Some investigative reporting by graduate student in history Brian Strayer revealed that there was no conspiracy. All the flags had been ordered, according to President Hammill and Vice-President Garber, but some of them hadn’t yet arrived—South Africa and Egypt among them. Hammill confirmed that he wanted “to display the national flag of every international student here at AU.” If students saw that their flag was missing, they should get in touch with him.

Politics had already entered the picture. When South African student Johann Fourie couldn’t locate the Rhodesian flag, he discovered that someone had recommended it not be flown because of the tensions between Rhodesia and the US at that point. Hammill, however, declared that the University would not make such political decisions; they would follow the requirements of the US government. “Therefore,” reported Strayer, “about 1 p.m. Friday, according to Fourie, the Rhodesian flag was unfolded and raised.”<sup>22</sup>

It wouldn’t be the last time that the flags revealed the undercurrents in international relations, but sometimes with gratifying outcomes. The annual flag-raising on the Friday evening of Alumni Homecoming weekend quickly became a treasured tradition. Andrews’ international students, many of them in international dress, gathered on the mall between Pioneer Memorial Church and James White Library to raise their countries’ flags along the flagwalk. Ron Knott described the scene in April of 1982, in the midst of the Falklands War, “... a few in the crowd noticed with a quiet commending smile the hopeful, yet ironic gesture of some British and Argentinian [*sic*] students who mounted their flags side by side and joined hands while cameras clicked to catch the magic moment.”<sup>23</sup> President Joseph G. Smoot noted

the historic context as well as he welcomed the crowd, “In the midst of all that is ugly, institutions such as this university exist to bring healing to a hurting human family.”<sup>24</sup>

Six years later, when the murmuring had faded away and the newness of the flagwalk worn off, doctoral student in counseling Serena Gui reflected on how she felt about participating in the annual Homecoming ritual for the first time as she raised the flag of Malaysia: “The ceremony was very moving for me. When my flag was going up I felt proud—proud that my flag was represented, proud of my heritage. And looking around at everybody else I felt a spirit of unity, and a thankfulness that my color, my race does not have to come between myself and any other person. I can relate to a black person, somebody from India, somebody from here, from wherever—it doesn’t matter at all to me.”<sup>25</sup> ■

#### ENDNOTES

1. Putting up the flags has been almost exclusively the responsibility of this office—initially Public Relations, then University Relations and Integrated Marketing & Communication before it became University Communication.
2. Patricia Spangler, email message to the author, June 13, 2024.
3. “Death of Pietro Copiz,” in “Life Stories,” *Andrews Agenda*, 27 January 2021, <https://d261v9hbk78yno.cloudfront.net/cardinals/1974/index.html#page=128>.
4. “International Student Week Aims to Encourage Comprehension,” *SM*, 19 April 1973, 1.
5. Pietro Copiz, “Copiz Comments on Flagwalk,” *SM*, 19 April 1973, 8.
6. Copiz, “Copiz Comments,” *SM*, 8.
7. Copiz, “Copiz Comments,” *SM*, 8.
8. Copiz, “Copiz Comments,” *SM*, 9.
9. Copiz, “Copiz Comments,” *SM*, 9.
10. Jill Doster, “Flag Walk Explained,” *SM*, 21 February 1974, 8.
11. Copiz, “Copiz Comments,” *SM*, 9.
12. Sample of “Letters to the Editor,” *SM*, 28 March 1974, 5.
13. “Flagwalk Dominates AU Senate Discussion,” *SM*, 4 April 1974, 1.
14. Marilyn Gregg to the *SM* editor, *SM*, 4 April 1974, 2.
15. Richard L. Hammill to the *SM* editor, *SM*, 4 April 1974, 2–3.
16. ““One in the Spirit” Theme of International Student Week,” *SM*, 4 April 1974, 1.
17. “Our Cover,” *FOCUS*, August–September 1974, 2.
18. Solomon Mathema, “Flagwalk—Statement of Student Equality Gives International Students Some Identity,” *SM*, 22 October 1974, 5.
19. Mathema, “Flagwalk—Statement of Student Equality,” *SM*, 5.
20. “Centennial Convocation: ‘Seeking Understanding of God’s Creation,’” *FOCUS*, October–November 1974, 18–19.
21. Brian Strayer, “Foreign Flags Fly upon Arrival,” *SM*, 29 October 1974, 2.
22. Strayer, “Foreign Flags Fly,” *SM*, 2.
23. “Annual Homecoming Celebration Emphasizes Past as Future Guide,” *FOCUS*, Summer 1982, 19.
24. “Annual Homecoming Celebration,” *FOCUS*, 19.
25. Sandra Doran, “A Student’s Time in the Garden of Experience,” *FOCUS*, Fall 1980, 26.

