Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse Dies at 88
Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse, noted Adventist musician and founder of the New England Youth Ensemble, died Tuesday morning, Aug. 30, at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center. She was 88. Rittenhouse began her teaching career at Walla Walla University in 1945, and moved to Atlantic Union College a year later. She founded the ensemble in 1969 with five students and directed it for decades. Her New England Youth Ensemble Carnegie Scholars Program mentored ensemble members, many of whom took the stage at Carnegie Hall, a renowned New York City concert venue. Since 1994, the group has served as the church-run Washington Adventist University's resident orchestra, where it continues to earn critical acclaim. Read more from the Adventist News Network HERE.

PAA Teacher Earns Doctorate
Tim Erich, Portland Adventist Academy social studies department chair, recently received his Doctor of Education from La Sierra University. "Earning a doctorate is a test of perseverance," says Erich, who has spent the last 25 years working full-time as an administrator, teacher or department chair while completing educational certifications and working on prerequisites for the doctorate. Erich has earned an Educational Specialist degree in administration and leadership, a master's in education and a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and political science with minors in French and religion. Read more in the current September issue of the GLEANER or online HERE.

Northwest Adventist Leadership Convention Begins Next Week
Pastors from around the Northwest will gather next week on the campus of Walla Walla University for the Northwest Adventist Leadership Convention. Members within driving distance may wish to attend the evening programs which are open to the public along with the special Sabbath afternoon festival of music and missions featuring the Oregon Adventist Men's Chorus. All public programs will be held in the WWU Church sanctuary. More information about these free programs is available online HERE.

Looking Ahead
September
11: NPUC Constituency Session
11: WWU Constituency Session
15: Nov. Ad/Article Deadline
16-18: WWVA's 125th Reunion
18-24: WWU JumpStart
23-25: Mont. Men's Summit
26: WWU Autumn quarter begins

October
7-9: Mont. Women's Retreat
7-9: UCA Alumni Weekend
20: Dec. Ad/Article Deadline

GLEANER Blogs
- Cheri Corder
- Cindy's Garden Blog
- Dear Counselor
- Let's Talk
- Mike Jones
- Monthly Archival Photo
- Tip Sheet

Roosenberg to Begin Full-time Seminar Ministry
Tim and Karen Roosenberg are leaving their pastorate at the Eagle and Garden Valley (Idaho) churches after serving four and a half years. They are excited to begin their Daniel 11 ministry with the Idaho Conference. The Roosenbergs will maintain their Emmett, Idaho, home as they travel with the "Islam and Christianity" seminar ministry. More information about the seminar ministry is available HERE.

The One Project is Coming to Seattle
The Center for Youth Evangelism, headquartered at Andrews University, is sponsoring another One Project event scheduled for Seattle, Feb. 13-14, 2012. Most recently held in Atlanta, Ga., and then Helsinki, Finland, this event seeks to impact communities with the central message of Jesus. It gains its strength from the theme of Matthew 18:20: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." The two days are set aside to refresh leaders of all ages passionate about following Jesus, excited about honest open conversation, and celebrating the supremacy of Jesus in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Read more and watch a short event video HERE.

Aftermath of Earthquake and Hurricane Irene
Adventist Community Services Disaster Response is responding to the widespread damage incurred from both the earthquake and Hurricane Irene disasters in Virginia. Adventist institutions and members appear to have escaped major damage in the state. ACS Disaster Response is still assessing the devastation in the mid and north Atlantic states. Please pray for all who have been affected by the earthquake and the hurricane, as well as those helping survivors. To read more and find out how you can help, click HERE.
Remembrance: Adventist musician Rittenhouse, 88, launched New England Youth Ensemble

Her mentorship program saw ensemble members perform at Carnegie Hall

31 Aug 2011, Silver Spring, Maryland, United States
ANN staff

Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse, 88, a noted Adventist musician who founded and directed the New England Youth Ensemble, died at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center near her home in Sterling.

Rittenhouse, a conductor, pianist and violinist, founded the ensemble in 1969 with five students and directed it for decades. Her New England Youth Ensemble Carnegie Scholars Program mentored ensemble members, many of whom took the stage at Carnegie Hall, a renowned New York City concert venue.

