Greetings Alumni and Friends,

The semester has come to a close here at WAU and so much has happened since our last issue of the Alumni E-News. The University welcomed three new administrators, held its Inaugural Visionaries Gala, Pastor C.D. Brooks spoke for our Week in Spiritual Emphasis, we had over 500 students plus dozens of alumni participate in our biannual Service Day, and that's just the tip of the iceberg! Please visit our website to learn more about these and other exciting events happening on the campus of WAU.

Thank you for your continued support of Washington Adventist University and our students.

Ellie Barker ('08)
Director of Alumni Relations

University hosts the Inaugural Visionaries Gala

Washington Adventist University Inaugural Visionaries Gala, held at the Congressional Country Club, Bethesda, Md., September 22, is being hailed as a resounding success by Vice President for Advancement and University Relations, L. Roo McKenzie, Ed.D.

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Read more about the WAU Visionaries Gala

Dessert with a Hero: Alumni Leadership meet with students.

Last month, members of the WAU Alumni Association met with a group of students. Dessert with a Hero is a regular event on campus giving students the opportunity to meet everyday heroes. November's event, sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations, was an open dialog between students and the Alumni Association leadership.

President Mark Young and potential Board Members Linelle Andrews and Peter Lombard spent the evening sharing why they are committed to giving back to the University as alumni. Students shared what it is like to be a student now and how they would like to see alumni involved on campus. Both students and alumni enjoyed the opportunity to get to know each other and agreed, "We want more opportunities like this."

Faculty Accomplishments

Michael Kulakov, professor of theology, history and philosophy at WAU; is the chief editor for the North American edition of the Russian New Testament and the Psalms, produced by the Bible Translation Institute in partnership with Washington Adventist University and Zaoksky Theological Seminary in Russia. "By God's grace, we have completed work on the poetic books of the Bible and are currently working on the books of Joshua and Judges. The books of the Major and Minor prophets have also been completed."

Olive Hemmings, Ph.D., Professor of Religion, is the author of a newly release work, Sacred Texts and Social Conflict, exploring the debate over women's ordination within the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is described further as helpful for students of sacred texts wishing to observe the social dynamics driving interpretation, and even formation of sacred texts. Hemmings describes it as "a great starting point for any research on the issue of women's ordination."

Read more about these and other accomplishments here.

Upcoming Events

Respiratory Care 40th Anniversary
Save the Date April 10th for the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the WAU Respiratory Care Department.

Alumni Weekend 2014 Excellence in Service, Strength in Diversity
April 10-13, 2104
Featured Speaker- Kendra Haloviak Valentine ('89)

Join Our Mailing List and Update Your Mailing Address!

Michael James Jr. ('11) is one of only two law students recently named to the Lawyers of Color's Inaugural Hot List for the Eastern Region. The list recognizes promising junior to mid-level minority attorneys and law students under the age of 40 who are excelling in the legal profession.

Michael James is in his third-year at Penn State Law School. He is currently the president of the Sports and Entertainment law society and previously served as the president of the Black Law Student Association at Penn State.

WAU Preview

Columbia and Atlantic Union Academies visit campus.

WAU Preview was October 6 and 7, 2013. Approximately 250 students from academies in both the Columbia and Atlantic Unions attended. This year's theme, "Keep Calm & Be Unstoppable" built on WAU's 2014 Campus Ministry theme of "Unstoppable."

WAU Preview gives high school seniors a taste of university life. Events highlighted the unique WAU experience and included an Academic Showcase, financial aid presentation, a performance by the Acro-Airs, a recital by the Department of Music, Onsite Admissions, worships and even a flag football game. But the WAU experience isn't limited to our campus, so students ended the weekend with a tour of historic Union Station.

"It is always a pleasure to have the students from our academies on campus. We always look forward to engaging with them as they consider their education and career goals," remarked admissions counselor and alumna Desiree Dixon('12).
TAKOMA PARK, Md. (Sept. 25) - Washington Adventist University (WAU) Inaugural Visionaries Gala, held at the Congressional Country Club, Bethesda, Md., September 22, is being hailed as a resounding success by Vice President for Advancement and University Relations, L. Roo McKenzie, Ed.D.

“I am extremely pleased,” McKenzie said. “We worked hard over the last few months and I prayed that it would be a resounding success—and it was.”

An enthusiastic Dave Weigley, president of the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and chair of the Washington Adventist University Board of Trustees, echoed McKenzie’s sentiments.

“WAU is just taking off,” Weigley said. “Two years ago, we had the highest enrollment in the history of the university, and we built our first new building in over 40 years. … This was an outstanding event to celebrate WAU’s exceptional progress in recent years and to recast a renewed vision called "Vision 20/20".