# Alumni Homecoming 2024





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**From Top, L-R:**  
 150 Year Walk-Through Museum ■ Spirit of Philanthropy & Homecoming Banquet ■ Ann Hamel (left), speaker, Women's Scholarship Breakfast ■ Wes Christiansen Memorial Golf Outing ■ Tambunan Luncheon ■ Physical Therapy Anatomy Lab Naming Ceremony: "Dr. John Banks Anatomy Lab"





**From Top, L-R:**  
Meredith Jones Gray, "Forward in Faith" Book Signing ■ Homecoming Classic Car Show ■ 37th Annual Homecoming Parade ■ International Flag Raising Ceremony ■ Student Missions Vespers ■ Damian Chandler, Praise Pact





**From Top, L-R:**  
 Trevor O'Reggio, speaker, Sabbath School, Pioneer Memorial Church ■ Andrews University Chorale, Pioneer Memorial Church ■ New Life Fellowship ■ John McVay, speaker, Pioneer Memorial Church ■ Alumni Picnic-Style Supper ■ This Far By Faith: The Andrews University Saga, 1960-1980 ■ 150th anniversary commemorative blanket, made with wool from sheep at the Agriculture Education Center ■ Andrews University Wind Symphony, Alumni Homecoming Gala Concert ■ Andrews University Symphony Orchestra, Alumni Homecoming Gala Concert







From Top, L-R:  
Gymnastics intermission performance ■ Alumni vs. students men's basketball game ■ Annual Aviation Fly-In/Drive-In Pancake Breakfast ■ Andrews University Community Health and Wellness Expo



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# 2024 Honored Alumni

The Andrews University Alumni Association Medallion is presented to honored alumni who have been nominated by fellow alumni and approved by the Alumni Board of Directors to be recipients of this award. Honored Alumni are selected on the basis of outstanding service to the University, exceptional achievement in a profession or occupation, and contributions to the community or church. *Congratulations to this year's recipients!*

## Bernadine Archer

(M.Div. '87)

### BERNADINE ARCHER WAS THE FIRST

African American female graduate of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. Her ministry journey started when she discovered the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1974 after being invited to a Voice of Prophecy crusade by Earvin "Magic" Johnson's grandmother, a member of the East Lansing, Michigan, Seventh-day Adventist church.

After earning an undergraduate degree in early childhood development and teaching from Michigan State University, Bernadine felt called to ministry. She decided to follow that call, enrolling at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary from 1984–1987.

In 1984, while studying in the Seminary, Bernadine was featured on the cover of the *Adventist Review* for her soul-winning efforts while taking calls at Adventist Information Ministry (AIM) during the "It Is Written" broadcast television programs. She graduated in 1987 as the first African American woman to receive the Master of Divinity degree from the Seminary.

Shortly after earning her degree, Bernadine became the first woman to receive

ecclesiastical endorsement from Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries. She also obtained a commissioned ministers license from the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. At that time, there were only 17 chaplains in the North American Division, and she was the only woman.

Bernadine also had the distinction of being the first Adventist woman employed as a correctional chaplain at the Macomb Regional Correctional Facility in New Haven, Michigan. She was featured in issues of the *Adventist Review*, *Canadian Adventist Messenger*, *Lake Union Herald* and *North American Regional Voice*. Throughout her career, Bernadine delivered powerful messages across various Adventist, Protestant and Catholic churches, always emphasizing the Three Angels' Messages.

On Jan. 16, 2007, Bernadine was ordained as a non-denominational clergy member. With this designation, she was once unexpectedly asked to preach for a Michigan Ladies' Day event when the speaker suddenly canceled. Unbeknownst to her, it was also a live radio event, and she was introduced as a replacement for U.S. Rep. Barbara-Rose Collins of Michigan.

Sadly, Bernadine passed away on Jan. 27, 2022. She lived her life continually sharing God's love and her faith with others. It was

her desire to implement an evangelistic ministry titled, "The Eleventh-Hour Ministry" with emphasis on Bible prophecy and, specifically, the third angel's message.

This medallion was awarded posthumously and presented to Bernadine's brother, Darnell Laury.

## Atilio Dupertuis

(MA '64, M.Div. '74, Th.D. '82)

ATILIO DUPERTUIS WAS BORN in Santa Fe, Argentina. He is the grandson of the first Seventh-day Adventist in Argentina, Jules Dupertuis. His grandfather immigrated to Argentina from Neuchatel, Switzerland, and after reading some issues of the *Signs of the Times* that minister J.N. Andrews published in French, began keeping the Sabbath in the year 1885.

Atilio earned his first degree in elementary education from River Plate Adventist University, Argentina, in 1957. He went on to work as an elementary school teacher in Uruguay before moving to the United States to attend La Sierra University. There, he obtained his Bachelor of Arts in 1963. After graduation, he served as a pastor in Tucson, Arizona, from 1964–1968.

During this time, he enrolled at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. In 1964, he received an MA in religion, in 1974, he earned his Master of Divinity and in 1982, he completed his Doctor of Theology.

Atilio went on to dedicate 15 years to the Inter-American Division, serving as a professor of theology at Montemorelos University in Mexico and president of the Central American Adventist University in Costa Rica.