The ensemble, which now numbers 45, regularly travels to perform worldwide. Since 1994, the group has served as church-run Washington Adventist University's resident orchestra, where it continues to earn critical acclaim.

Rittenhouse spent years teaching music in Seventh-day Adventist institutions such as Washington Adventist University and Atlantic Union College, where she taught violin and piano until the early 1950s.

Rittenhouse was born in Alberta, Canada on October 15, 1922, and raised in South Africa. At age 10, her debut performance of her own composition was aired over a South African national radio broadcast. At 13, she won a music scholarship to study at the University of South Africa. She later received degrees from the University of Washington, Boston University and the Peabody Conservatory.

"The Washington Adventist University family is deeply saddened at the passing of a true pioneer in Seventh-day Adventist education," WAU President Weymouth Spence said in a statement yesterday. "She was a driving innovative force with the orchestra and the programs she began," he said.

Rittenhouse is survived by her husband of 61 years, Harvey, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

ANN World News Bulletin is a review of news issued by the Communication department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church World Headquarters and released as part of the service of Adventist News Network. For reproduction requirements, click here. The opinions expressed by Commentary authors and sources in ANN news stories do not necessarily reflect those of Adventist News Network© and/or the Seventh-day Adventist© Church.

1 Comment

We so enjoyed hearing the New England Youth Ensemble at the Tierrasanta SDA church last year. She really was a dedicated person who loved what she was doing. My sympathy to her husband. She will be greatly missed. But how wonderful to know it is only a sleep, and that someday she will rise with an immortal body. I believe she will continue her devotion to music in heaven.

Janice McMillan | September 1, 2011 12:08 AM | Reply

Leave a comment

Please restrict your comments to 500 words or less. For more information, please see the ANN Comments Policy.

Name
Oregon News

- Gladstone Camp Meeting Coming Home ... Again
- Portland Adventist Academy Teacher Earns Doctorate
- Students Bring Smiles to Parkhurst Manor
- The King’s Heralds On the Road
- ONLINE SIDE BAR for Gladstone Camp Meeting article
- More Camp Meeting News
- Volunteer Revives VBS at Forest Grove
- Hometown Nazareth Where Jesus was a Kid
- Follow the Lamb
- Winter Gala a Success

Portland Adventist Academy Teacher Earns Doctorate

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“Earning a doctorate is a test of perseverance,” says Erich, who has spent the last 25 years working fulltime as an administrator, teacher or department chair while completing educational certifications and working on prerequisites to the doctorate. Erich has earned an Educational Specialist degree in administration and leadership, a master's (M.A.) in education and a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and political science with minors in French and religion.

Erich’s dissertation was on the pitfalls and possibilities of public funding of private schools. His study was based on interviews of 24 individuals with expertise related to the issue of public funding of private, religious schools within the United States. Interviewees were primarily experts in historical and legal developments in public aid to private schools, the funding of private schools and the principle of the separation of church and state affairs.

Erich plans to submit summaries and related articles to numerous professional journals for publication.

Liesel Vistaunet, PAA GLEANER correspondent
Pastors from around the North Pacific Union Conference will be converging on the Walla Walla University campus for the Northwest Adventist Leadership Convention, September 7-10. Some of the finest Adventist thought-leaders will speak during this event.

The public is cordially invited to attend the following presentations ...

- **Wednesday, Sept. 7, 6:45 p.m.**
  - **Carlton Byrd, Opening Keynote Address**

- **Thursday, Sept. 8, 7:30 p.m**
  - **John McVay, Choosing a Full-Screen Jesus**

- **Friday, Sept. 9, 6:45 p.m.**
  - **Justin Kim, Adventist Par Excellence**

- **Saturday, Sept. 10, 3:00 p.m.**
  - **Lou Wildman, Oregon Adventist Men’s Chorus**

- **Saturday, Sept. 10, 7:30 p.m.**
  - **Chuck Neighbors, Dramatized Parables**

All meetings in the WWU church sanctuary

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