

# New College Presidents

by Deanna Davis

Three new presidents have recently been appointed to Adventist colleges in North America. None has been the president of an Adventist college before. Two of three appointments are unusual in Adventist history since neither had ever previously been employed by the denomination. They come directly from administering public colleges.

Benjamin R. Wygal, president of Union College since February, for the previous 15 years had been president of Florida Junior College in Jacksonville, a four-campus, 74,000-student community college system. Jack Bergman will assume the presidency of Walla Walla College on July 1. He is currently dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Western Oregon State College, a 2,600 student liberal-arts college in Monmouth, Oregon. Lawrence T. Geraty, professor of archaeology and history of antiquity at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, will assume the presidency of Atlantic Union College on July 1.

Wygal is the 24th president of Union College. He succeeds Dean L. Hubbard, who is currently president of Northwest Missouri State University. Bergman will be the 17th president of Walla Walla College. He succeeds N. Clifford Sorensen, who has accepted the position of executive secretary for the North American Division Board of Higher Education. Geraty succeeds Larry Lewis, who remains in the psychology department of Atlantic Union College.

Wygal, 47, is a graduate of the University of Texas and Texas Tech, from which he received his doctorate in educational administration. He has taught high school speech and English and served on the faculties of the University of Texas and Southwest Texas State. He was academic dean at Dalton Junior College in Dalton, Georgia, for three years. In 1969, Wygal became vice president for planning and development at Florida Junior College and the following year was named president.

After 15 years with the Florida school, Wygal said he was "ready for a career change where he could combine his interest in religion and education." He noted that he had decided long ago that his next career move would be to a "smaller, closer setting." Wygal guided the operation of the four-campus community college from a downtown office in Jacksonville, where "you never really see students" and from which he had to oppose attempts to unionize the faculty. Wygal said he is enjoying the increased interaction with faculty and students that is possible on the Union College campus.

Although Wygal had served for several years on the Board of Trustees of Southern College and on the General Conference Board of Higher Education, adjusting to a new system has been challenging. Wygal said that his administrative experience in budgeting and management has been an advantage in his new position. Since his arrival Wygal has already submitted and the Board of Trustees has approved a long-term financial plan to stabilize and improve the financial future of the college.

Jack Bergman, 59, is an alumnus of Walla Walla College. He received an M.A. in history from the University of Puget Sound and a Ph.D. from Washington State University. Bergman served as instructor in history at both of these universities. He joined the his-

tory department at Western Oregon State College in 1966. From 1969-1974 he served as chairman of the history and, social science department. He has been dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences since 1981.

Bergman's wide network of contacts with higher education in the Northwest and his understanding of the attitudes of the laity are qualities that he believes will be assets in his new position. Before accepting his appointment to Walla Walla College, he recently served as chairman of the special constituency meeting of the North Pacific Union that approved changes in its constitution.

Bergman has taken an active role in Adventist education, serving for the past four years on the Board of Trustees for Walla Walla College, as well as educational committees on both the conference and union levels. Nonetheless, he, like Wygal, admits that he has some catching up to do to become familiar with the policies and regulations of the Adventist school system.

"Becoming a part of a group I belong to 24 hours a day" will also be a big adjustment, Bergman said. At Western Oregon his personal and social relationships with colleagues were minimal. "I am looking forward to a much closer relationship with colleagues."

Lawrence Geraty, 45, grew up as the son of a missionary educator in China and Lebanon, graduated from Pacific Union College where he was editor of the school newspaper, pastored briefly in California and then received his Ph.D. in Old Testament and Biblical Archaeology from Harvard University. His entire career since then has been at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, where he first assisted and then succeeded Sigfried Horn as the organizer and leader of several archaeological expeditions in Jordan. He is also the director of the Institute of Archaeology and curator of the Sigfried Horn Archaeological Museum at Andrews University, an officer of the American Schools of Oriental Research, and former president of the Asso-

ciation of Adventist Forums. In his profession Geraty is vice president of the American Center of Oriental Research, Amman, Jordan; secretary of the committee on Archaeological policy (the accrediting body for American archaeological work) in the Middle East; and associate editor of the *Biblical Archaeologist*.