Darnell Laury and family

*Atilio Dupertuis and family*

In 1986, he accepted a call to return to the Seminary at Andrews as a professor of theology, where he worked until 2006. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, he directed the Institute of Hispanic Ministry and the Seminary Affiliation and Extension Program, which currently helps train pastors in 10 countries. In 1999, he was a recipient of the John Nevins Andrews Medallion, which recognized his excellence in teaching, research and service.

He has published seven books in the area of theology, his specialization, and numerous articles in different periodicals and journals. Some of his writings include “Romanos. El Poder Transformador de la Garcia,” “Vislumbres del Calvario,” “Lo Hizo Por Ti” and “El Regalo Divino.” He has been a frequent speaker at camp meetings, weeks of prayer and weekend seminars, both in the United States and abroad. In 2011, Montemorelos University recognized Atilio’s dedicated work with an honorary Doctor of Education.

Atilio and his wife, Eunice Isabel, have two children, Norma Isabel and Ruben Rene, and two grandchildren, Eva and Julian.

He affirms, “I spent over 25 years at Andrews University, first as a student and then as a teacher. Being here today, in this special place that feels more like home than any other, I am humbled to be one of the honored alumni, and filled with gratitude to have my wife, daughter and son here with me.”

## Gail McKenzie

(BS '74)

**GAIL MCKENZIE GREW UP IN** Kalamazoo, Michigan. She began her journey into ministry at Andrews University, where she was a student from 1970–1974, double-majoring in elementary education and communication. After graduating with her Bachelor of Science, she interned at Village Church School as a Grade 6 homeroom teacher.

In 2000, she became the Women’s Ministry director for the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Gail has dedicated much of her life to engaging with women in the church, including speaking for weeks of prayer at elementary schools and academies, giving Bible studies and seminars for young women, and mentoring girls in grade school and academy. She has also given many women a platform to speak in the church and has supported many individuals through their journeys with God.

Throughout the years, Gail has taught several Sabbath School classes and “How to Study the Bible” seminars, which have been one of her deepest passions. She has also been the featured speaker for various women’s retreats across the North American Division. Recently, she expanded the reach of the women’s ministry program internationally, reaching groups in Ireland and, most recently, Scotland.

In addition to her work in women’s ministries, Gail has participated in many community service activities for the wider church, including hosting a dental and vision clinic, conducting and writing Bible studies, and speaking for prayer conferences. In 2010, she served as the interim pastor for Grace Point Seventh-day Adventist Church in

Franklin, Tennessee, for a year. She reflects that it was “one of the most rewarding years of my life!”

In 2019, she fulfilled one of her long-standing dreams when she officially published her first Bible study, “Higher Up/Deeper In,” designed to teach others how to dig deeper into God’s word. That same year, she was honored to be commissioned into gospel ministry at the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Camp Meeting.

In addition to ongoing work as the Kentucky-Tennessee Women’s Ministry director, Gail also serves as a prayer coordinator for her conference and women’s ministry director for Nashville First Seventh-day Adventist Church, her local congregation. She and her husband, Mike, have two married children and a special needs son. Her pride and joy are her two granddaughters and three grandsons.

As an 11-year breast cancer survivor, Gail cherishes each new day as a gift. Her greatest desire is for men and women everywhere to experience who Jesus is, how much He loves them and who they are in Christ. Her salutation is always, “At His feet! There is no other place I would rather be!”

*Gail McKenzie and husband, Mike*

## John McVay

(MDiv '83)

JOHN MCVAY HAS SERVED THE Seventh-day Adventist Church for over 40 years, dedicating much of his life to furthering Adventist education. In 1980, he graduated from Southern Adventist University with a BA in theology and a minor in history. Later, in 1983, he earned a Master of Divinity from Andrews University and, in 1995, his PhD from the University of Sheffield in England. He is a specialist in the later Pauline epistles and has contributed regularly to scholarly publications. More recently, he wrote the Seventh-day Adventist International Bible Commentary on Ephesians, as well as the Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide and companion book on Ephesians.

John began his teaching career at Pacific Union College, where he served as a professor of religion and, from 1995–1998, chair of the religion department. For a time, he served as senior pastor for the Pacific Union College Church and later became a pastor in Iowa and Georgia.

Beginning in 1998, he returned to Andrews University, where he became a professor of New Testament and associate dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. From 2000–2006, he went on to serve as dean of the Seminary, during which he oversaw program and course delivery to hundreds of students.

In 2006, John became Walla Walla University's 23rd president. He led the University's strategic planning efforts and established a robust spiritual master planning process. John supported curriculum improvements and expanded programs and services, including worship opportunities, athletics programs and recreational spaces. He championed improvements to campus spaces, expanding facilities and adding accessibility features to buildings. Throughout his presidency, he has championed



*John McVay and wife, Pam*

Walla Walla University's commitment to faith and discovery. He retired as the University's longest-serving president at the end of the 2023–2024 academic year.

