WAU and Columbia Union Urban Evangelism School to Jointly Provide Ministry Training

The Washington Adventist University (WAU) Department of Religion will soon offer courses in field evangelism to students interested in urban ministry who are also participating in the REACH Columbia Union Evangelism School (RCUES) in Philadelphia. The two schools and the Columbia Union Conference signed a memorandum of understanding recently that will guide the joint training effort.

—WAU Staff

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Shenandoah Valley Academy Announces New Principal

Dale Twomley will once again serve as Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) principal. Twomley, who served as business manager and principal of the Potomac Conference school for seven years, will start January 1.—Tiffany Doss

Allegheny West Conference Announces Changes in Treasury

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Zenobia Seward, treasurer of the Allegheny West Conference, will retire December 31. She joined the Allegheny West Conference in 2001 and will retire with more than 32 years of denominational service.—Bryant Taylor

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New Jersey Conference Appoints Executive Secretary
Effective January 1, Mike Gill takes the helm as New Jersey Conference’s executive secretary, replacing Jim Greene, who retires December 31. Since 1988 Gill has served as the pastor of several districts across the conference, and, most recently, the Laurelwood church in Deptford.—Paulo Macena

Pennsylvania Conference Chooses New Director

The Pennsylvania Conference welcomes Tim Bailey as their new director of Leadership and Spiritual Growth. Bailey has experience in pastoral ministry, elders training, Prison Ministries, conflict management, overseas mission trips, evangelism and church planting.—Tamyra Horst

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Washington Adventist University and REACH Columbia Union Urban Evangelism School Sign Agreement to Jointly Provide Urban Ministry Training

Story and Photo by Washington Adventist University Staff

The Washington Adventist University (WAU) Department of Religion will soon offer courses in field evangelism to students interested in urban ministry who are also participating in the REACH Columbia Union Evangelism School (RCUES) in Philadelphia, Pa. The two schools and the Columbia Union Conference signed a memorandum of understanding recently that will guide the joint training effort.

“We are pleased to work with the REACH Columbia Union Urban Evangelism School to help train students who are interested in urban ministry,” says WAU President Weymouth Spence, WAU president. “Washington Adventist University has long been a gateway to service, offering encouragement to faculty, students and staff who participate in mission trips locally and abroad. This agreement offers students yet another opportunity to learn how to better serve others in our North American cities and urban areas.”

“Engaging young adults is a priority for the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Columbia Union Conference,” says Dave Weigley, president of the Columbia Union Conference. “This partnership will provide a great opportunity for us to help our young people experience the mission of our church firsthand. We’re pleased that one of our own young adults, Dr. Tara VinCross, will serve as director and help prepare young leaders for service.”

As part of the signed agreement, faculty from the WAU Department of Religion will provide leadership training in discipleship, community development, urban agriculture and various aspects of evangelism. The joint effort will provide students with the opportunity to gain a unique experience in metropolitan/urban ministry through a selection of courses that will enrich their experience in urban ministry. The REACH Urban Evangelism School’s hands-on curriculum is offered as a 12-month training and experiential program that prepares students for ministry in cities and urban areas throughout North America.

Students interested in urban ministry and participating in the Urban Evangelism School program will be able to earn up to 15 credits that will be transferrable to any college, and can be counted toward a degree. The WAU courses that will be offered include such topics as Jesus and the Gospels; Ellen G. White and the Gift of Prophecy; Knowing and Sharing Christ; Ministry in the City; The Theory and Practice of Urban Ministry; and Church Growth in the Urban Setting.

As part of the memorandum of understanding, students in the evangelism school program who take the WAU-provided courses will be required to maintain at least a 2.8 grade point average and must be recommended for the courses by their instructors and the advisory committee of REACH Columbia Union, based on classroom and field evaluation.

The REACH Columbia Union Urban Evangelism School is required under the agreement to maintain a high standard of student personal integrity and academic rigor throughout the experiential learning process. The agreement also
requires the evangelism school to offer its Urban Mission Year experience to WAU Theology students and those with other majors. As part of the agreement, the Urban Evangelism School will provide appropriate housing for participating WAU students at a location that is close to the school's Ministry Center in Philadelphia.
Shenandoah Valley Academy Announces New Principal

Dale Twomley will once again serve as Shenandoah Valley Academy (SVA) principal. Twomley, who served as business manager and principal of the Potomac Conference school in New Market, Va., for seven years, will start January 1.

Twomley is known for being a turn-around leader and having a passion for instilling spirituality and strong academics in students. He's been acknowledged for increasing enrollment, improving curriculum and for his expertise in education and business management say Potomac Conference leaders. He previously served at Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md., Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon, Ohio, and Fletcher Academy (N.C.).

Twomley replaces John Wagner, who served as interim principal for one semester.

Potomac and SVA administration, staff, faculty, alumni and parents of current SVA students are confident Twomley will bring strong leadership to the school. “We’ve been delighted to have John Wagner with us this past semester and have appreciated his leadership,” says Bill Miller, conference president. “We’re looking forward to ending the year strong in continued growth and academic excellence with Dale Twomley.”

