Dinner Promotes Worldwide Alumni- Contribution Program for Colleges

Speaking at a July 8 dinner promoting college challenge-grant programs, Robert Folkenberg, newly elected General Conference president, told the assembled educators and administrators that each SDA college should consider launching these programs, for "the seeds will grow exponentially."

Held in Indianapolis during the General Conference session, the dinner gave education leaders a chance to acquaint college presidents from outside North America with the Business Executives' Challenge to Alumni (BECA) program, and to encourage them to participate.

BECA came into being about 10 years ago through the combined vision of the General Conference Department of Education and concerned SDA business persons. To initiate the program, Tom and Violet Zapara and others contributed $1.4 million seed money, matched by approximately a half million dollars from the church.

In 1980 only 6 percent of Adventist college alumni contributed to their colleges, according to Milton Murray, director of Philanthropic Services for Institutions at the General Conference. This represented about one-fourth of the average for other colleges in the United States.

Currently, 31 percent of U.S. alumni are participating in the BECA program.

Mrs. Zapara described many advantages to participating in the BECA program. However, she said only 11 colleges outside North America have chosen to join BECA.

Quoting from a letter she had received, Mrs. Zapara said the author, a college president, lauded the BECA program as a great success. Alumni donations had grown from $500 to $12,000, and the money was being used for scholarships and other programs that filled a real need at the school.

Murray cited other benefits of the alumni contribution program, such as increased participation in alumni homecomings and other aspects of college operations, and the opportunity for the church to contact alumni who are no longer members of the church. Strong alumni giving is also a factor in successful solicitation of monies from philanthropies and corporate donors, he said.

During his remarks at the BECA dinner, Robert Folkenberg, newly elected General Conference president, described his commitment to Adventist education.

George H. Akers, world education director 1985-1990, interviews Violet Zapora, one of the main benefactors of the BECA program.
Education Leaders Gather for Summit Meeting at Andrews University

Newly elected division directors of education met at Andrews University July 15-18 to chart the course of SDA education for the next five years.

At the opening dinner, H. M. Rasi, newly elected world director of education, outlined the four themes of the conference: integration of faith and learning, international networking of SDA higher education, the role of Adventist education in global mission, and institutional upbuilding.

Tightly scheduled meetings on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday packed in a variety of topics, including distance education, church-state concerns, dynamic Bible teaching, curriculum, ministry on secular campuses, teacher education, and even a recommendation for changing the name of the General Conference Department of Education.

Each of the newly elected division direc-
Humberto M. Rasl, new world director of education, links education with Adventist global strategy.

Journal of Adventist Education Issue Wins Award

The Summer 1989 JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION issue on Multicultural Education took top honors in the one-theme issue category at the Educational Press Association’s 1990 Distinguished Achievement Awards program.

Official ceremonies conferring the award took place June 7 during the 1990 EDPRESS convention at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

EDPRESS, an alliance of education-oriented magazines established in 1895, serves a diverse group of professionals with a single goal—education through print communication. Membership includes individuals and organizations at all levels of educational publishing, from national and state to local school districts, from nonprofit and commercial publishers (including children’s publishers) to freelance writers.

Materials entered in the yearly contest include magazines and tabloids, textbooks, special publications, and other materials produced by editors, writers, art directors, and designers—both free-lance and salaried. More than 1100 entries competed for awards in the 1990 contest.

The yearly awards program accommodates a wide array of publications and is refereed both by third-party experts in print communication and by individuals acutely aware of trends in educational publishing. Past recipients include several publications that are household names in America as well as others less known but distinguished by excellence.

THE JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION was previously honored by EDPRESS for its October-November 1972 issue, “Celebrating 100 Years of Adventist Education.”