John's service has also included membership with the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists' Executive and Biblical Research committees, as well as the Executive Committee and Higher Education Cabinet for the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. He is a member of, and has served as president for, the Association of Adventist Colleges and Universities, and he has also been active with the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities, and the Cascade Collegiate Conference Council of Presidents.

While a member of the Independent Colleges of Washington, John served as chair of the board and worked with state legislators to bolster the Washington College Grant and the State Work Study Program. He also worked to support the rights of Christian educational institutions to operate according to their deeply held values and mission. In February of 2024, he was a recipient of the Charles Elliott Weniger Award, which recognized his humility, kindness and professionalism within his line of work.

John is married to his wife, Pam. The couple has two adult children and three grandchildren.



The "Up-and-Coming Alumni Award" is presented to alumni aged 40 and under who are "Changing the World" through notable achievements in a profession or occupation, impactful contributions to the community or church, and/or outstanding service to the University. Nominations are submitted by fellow alumni or Andrews faculty/staff and approved by the Alumni Association Board of Directors. ***Congratulations to this year's recipients!***

## Andre Moncrieff

(BA '14, BS '14)

ANDRE MONCRIEFF GRADUATED FROM Andrews University with a Bachelor of Science in biology and a Bachelor of Art in music in 2014, summa cum laude. In 2023, he completed a PhD in biological sciences at Louisiana State University. He currently works as a postdoctoral fellow at the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science.

Beginning as a high school senior, Andre worked four field seasons with the Andrews Seabird Ecology Team, funded by the National Science Foundation. The team's research focused on the reproductive behavior of seabirds at Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge.

*Andre Moncrieff and Jim Hayward*



# 2024 Up-and-Coming Alumni

“While at Andrews University I received incredible mentorship in research as a member of the Seabird Ecology Team led by professors Jim Hayward and Shandelle Henson,” Andre says. “I spent parts of four summers assisting them with seabird research on an island in Washington State, and these experiences showed me how exciting (and challenging!) research can be.”

The summer following his college freshman year, Andre wrote and submitted a manuscript for journal submission. The paper was accepted and published in 2013. Since that first publication, he has published 11 more papers in top, peer-reviewed journals.

Andre’s professional specialty is neotropical biodiversity. In 2013, he served as a volunteer field technician in the Amazon rainforest of southeast Peru, doing point counts of vulnerable parrot populations. Since then, his professional work has taken him to Peru, Colombia, Bolivia and Brazil to undertake collaborative projects with local scientists.

Andre’s graduate work was fully funded by a highly competitive National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. In addition to the fellowship, he was awarded 11 research, travel and scholarship funds as a student. He has taken every opportunity to initiate and lead biodiversity projects in the Neotropics, where he has represented Louisiana State University to many non-profit organizations, government agencies and local indigenous communities.

The most recent of these projects, in 2023, involved leading a research team of 15 scientists and 32 total participants to conduct a biodiversity survey in the remote Cordillera Azul National Park of Peru. During his work in the Cordillera Azul, he helped discover and describe a distinctive new species of bird, the Cordillera Azul Antbird. Thanks to these experiences, Andre has built a reputation as a leader, collaborator and motivator.

Andre’s first language is English, but he is also fluent in Spanish and is conversant in Portuguese. His parents, Scott and Lilia Moncrieff, are both faculty members at Andrews University. He is an outstanding musician and served as first violinist in the Andrews orchestra as an undergraduate. He has also spent time actively mentoring undergraduate students, sharing his broad knowledge, field experience, enthusiasm and persistence with a new generation of researchers.



## Wandile Mthiyane

(BSA '16, MArch '18)

WANDILE MTHIYANE, CO-FOUNDER and CEO of Ubuntu Design Group, grew up in the shantytowns of Durban, South Africa, and always dreamed of returning there to make a difference. He earned a Bachelor of Science in architecture in 2016 and Master of Architecture in 2018 from Andrews University. Wandile started receiving awards for his architecture work as a student at Andrews, including the student grand prize from the Congress for the New Urbanism in May 2017 for his work with Ubuntu in Umbumbula Village in South Africa.

The mission of Ubuntu Design Group is “creating a world where everyone has access to dignified design regardless of their socio-economic status. African problems deserve African solutions.” Wandile believes in using architecture as a vehicle to restore communities’ dignity. He partners with shantytown communities to build sustainable, efficient and affordable housing and infrastructure, saying, “I am passionate about a design approach that empowers people by capitalizing upon the creative energy and spirit that they possess, as well as through collaboration with the architects and engineers for their community.”

Since 2015, Wandile has been a fellow of the Resolution Project,

a global non-profit fostering youth leadership development through collaborative social entrepreneurship in social venture challenges. He has been acknowledged as among the 12 Black upcoming architects whose impactful work is forging history in the field today.

