This morning the recipient of the John Nevins Andrews Medallion is Shirley Ann Freed, a woman whose contributions and dedication to teaching, leadership development and educational technology have distinguished her among her colleagues.

Freed completed a BA in biology and chemistry from Andrews University in 1967. She completed a Master of Arts in elementary education from Loma Linda University in 1989 followed by a PhD in curriculum and instruction from Andrews University in 1991.

Upon completion of her bachelor's degree, Freed worked the following 16 years at Adventist schools in Canada. From 1983 to 1989, she served at Pakistan Adventist Seminary teaching at both the college and high school level. From there, she began work at Andrews University teaching in the English Language Institute while a part-time research assistant. In 1991, Freed joined the faculty in the School of Education, broadening her scope in 2001 to include qualitative research and leadership. She added department chair of Leadership & Educational Administration and Leadership program coordinator to her responsibilities in 2003.

While guiding student research and helping other faculty in the department serve doctoral students more effectively, Freed became a pioneer in leadership development and educational technology, helping to form, nurture and grow one of the largest leadership development programs in the history of Seventh-day Adventist higher education. That program has spawned other leadership development centers in the University and throughout the world. She was also instrumental in the early work of Adventist Virtual Learning Network (AVLN) that innovatively pushed the margin of delivering and extending Adventist education to more places in the world. Her cross-cultural experience has made her flexible in adapting her teaching and learning practices to different cultural, religious and worldview perspectives, having given nearly 100 lectures and training sessions across the globe on learning and leadership.

While remaining active in her own scholarly pursuits, Freed has served on over 100 dissertation committees and has published dozens of peer-reviewed articles, booklets and papers in many scholarly disciplines, mostly with others who she has motivated to grow into scholars. Recognized as an expert, she is a sought-after methodologist even in her retirement.

Freed's productivity levels are legendary. She brings to each dissertation a combination of high energy, responsive feedback, problem-solving ability and a keen research mind. She creates high expectations of what needs to be done in teaching and learning, and does the tedious work of giving supportive feedback, working with some of the most challenging dissertations.

Freed is the recipient of numerous teaching and research awards and her advisees have gone on to receive distinguished awards for their dissertation work. Even now as a professor emerita, Freed continues to teach globally, guide dissertations and both write and edit journal articles.

Freed and her husband, Allan, have three children and five grandchildren.

For her contributions to the field of leadership development and educational technology, and the scholarly development of students and faculty, the faculty of Andrews University is proud to present Shirley Ann Freed with the John Nevins Andrews Medallion.