Read the Potomac Conference’s official announcement here.
12/15/14

Potomac Conference Team:

“The end of my term as interim principal of SVA is just days away,” stated John Wagner, principal of Shenandoah Valley Academy (Va.), earlier today in a letter announcing his resignation. “I want each of you to know that I consider it to have been a wonderful privilege to serve my alma mater... As new leadership for second semester is announced and takes office, I urge that you continue to support SVA and its new leader with prayers and enthusiastic cooperation as I have experienced during the few short months since I joined the SVA family.”

Starting January 1, Dale Twomley will once again return as principal of SVA. Twomley is a graduate of Andrews University (Mich.) and holds a Masters of Business Administration as well as a Ph.D. in Administration. Twomley served SVA for seven years, both as principal and business manager and has played a significant role in other academies throughout the years, such as teacher and business manager at Takoma Academy (Md.), principal of Mount Vernon Academy (Ohio) and Fletcher Academy (NC) and Dean of the School of Business at Andrews University.

Twomley is known for being a turn-around leader and having a passion for instilling spirituality and strong academics in students. He’s been acknowledged for increasing enrollment, improving curriculum and for his expertise in education and business management. Potomac and SVA administration, staff, faculty, alumni and parents of current SVA students are confident Twomley will bring strong leadership to the school. “We’ve been delighted to have John Wagner with us this past semester and have appreciated his leadership,” said President Bill Miller. “We’re looking forward to ending the year strong in continued growth and academic excellence with Dale Twomley.”

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Official Statement: Allegheny West Conference Announces Changes in Treasury

December 15, 2014 · by Michelle Bernard · in Allegheny West Conference, Columbia Union News

Allegheny West Conference Announces Changes in Treasury

Article by Bryant Taylor

Zenobia Seward, treasurer of the Allegheny West Conference, will retire effective December 31. Seward began her denominational work at Oakwood University in Huntsville, Ala., where she worked as an accountant and director of Student Accounts for four years. This was followed by four years as business manager at Oakwood Academy and 11 years as associate treasurer for Allegheny East Conference in Pottstown, Pa. She joined Allegheny West Conference in 2001 and will retire with more than 32 years of denominational service.

"Zenobia has done a tremendous job of promoting the quality of work in Allegheny West throughout the denomination, and we thank and appreciate what she has done to better the conference," says William T. Cox, president, at her farewell dinner. Our prayers go with her as she leaves, and we ask God's continual blessing on her.

In light of Seward's announcement, the Allegheny West Conference Executive Committee voted Haycin Candace Nurse to serve as the interim treasurer, effective December 15. Nurse has been an integral member of the treasury team for eight years. She joined as a business intern/staff accountant and worked her way to assistant treasurer and Human Resources coordinator. Nurse has a BA in Accounting and Health Care Administration and an MBA with a concentration in Human Resources.
Effective January 1, Mike Gill takes the helm as New Jersey Conference’s executive secretary, replacing Jim Greene, who retires December 31. Since 1988 Gill has served as the pastor of several districts across the conference, and most recently the Laurelwood church in Deptford. In addition to pastoral work, he has served as the conference family life director, worship director and Adventist Community Services and Disaster Response director.

“Mike has faithfully served the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the New Jersey Conference for over two decades,” says José Cortés, president. “Mike is a family man. He and his wonderful wife, Eileen, bring a very special contribution to the conference.”

Gill says the best part of this call “is the opportunity to work with a dedicated team.” He adds, “I look forward to being a servant leader, which is what the office really entails.”

Other Columbia Union conference staff changes in January 2015:

- Allegheny West Conference Announces Changes in Treasury
- Pennsylvania Conference Chooses New Director
Pennsylvania Conference Chooses New Director

December 15, 2014 · by Michelle Bernard · in Columbia Union News, Pennsylvania Conference

The Pennsylvania Conference welcomes Tim Bailey as their new director of Leadership and Spiritual Growth. Bailey has experience in pastoral ministry, elders training, Prison Ministries, conflict management, overseas mission trips, evangelism and church planting. He most recently served as a pastor at Union Springs Academy and at the Geneva and Auburn churches in New York. He also worked with two church plants in New York, one in Bath and a bilingual church plant in Seneca Lake.

"What a privilege it is to serve God and His church here in Pennsylvania," shares Bailey, who started his new role January 1. "It is my goal to get to know our pastoral staff … and work with them in revealing Jesus and making disciples throughout our conference."

Other Columbia Union conference staff changes in January 2015:

- Allegheny West Conference Announces Changes in Treasury
- New Jersey Appoints Executive Secretary
Atlantic Natural Foods, which recently bought the Loma Linda brand, holds a ceremony at its food plant.

Posted December 11, 2014

Updated Dec. 12, 2014.

The new owner of old Adventist favorites like FriChik and Big Franks decided to get its production of meat substitutes off on the right foot on Thursday by inviting a trio of Adventist pastors to dedicate its manufacturing facility to God.