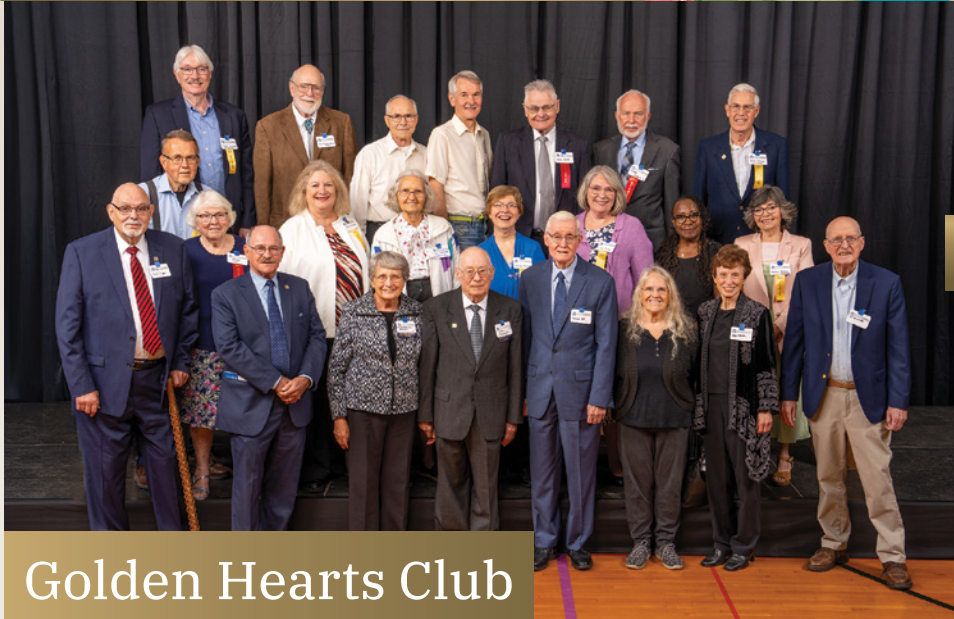
In 2019, Wandile was selected by the Obama Foundation as one of 200 rising leaders from 45 countries around the African continent, and since then he has been invited to participate on multiple panels and juries related to architecture. He was named one of the Top 100 Millennials by TEDx Johannesburg for 2018–2019 and a One Young World Ambassador.

Wandile shares, “Andrews University provided me with a unique opportunity to strengthen my core values of faith and justice. Through my education at Andrews, I learned that these two values are not mutually exclusive and that, as Christians, we are called to fight for justice. I gained a deeper understanding that every person, regardless of their background or appearance, is created in the image of God and has intrinsic value. Therefore, it is our responsibility to preserve that inherent value in all of God’s creations.”

He adds, “I am immensely grateful for the full scholarship that Andrews University provided me, which allowed me to pursue my education without financial burden. This opportunity has helped me to grow both personally and professionally, and I hope that I have made my school proud. Thank you, Andrews University, for investing in me and for providing me with a foundation to serve my community and the world with integrity and purpose.”

Wandile has three sisters and two brothers. He says, “I am who I am because of all their sacrifices. I am forever grateful.” He currently divides his time between New York City and Durban, South Africa.

# 2024 Honored Classes



Golden Hearts Club

## Classes of 1974 and earlier

**FRONT ROW, L-R:** James Slater, Jim McFarland, Edith Applegate, Stanley Applegate, Kendall Hill, Mary Wise Wein-Green, Margaret Whidden, Woodrow Whidden

**MIDDLE ROW, L-R:** Don Carlson, Marilyn (Wilkinson) Slater, Sharon Chamberlain, Ann (Steinweg) DiCicco, Marilyn Castelbuono, Linda (Herwick) Rosen, Nettie (Martin) Gray, Marlene (Gonzalez) Romeo

**BACK ROW, L-R:** Robert Bouchard, Joseph Battenburg, Dean McDaniel, Marvin E. Budd, Bruce Kuist, Larry Schalk, Brian E. Strayer



Class of 1964



Class of 1954

Joseph Battenburg

**FRONT ROW, L-R:** Bruce Kuist, Marilyn (Wilkinson) Slater, Mary Wise Wein-Green, Larry Schalk, Dixie (Barber) Wong

**BACK ROW, L-R:** Mishael Muze, Duane Ferguson, Dean McDaniel, Jim McFarland



Class of 1974

**FRONT ROW, L-R:** Marilyn Castelbuono, Sharon Chamberlain, Patsy Towar, Deborah Williams-Davis, Nettie (Martin) Gray, Marlene (Gonzalez) Romeo, Linda Herwick-Rosen, Wendy Godfrey

**BACK ROW, L-R:** Brian E. Strayer, Rick Bowes, Daniel Towar, Robert Bouchard, Don Carlson, Hayward Penny, Atilio Dupertuis



Class of 1984

**FRONT ROW, L–R:** Sharyn Nash, Jacquelyn Watkinson Hilderbrandt, Marion McEachrane, Karen Kelly, Kristine Schauff, Terri L. Calkins, Darah Regal, Jeffery Regal