He added that he was deeply appreciative of “the dedication of President Weymouth Spence; Provost Cheryl Kisunzu; Vice President for Finance and Administration Patrick Farley; and the board, faculty and staff who are moving our mission forward there.”

For President Weymouth Spence, the Gala represents “a watershed moment in the history of Washington Adventist University.”

“We are signaling our intention to grow this university and to deepen our footprints as a higher education institution in the Washington, D.C. area and the country in general,” Spence said.

Highlight of the gala included presentation of the WAU Visionary Award to four individuals of extraordinary accomplishment and service: NBA legend Dikembe Mutombo, for excellence in humanitarian service; educator, businesswoman, activist and philanthropist, Evelyn Bata, Ph.D., for excellence in service to Washington Adventist University; head of the Duke Ellington School for the Arts, Rory Pullens for excellence in community transformation; and chair of the WAU music department, James Bingham, Ph.D., for excellence in the Musical Arts and Humanities.

The gala is envisioned as an annual event to support Vision 2020, a blueprint for campus development over the next seven years. Guided by the motto, Vision 2020—Growing with Excellence, WAU aims to improve all facets of its operations to become a thriving university in the competitive higher education market. In academics, the University aims to exceed accreditation standards; develop a strong curriculum in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; expand service learning; conduct ongoing program review; make strategic reinvestment in the quality of programs; and promote and strengthen support services that reflect 21st century best practices.
Washington Adventist University to Award Sullivan Medallions

TAKOMA PARK, Md. (Dec. 11) - Washington Adventist University has been unanimously selected by the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Foundation to join the family of schools awarding the Algernon Sydney Sullivan and Mary Mildred Sullivan medallions. WAU is the only school in Maryland and the only Seventh Day Adventist institution in the country to ever receive this honor. The university was selected based upon its commitment to service and for the outstanding work it has accomplished serving both local and international communities. The award may be presented to full-time undergraduate students and community leaders who have demonstrated a passion for community service and who are known for their unwavering integrity.

The foundation will provide a display apparatus so that the ensuing listing of recipients of the award can be prominently displayed on the campus. A representative from the Sullivan Foundation will be present in the Spring when the university selects and presents its first recipient(s) of the award at the annual Academic Awards chapel on April 23, 2014. For more information about the Sullivan awards, please contact Dr. Ralph Johnson, Dean, Center for Student Success.

Breaking Old Ground for a New Athletic Field

TAKOMA PARK, Md. (Nov. 25) - According to the Creation story in Genesis, God created the world *ex nihilo:* out of nothing. Then He broke the ground, gathered the dust of the earth, and made the first man. Breaking ground for a new athletic field at Washington Adventist University (WAU) is also an act of creation. This new field will be one means of recreating our students by helping them experience true education – “the harmonious development of the mental, physical and spiritual powers.” (Ellen White) It is the goal of WAU to help its learning community develop a balanced life in every dimension of living.

Groundbreaking for the new athletic field signals the start of an extreme makeover that has been needed for decades. The new field will be made of AstroTurf® and will allow for a variety of activities by students, staff, and members of the local community. Men’s and women’s soccer, intramural activities, and community group activities will enjoy a safe and aesthetically pleasing field during all the seasons of the year. “On this new field, we will not only build muscles, but also character and good sportsmanship.” (Patrick Crarey)

The WAU President, Dr. Weymouth Spence, officiated at the groundbreaking activity. He was assisted by Dave Weigley, Chair of the WAU Board of Trustees. Congratulatory comments were made by Patrick Crarey, Athletic Director of WAU; Jarrett Smith, Takoma Park Council Member; and Terrill North, candidate, County Council. It is estimated that refurbishment of the new athletic field will be completed April 2014.

Inaugural Visionaries Gala A Resounding Success

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**Major Milestone for Russian Bible Translation Project**


A dedication service was held, August 26, at the Press’ headquarters, and on September 5, 3ABN taped a special program to mark the new development.

“This summer has been immensely profitable and both our inter-denominational teams in Zaoksky, Russia, and here at WAU, are working around the clock to stay on target,” said Michael Kulakov, professor of theology, history and philosophy at WAU; chief editor for the translation project and director of the Russian Bible Translation Institute. “By God’s grace, we have completed work on the poetic books of the Bible and are currently working on the books of Joshua and Judges. The books of the Major and Minor prophets have also been completed.”
“We appreciate continued prayers from the WAU family for the work of our teams during this most decisive year,” he added.