Geraty accepted the presidency after the Board of Trustees agreed to: provide an additional \$1 million over a four-year period for scholarships and plant improvement (all present students will receive a \$500 scholarship if they return next year); appoint as academic dean Sakae Kubo, formerly president of Newbold College and dean of the school of theology at Walla Walla College; and appoint Larry Herr, another Ph.D. in archaeology from Harvard and recently a teacher at the Seventh-day Adventist theological seminary in the Far East, to the theology department. Geraty will also be free to devote alternate summers to leading, in cooperation with Andrews University, further archaeological expeditions in Jordan.

Coping with financial problems and strengthening the awareness of the mission of Adventist education are priorities of all three administrators. They consider the establishment of large endowments necessary to provide relief from financial pressures caused by declining enrollment and tuition-dependent operating budgets. The single major issue facing Adventist education today, according to Wygal, is enrollment. He noted that declining enrollment related to population trends is a problem throughout public as well as private education. Union College's enrollment is down by about 100 students from the previous year, largely because there are fewer graduates from Adventist academies in the region.

Bergman notes that fewer and fewer church members recognize the real reason for Christian education. His biggest challenge, he said, is to reverse that trend and to restore Christian education to the high position that it once had in the denomination.

Geraty thinks that small Adventist colleges, like Atlantic Union College, will have to stress diverse, even unique, educational opportunities. "We will certainly be emphasizing the heritage and ivy league reputation for excellence associated with New England," he says.

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## National Conference Opens Loma Linda Ethics Center

by Bonnie Dwyer

Leonard Bailey was on the panel and the principal speaker was Arthur Caplan, one of the most vocal critics of the Baby Fae operation. It was therefore not surprising that April 21 some 700 people attended the plenary session of the first conference sponsored by the ethics center at Loma Linda University. After Caplan, associate for the humanities at the Hastings Center, the internationally renowned research institute that co-sponsored the conference, completed his presentation on the "Ethical Challenges of Organ Transplantation," responses were given by eight panel members from Loma Linda and surrounding universities. However, probably the most interesting comments of the evening were made in private by Baby Fae's mother. At the close of the session, she sought out Caplan at the front of the Loma Linda University church, where the meeting had taken place, to explain the thoroughness of her study of the alternatives before consenting to the transplantation of a baboon heart to her infant daughter.

In television coverage of the evening, telecast as far away as San Diego, David Larson, associate director of the Loma Linda University Center for Christian Bioethics, explained that the two-day conference, April 21-22, had drawn 230 registrants from across the country. The topic of organ transplantation had been planned long before the Baby Fae operation, but it was felt it would be healthy to proceed and welcome critics of the surgery to the Loma Linda campus. The four members of the Loma Linda University ethics faculty and three representatives of the Hastings Center, including the director, Daniel Callahan, alternated giving principal presentations and chairing sessions at the conference. Respondents came from the Claremont Colleges, the University of California at Los Angeles, the University of Southern California, and included Roy Branson, a research fellow at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown University, and the editor of *Spectrum*. The majority of those attending the conference came from outside California.

Stimulating conversations on current ethical issues in society is one of the goals of the ethics center, established in 1984. The chairman and director of the center, Jack Provonsha, reports that more than \$200,000 was donated in just the first year to the center. Administratively, the center is located within the division of religion and includes as staff all the members of the ethics department, including, in addition to Provonsha and Larson, Charles Teel, chairman of the department of Christian ethics; and James Walters, chairman of the center's development committee.

Walters points out that with \$200,000 already raised "the center's \$500,000 endowment goal is suddenly feasible."

He further explains that specific activities receive their own funding. For example, the April conference was underwritten by the California Council for the Humanities. Monthly luncheon meetings at the Medical Center, well-attended by a couple of hundred students and staff, are made pos-