**BACK ROW, L–R:** Samuel Swett, Steven Atkins, Wanjoo Yang, John Wesley Taylor V, Dan Hamstra, Scott Moncrieff, Lilia Moncrieff, Humberto Samuel Hernandez



Class of 1999

**FRONT ROW, L–R:** Rosemary Bailey, Karen Reiner, Donnalee Forraht, Priscila Coelho

**BACK ROW, L–R:** Karl Bailey, Kevin Reiner, Benjamin Rogers, Annie G. Melo



Class of 1994

**FRONT ROW, L–R:** Dowell Chow, Lisa Monroe, Laura Tobolaski, Nicola Williams, Michelle Wood-Allyn, Brenda Peterson, Jennifer Karasek, Wendy Wein-Baker, Amada Avalos, Elisa Garcia-Maragoto, Deborah Crider

**MIDDLE ROW, L–R:** Jennifer Cook, Edsel Adap, Sunith Das, Fernando Ortiz, Jerry Chi, Peggy Reed-Schnepf, Robert Wong, Douglas Krull

**BACK ROW, L–R:** Oriel Paulino, Josue Pierre, Ryan Hayes, Wagner Kuhn, Aristede Dukes, Andras Erdelyi



Class of 2004

**FRONT ROW, L–R:** Tunisia Peters, Jeff Boyd, Kevin Ferreira, Vlad Dyman

**BACK ROW, L–R:** Zayda Steinke, Rita Seay, Chad Steinke, Kemmorie Duncombe



Class of 2014

**L–R:** Nina Marie Girod, Luiz Camargo, David Penny, Victor M. Reyes-Prieto



Class of 2019

**L–R:** Elwyn Hyde, Shaun “Zeus” Haankwenda, Roshelle Hall, KhaiKhai Cin



Class of 2024

**L–R:** Rachel Stubbert, Hayden Baldwin, Anali Guzman, Joseph Pak

# REGIONAL EVENTS

## Toronto/Oshawa, Canada

Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2024  
 Ajax Convention Centre

We enjoyed reconnecting with many Andrews alumni. After a lengthy “pause” from COVID and leadership changes, it was wonderful to spend time with former colleagues and students. We enjoyed our dinner and fellowship together. The photos speak for themselves! Let’s do this again soon. If you missed this event, please make sure to update us with your contact information by emailing [alumni@andrews.edu](mailto:alumni@andrews.edu) or calling 269-471-3591.



## Rockville, Maryland

Sunday, Nov. 3, 2024  
 Norbeck Country Club

We enjoyed a brunch in beautiful surroundings with about 85 Maryland alumni. President Taylor joined us for an update on what is happening on campus as well as future plans as we move through our 150-year anniversary. It was wonderful connecting with friends who were as young as 4 and as old as ... well, we are all still very young at heart! We are already looking forward to our special time together next year.



Photos courtesy of Raelene Brower

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Please visit [alumni.andrews.edu/rsvp](http://alumni.andrews.edu/rsvp) to register and get up-to-date information on future Regional Events. To be sure you are connected to Andrews and can receive direct invitations, please update your contact information by emailing [alumni@andrews.edu](mailto:alumni@andrews.edu) or calling the Office of Alumni Services at 269-471-3591.

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.

### JANUARY

**10 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 26**  
**Orlando, Florida**  
*Highland Manor*

### FEBRUARY

**10 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 2**  
**Chattanooga, Tennessee**  
*Embassy Suites by Hilton*

**6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 4**  
**Huntsville, Alabama**  
*SpringHill Suites Downtown*

*Details in your mailbox and inbox soon!*

**SAVE THE DATE**  
*Homecoming 2025*  
**September 25–28**

HONOR CLASSES:

1955, 1965, 1975, 1985, 1995,  
 2000, 2005, 2015, 2025







**Lillis Lorene Kingman** (att.) passed away on Aug. 10, 2024, in her home in Berrien Springs, Michigan, at the age of 86. She was born March 24, 1938, in Centralia, Washington, to William and Margaret Swanson and was the youngest of six children.

Lillis attended Auburn Adventist Academy where she met the love of her life, **Robert Kingman** (professor emeritus). She continued her education at Walla Walla College along with Robert, and they were married on June 21, 1959. Graduating in 1960, she went on to receive a master's in music education from the University of Arizona.

Always a devoted wife to Robert, Lillis supported him through his academic studies to obtain his PhD in physics and through every other aspect of his professional and personal life over their 65 years together. She was also the proud mother of four children.

Throughout her life, Lillis shared her love for music as a piano teacher. Her gentle guidance and patient instruction left an indelible mark on countless students.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Lillis had a love for photography. However, her love for her family and her God remained her truest passion.

Lillis was the epitome of kindness, always putting others before herself. Her home was often the location for home-cooked dinners for students, visitors at church and family gatherings. Anyone who needed it could be certain to have a listening ear with acceptance and

confidentiality. If someone was ill or in need of encouragement she brought food or an orchid. Her loving nature is the quality that will be remembered most by those who were privileged to know her.