Atlantic Natural Foods acquired the Loma Linda and Worthington Foods brands of canned soy meat products, along with Kaffree Roma, from the Kellogg Company this fall.

"We honor the SDA dedication to a healthy lifestyle and the heritage of this iconic brand," Kelly Krause, CEO of Atlantic Natural Foods, said at the dedication ceremony at the facility in Nashville, North Carolina.

"As its shepherd, we plan to grow the traditional stable of Loma Linda/Worthington Foods canned products, reintroduce some iconic items that have been discontinued over the years, and create new and exciting items that will address changing consumer preferences," Krause said, according to a company statement.

Rick Russell, vice president and treasurer of the Carolina Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, underscored the importance of vegetarianism in the Adventist lifestyle at the ceremony.
"Keeping our foods and diet clean and healthy allows us to continue to be of service to our communities and to the world," Russell said. "Plant based, sustainable protein products like Loma Linda help us lead long, healthy, and energetic lives."

The Loma Linda brand, founded in 1921, has long led in developing vegetarian products that support the healthy lifestyle embraced by the Adventist community.

A company spokeswoman declined to discuss annual revenue or unit sales. She also said the amount that the company paid Kellogg from the brands would not be released.

"This was a private sale and undisclosed," she said in an e-mailed reply to questions.

Thursday’s ceremony was also attended by Jeff Sagala, pastor of the Rocky Mount Adventist Church; Richard Peterson, pastor of the Raleigh Adventist Church; and Nashville Mayor Donald B. Street.

Rebecca Carpenter, communication director for the Carolina Conference, indicated that the pastors were glad to participate.

"Atlantic Natural Foods recognizes and values the relationship the Loma Linda and Worthington brands has had with the Seventh-day Adventist church and its members," she said by e-mail. "They invited our participation as a way of connecting and continuing this relationship, and inviting the Lord’s blessing on the new venture."

J. Douglas Hines, chairman of AFT Holdings, an international investment and management group that is the principal owner of Atlantic Natural Foods, opened the ceremony with words of praise for God and Adventist university students.

"We are grateful and humbled in our position today and know God is behind all that we do, who we are, and what we will be," Hines said.

He said the Loma Linda label would continue a tradition of supporting Adventist education by donating a portion of sales proceeds with Southern Adventist University and Loma Linda University.

"We support the efforts of the young people from these fine universities in their efforts in the foreign fields for 2015," he said. "We believe in the future and want to give back a portion of that with which we have been blessed."

We reserve the right to approve and disapprove comments accordingly and will not be able to respond to inquiries regarding that. Please keep all comments respectful and courteous to authors and fellow readers.
We Are Family Senior Outreach Network recently named Allegheny East Conference’s Capitol Hill church (CHC) in Washington, D.C., Faith Partner of the Year. Mark Andersen, founder of the outreach network, presented the Horace McKenna Award to CHC as part of the We Are Family 2014 Volunteer Recognition Awards for going above and beyond in service. Karen Hayes, a member of the church’s Community Services Ministry, accepted the award.

In July CHC held an ice cream and games social for residents of Kelsey Apartments, a senior residence in Washington, D.C., run by the nonprofit. In August over 25 CHC volunteers provided and delivered 300 vases filled with flowers and 300 bags of groceries to the seniors.

The We Are Family Senior Outreach Network is a local nonprofit that serves over 600 seniors with food, services and advocacy.

December 11, 2014 · by Michelle Bernard · in Chesapeake Conference, Potluck


In his new self-published book Nature, Rocks & Minerals: A Biblical Perspective, Rick Streight, a member of Chesapeake Conference’s Blythedale church in Perryville, Md., wants to remind us that our Creator loves us far above diamonds and rubies. Here’s what our nature lover says about the book:

Visitor: What can readers expect to find in the book?
Streight: There are pictures of my family experiences in nature, which is a big part of my spiritual journey. There is Earth science, spiritual object lessons, and rocks and mineral facts. But mainly, this book is about nature, as Ellen G. White first brought it to my attention.

Visitor: What do you hope readers will gain from reading it?
Streight: It exalts our Creator, His power. There are many examples in nature of His love and protection for His created beings— you and I. It also talks about the biblical reason why we worship God, and even why we are Sabbath keepers! I balanced the book to hopefully make it exciting, fun and informative!
Mount Vernon Hill church filled for Mount Vernon Academy Christmas Concert

Story by Heidi Shoemaker

It was nearly standing room only at the Mount Vernon Hill church in Mount Vernon, Ohio, for the annual Mount Vernon Academy (MVA) Christmas concert this past Sabbath. David Niño, MVA music director, put together another inspirational program entitled “The Hope” containing custom-arrangements for orchestra and choir, handbells, the MVA wind ensemble and the MVA Echoliers with orchestra. Professional musicians from around Knox County joined other regional musicians and MVA alumni, performing alongside current MVA musicians and vocalists.


Photograph by Aliya Verbrigghe

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Photograph by Shari Bellchambers