La Sierra University receives presidential award for service
Highlights include youth mentoring, fundraising

In Poland, launch of Adventist television cements growing media ministry
Hope Channel Poland to support urban outreach in 2014

Retired Executive Secretary Franz turns 100 today
In witty interview, he’s thankful for Lord’s leading; renewed driver’s license

You may also wish to see and contribute to the ANN Photo gallery, which highlights Adventist life around the world. Find the gallery on the ANN website at news.adventist.org.

La Sierra University receives presidential award for service
La Sierra University was one of five educational institutions named a Presidential Awardee in the 2013 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest honor a college or university in the United States can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement.

La Sierra, a Seventh-day Adventist university located in Riverside, California, received the award for its efforts to improve educational and developmental outcomes for children in distressed areas.

At a ceremony in Washington, D.C. yesterday, La Sierra President Randal Wisbey received the 2013 Presidential Award from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) during the annual meeting of the American Council on Education.

“Service to others is a key part of La Sierra’s mission and indicative of the Christian ethos that drives our work as a learning community,” Wisbey said. “I am humbled by the way in which students, faculty and staff daily live out this value through formal and informal outreach efforts to help people in local and global communities.”

The award was presented by Jonathan Greenblatt, special assistant to President Barack Obama, and Wendy Spencer, CEO of CNCS.

Projects in La Sierra’s Promise Neighborhoods initiative included tutoring and mentoring elementary students, fundraising for afterschool programs in the surrounding public school district, and interactive learning experiences created by biology and communication students in the university’s natural history museum.

Total service hours, including all campus service and overseas missions, culminated in nearly 1,900 students fulfilling almost 85,000 hours. For academic Service-Learning classes alone, about 900 La Sierra students provided more than 14,000 hours of service.

The four other 2013 Presidential Award winners were Georgia Perimeter College in Georgia, Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania, the University of Connecticut, and Nazareth College in New York. A total of 690 higher educational institutions were named this year to the organization’s honor roll.

CNCS, an independent federal agency, has administered the award since 2006 and manages the program in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the American Council on Education and Campus Compact.
In Poland, launch of Adventist television cements growing media ministry

Mar. 05, 2013
Silver Spring, Maryland, United States
ANN staff

Seventh-day Adventist Church leaders in Poland say the launch this month of Hope Channel Poland signals the continued growth of media ministry in the central European country.

Hope Channel Poland offers 24/7 Internet television, and plans are in place to enter local cable and satellite networks in the coming months. The network broadcasts original Polish programming, as well as translated media produced by tedMEDIA Productions from the church’s Trans-European Division, headquartered in England.

“This is a significant move for the church in Poland,” said Pawel Lazar, president of Hope Channel Poland and the church’s Polish Union Conference.

“When I started church work many years ago, we had good success with public meetings, but now we are finding that media is the best way to connect with our society, especially young people,” Lazar said.

Church officials in the country say Hope Channel Poland will help lay the groundwork for urban outreach planned for Warsaw in 2014. Currently, church leaders are designing billboards advertising Adventist television to install in major cities.

Close to 6,000 Adventists worship in 118 churches in Poland. The church also operates a college, publishing house and the Voice of Hope Media Center in Warsaw.

 Warsaw is among dozens of cities worldwide where Adventists will host coordinated evangelism efforts in the coming years as part of the Mission to the Cities initiative.

Retired Executive Secretary Franz turns 100 today
Clyde Franz, a retired Seventh-day Adventist Church executive who oversaw membership statistics and missionary recruitment for international outposts, turns 100 today.

Franz served as executive secretary of the denomination from 1970 to 1980. He’ll celebrate his centennial with his two children, relatives and friends visiting from several states.

“‘They’re making a big deal of out this when all I’ve really done was get up 36,000 times, more or less, and I’m here,’ he quips during a phone interview from his home at a retirement facility in Hendersonville, North Carolina. He pauses and more solemnly says, ‘I should add that I’m thankful to the Lord for all those times.’

His daughter, 72-year-old Sue Smith, says her father has always embraced humor. “He loves to tell little jokes. His mind is really sharp….Dad’s had an interesting life. He’s been a wonderful father.”

Franz walks a mile or two each day and participates in his facility’s exercise club. He’s the oldest in the group. The youngest is 70.

“You would never guess he’s going to be 100,” said fellow resident Carl Bahr, who served with Franz at the Adventist Church headquarters as an associate treasurer.

Franz also still drives, mostly to take his 98-year-old retired missionary doctor friend to visit his 101-year-old wife in a nearby nursing home twice a day. Franz passed a state driving exam two months ago, which gives him a license for another five years. He said he’ll likely not drive that long, though.

Franz got married three times, and each time he outlived his vow of “‘til death do us part.” He says he enjoyed each marriage, but that he’ll remain a bachelor.

He doesn’t have any secrets to longevity, he says, other than being a vegetarian and living as a Seventh-day Adventist. He believes observing the Sabbath – taking a day off each week – has helped. “It’s healthful, but it goes further than that. When we take the Sabbath off, we’re serving God.”

As secretary in the 1970s, he ran the department that was responsible for filling mission posts, still in an era before national leaders took most leadership roles.

“In those days, unlike today, our number one job was finding missionary recruits for divisions. Nowadays divisions pretty much find their own personnel,” he said.

Don Yost, who worked for Franz as the founder of what is now the Office of Archives, Statistics and Research, said Franz was “very well organized, very congenial, efficient in doing the things that needed to be done. Just a very fine person to work with,” he said.
Franz was born on March 1, 1913, to self-supporting missionaries in Camaguey, Cuba. In 1932 he earned an accounting degree at Southern Missionary College – now Southern Adventist University.

He went on to serve as secretary-treasurer of several Adventist conferences, including Alabama-Mississippi, Kentucky-Tennessee, Iowa, and the British West Indies Union. In the 1950s, he served in the Antillean Union, based in Cuba, for two years as president.

He also served as secretary of the Inter-American Division, based in Miami, Florida, from 1954 to 1961, and then as the division’s treasurer until 1966.

It was at the 1966 General Conference Session in Detroit, Michigan, that Franz’s college classmate Robert Pierson was elected president of the Adventist world church. “Hey Bob,” he remembers joking with him at a chance meeting in Cobo Hall, “if you ever need a janitor there some day, remember me.” Within a week, he was “there,” having just hours after the encounter been appointed an associate executive secretary of the denomination. Four years later he was appointed secretary.

But Franz is still treasurer at heart. His top hobby is managing his own finances in a spare bedroom he’s converted into a study, complete with computer and copier.

In anticipation of today’s birthday, he said, “I just can’t ignore the way the Lord has directed and led through all these years.

“I’ve been blessed beyond measure.”

The ANN news bulletin is a weekly recap of news and information from the Communication department of the Seventh-day Adventist world church headquarters and is distributed by Adventist News Network.

Reproduction requirements: ANN encourages the republication of its news stories and accompanying editorial photos. Stories may be reproduced in full, in shortened form, or as one of several sources used to construct a news story. Please note that ANN’s material is copyrighted. When reproducing ANN stories, the words "Adventist News Network" must appear either under the headline or immediately following the article. When reproducing photos that appear on ANN, please credit the photographer and ANN.

ANN staff: Williams Costa Jr., director; Ansel Oliver, assistant director; Elizabeth Lechleitner, editorial coordinator. Portuguese translations by Azenilto Brito, Spanish translations by Marcos Paseggi and French translations by Wenda Ozone-Mourandee.
Spam
Not spam
Forget previous vote