Lillis is survived by her husband, Robert; children, Roy (Dawn) Kingman, **Lorena** (BS '85, MBA '86, current staff) (**Dan** (BS '79, MS '81, former staff)) **Bidwell**, **Sharla** (**Kevin** (MBA '84)) **Erich** and **Larry** (Heather) Kingman; 14 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.



**Joyce Meekma** (att.), 80, of Newfolden, Minnesota, passed away on Aug. 4, 2024, at Sanford Medical Center, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

Joyce Elaine Wery was born July 3, 1944, in Daggett, Michigan, the daughter of Roy and Dorothy (DeGrave) Wery. She graduated from the Carney Powers High School in Carney Powers, Michigan, in 1963.

Joyce attended Bay de Noc Community College in Escanaba, Michigan, and later obtained her teaching certificate from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, in 1966.

On July 9, 1967, Joyce married Glenn Meekma at the Wilson Seventh-day Adventist Church in Wilson, Michigan. Their first home together was in Lake Bronson, Minnesota. In December of 1969, they made their home in Newfolden, Minnesota, where Joyce resided until her death.

Joyce and Glenn had two children, **Glenn Jr.** (current staff) and **Jodi**.

Through the years Joyce and Glenn enjoyed gardening together. Joyce enjoyed canning, cooking, baking, entertaining, sewing and knitting. She and Glenn loved to travel.

After caring for children as a teacher, Joyce transitioned to consumer counselor for 30 years with Hanson Boarding Home in Thief River Falls. In 2016 Joyce retired after medical complications made it impossible to continue working.

Joyce's faith in God was of great importance to her. She was always willing to share with those that wanted to have religious discussions, answering questions through the study of the Bible.

Joyce was preceded in death by her loving daughter, **Jodi**; her parents; and 10 of her 12 siblings.

Joyce is survived by her husband, Glenn, of Newfolden, Minnesota; son, Glenn Jr. "**Chip**" (**Gina** (current staff)) **Meekma** of Buchanan, Michigan; grandchildren, **Victoria Meekma** (current staff) and **Mitchell Meekma**; son-in-law, **Brian Roger Larson**; sisters, **Karen Ketola** and **Frances Cline**; sisters-in-law, **Judy Pervis** and **Linda Banfe**; special nephew, "**Bobby**" **Brian Meekma**; and numerous special nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and good friends.



**Warren Sidney Ashworth** (MA '62, MA '69, PhD '86), 86, was born March 11, 1938, in Rockford, Illinois, and died July 24, 2024, in Redding, California.

Warren completed a degree in systematic theology from La Sierra College in 1961. He married Carolyn LaTourette after meeting her on a blind date five months earlier and earned his first master's degree at Andrews University in 1962. After the birth of their daughter **Linda** (**Ashworth**) **Haddad** (MA '00), Warren and Carolyn served for five years as missionaries in Ecuador, where two sons were born.

The family returned to Andrews, where Warren earned an MA in mission anthropology, then went to Argentina, where Warren spent 3.5 years as a departmental director of the southernmost union in Argentina. Warren next joined the religion faculty of Colegio Adventista del Plata, teaching there for four years. During that time, a third son was born.

In 1976 the family moved back to Andrews, where Warren started his doctoral work. The following year their fifth and last child, another son, was born. Warren began teaching in the Andrews undergraduate Religion Department.

In 1984 Warren joined the religion faculty at Pacific Union College, taught for a year, then took one year off to finish his doctoral dissertation at Andrews.

Warren continued teaching at Pacific Union College until June 2004.

After retiring in 2004, Warren and Carolyn moved to Redding, California. In 2016 he was diagnosed with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF). Although he was told he had two to three years to live, he continued to be fairly active for another eight years.

Warren was preceded in death by his wife, Carolyn; and sons, Mark and Eric.

Warren is survived by his daughter, Linda (Ashworth) Haddad (husband **Mark** (MBA '00)); son, Brent; son, Tim (wife Crista); and six grandchildren: Jesse, Stephanie, Claire, Graham, Brooke and Brennan.

**Donald Philip Gillespie** (former faculty), 81, died on July 13, 2024. He was born Feb. 10, 1943, to Marjorie and William Gillespie and had two older siblings, Stanton and Zoe Ann.

Don earned an undergraduate degree in social work from Pacific Union College and worked for a number of years as a clinical social worker. He eventually earned a PhD in sociology from Western Michigan University and taught sociology at both Pacific Union College and Andrews University. He then moved into hospital administration and worked at Lakeland as the director of rehabilitation for many years. Later, he worked as a hospital administrator at both Foote and Sparrow hospitals. He finally retired after working as a social worker once more at Lakeland and Riverwood.

He married his loving wife and friend **Sharon Fillner** (MA '81) on June 28, 1964, in Sacramento, California. They were married for 60 years and raised two children together, **Thomas** (BA '92) and **Cara** (BS '01, MSPT '02). Don was a loving and supportive father to Tom and Cara, participating in countless 4-H projects and shows with his children. In 2000, Don became a grandfather when Katherine was born; she was joined by Jackson in 2006 and Bella in 2009. Don and Sharon spent many hours at band concerts, games, recitals and track meets delighting in their grandchildren.

Don was a longtime and active member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in St. Joseph, Michigan, and later of St. Augustine of Canterbury in Benton Harbor. His faith and the love, friendship and support of members of both parishes were treasured and invaluable to him.

Donald is survived by his wife, Sharon; his children, Tom and Cara; his son-in-law, Mike Sladen-York; his grandchildren, Katherine, Jackson and Bella; and the beloved chosen family of Bob and Jenny Van de Warker and their children and grandchildren.



**Jessie Ann Duns Oliver** (BA '55, former faculty) passed away June 7, 2024, at 90 years old. Jessie, or Jess as she preferred, was born in Chicago, Illinois, on Oct. 6, 1933, to Robert and Mary Duns. Jess lost both parents before she turned 6 and found love and care in the home of her aunt and uncle, Tina and Martin Erickson, in Bayfield, Wisconsin, where she became an integral part of their large, extended family.

Jess pursued her education at Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) where she met and married **Bruce Oliver** (BA '57, deceased). While Bruce attended dental school in California, Jess got her master's in education from the University of Redlands. Upon Bruce's graduation, they moved to Niles, Michigan, where he established his orthodontic practice. Bruce and Jess were blessed with three children.

After dedicating herself to raising her children, Jess earned a master's degree in library science from Western Michigan University and began her career as a librarian at the Andrews University library, including as director of the James White Library Mary Jane Mitchell Multimedia Center. She enjoyed helping others and having a new way to contribute to the Andrews community.

In retirement, Jess continued living in Berrien Springs and enjoyed gardening, reading, piano playing, visiting with friends and family, and spending winters in Florida near her daughter Lynn and family. She trained in teaching reading and enjoyed tutoring at the local Adventist schools. Jess was an active member of the Niles Seventh-day Adventist Church for over 50 years.

Her final years were spent surrounded by love and care, residing with Lynn and her husband in Punta Gorda, Florida. She left behind a legacy of kindness, devotion, and unwavering service to her church and family.

Jess was predeceased by her son, John; grandson, Ian Rose; former husband, Bruce Oliver; brother, Donald Chape; and parents, Robert and Mary Brown.

She is survived by her daughters, **Lauren Strach** (BA '79, former faculty) (Michel Rose) and **Lynn** (BS '85) (**Pine** (att.)) **Price**; grandchildren, Elizabeth (Matthew) Stolz, Anna Strach, **Oliver** (att.) (Amie) **Huff** and Leah (Jackson) Garner; great-grandchildren, Adelaide and Jackson Stolz, Aubrey Brooks and Brooks Huff; and nieces Susan Wangen and Diane Jones, plus many cousins.

**Zsuzsanna "Susie" Marazita** (MA '10), 64, of Buchanan, passed away peacefully from stroke complications on May 4, 2021. Susie was born in Sopron, Hungary, to Joseph and Theresa Bella. She emigrated to America as a baby with her



parents during the Hungarian Revolution of 1956.

On June 4, 1977, Susie was united in marriage with Michael D. Marazita.

While at Andrews University to pursue her master's degree in teaching English as a second language, Susie was encouraged/mentored by **Estella Greig, PhD** (MA '66, professor emerita). Susie very much enjoyed teaching at Andrews during this period of her life.

Upon graduation, Susie taught at Southwestern Michigan College and Indiana University. She loved and was loved by her students, touching lives from many countries around the world, and even helped some achieve their American dream of citizenship.

She enjoyed music, travel, reading, writing poetry, sewing and floral gardening. She also enjoyed holiday decorating and cooking.

Susie was a beautiful person—kind, bubbly, funny. She was an extremely generous daughter, wife, mother, grandmother and friend and had a strong faith in God. She is dearly missed by all who know her.

Susie is survived by her husband, Michael D. Marazita. Also surviving are her parents, Joseph and Theresa Bella of South Bend, Indiana; son, Joseph P. Marazita of East Lansing, Michigan; daughter, Stephanie (Patrick) Blandford of Lansing, Michigan; and two grandchildren, Silas and Stella Blandford.

# Give a gift that pays you back.

When you fund a charitable gift annuity with Andrews University, you get more than the satisfaction of supporting our mission. You also get fixed payments—for life. You may enjoy significant tax benefits as well, including a deduction in the year of your gift and future payouts that are partially tax-free. If you're interested in supporting Andrews University while enjoying the benefit of a dependable income, call or email us to learn more.

Age	Payout rate*
70	4.7%
80	6.5%
90	8.6%

\* Actual rate varies based on age and annuity type. Not available in all states.



**Rosie Nash**, BA '60  
Retired realtor and  
dedicated Neighbor  
to Neighbor volunteer.

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