Kulakov is currently in the fourth year of a five year sabbatical to complete the translation of the entire Bible into Russian by 2015. Seeing the first North American edition of the New Testament and the Psalms in print, was particularly moving for him, Kulakov said, since it was his late father, Dr. Mikhail P. Kulakov Sr. who founded the Institute at Zaoksky and worked tirelessly for over a decade to produce the translation of the New Testament and the Psalms.

Religion Professor Publishes New Book

TAKOMA PARK, Md. (Aug. 20) - Professor of Religion Olive Hemmings, Ph.D., is the author of a newly released work, Sacred Texts and Social Conflict, exploring the debate over women’s ordination within the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

“Here stands a dynamic faith community whose founding prophet and major source of authority outside the Bible is a woman,” a description on Amazon.com reads. “Thirteen decades after a resolution to ordain women, it continues to search the Bible for reasons to ordain or not. And yet, throughout its history, women have always functioned as ministers of the gospel. There must be some supra-biblical force driving the resistance. Hemmings goes behind the scenes of the debate to examine the profound and age old drama—the human struggle to find its best self.

The review calls the book “a surgical work of removing a tight, well fitted mask to reveal the real social fears and inhibitions driving the hermeneutics.”

It is described further as helpful for students of sacred texts wishing to observe the social dynamics driving interpretation, and even formation of sacred texts. Hemmings describes it as “a great starting point for any research on the issue of women’s ordination.”

Hemmings has been teaching in Seventh-day Adventist higher education since 1983. In the teaching of New Testament Bible, Ethics, and World Religions, she tends to call attention to the essential co-relation between religious ideologies/convictions and human civilization.
University Enjoys Best Credit Rating Ever

TAKOMA PARK, Md. (Aug. 8) - Washington Adventist University is enjoying its best credit rating ever, thanks to its improved working capital position. An August 5 report from Dun & Bradstreet upgraded the University’s Supplier Evaluation Risk Rating has been improved from a 2 to a 1. The current scale is from nine to one with nine being the lowest—high risk—and one being a low risk. Moving from a 2 to a 1 is the best possible rating.

The rating is based on past payment history and the ability to pay or availability of working capital.

“To achieve the most favorable risk rating is further evidence that the financial position of Washington Adventist University has been remarkably improved over the past five years and, at this moment, our vendors view us with a great deal of confidence,” said Patrick Farley, vice president for finance and administration.

According to its website, Dun and Bradstreet (NYSE: DNB) is the world's leading source of commercial information and insight on businesses, enabling companies to decide with confidence for more than 171 years. Its global commercial database contains more than 225 million business records.

The Company provides two solution sets that meet a diverse set of customer needs globally. Its Risk Management Solutions mitigate credit and supplier risk, increase cash flow and drive increased profitability while its Sales Marketing Solutions provide data management
capabilities to convert prospects into clients by enabling business professionals to research companies, executives and industries.

**Dikeme Mutombo to Headline Inaugural Visionaries Gala**

TAKOMA PARK, Md. (July 23) - Retired NBA Legend, Dikembe Mutombo, will headline a group of distinguished honorees at the Washington Adventist University (WAU) Inaugural Visionaries Gala, scheduled for Congressional Country Club, Sunday, September 22. The gala is envisioned as an annual event to support Vision 2020, a blueprint for campus development over the next seven years.

“This will be a watershed moment in the history of Washington Adventist University,” said President Weymouth Spence, Ph.D. “We are signaling our intention to grow this university and to deepen our footprints as a higher education institution in the Washington, D.C. area and the country in general.”

Mutombo will receive the Gateway Award for excellence in humanitarian service, recognizing his work in healthcare in The Democratic Republic of the Congo, his homeland. Originally intending to study medicine, Mutombo’s 7’2” frame caught the eye of the basketball coach at Georgetown University. He was soon drafted into the NBA where he spent 18 years as one of the league’s most celebrated players. He retired from the Houston Rockets in 2009.

Mutombo never forgot his intention to take medical care to his people, however. He created the Dikembe Mutombo Foundation in Atlanta, GA in 1997 and after 10 years of intense work, numerous challenges and $23 million of his own money, he completed the Biamha Marie Mutombo Hospital in Kinshasa, July 2007. The hospital, which is named in honor of his mother, opened its doors to patients in December 2007. The total cost was $29 million.

Other honorees on this year’s program, are: educator, businesswoman, activist and philanthropist, Evelyn Bata, Ph.D., for excellence in service to Washington Adventist University; head of the Duke Ellington School for the Arts, Rory Pullens, for excellence in community transformation; and chair of the WAU music department, James Bingham, Ph.D., for excellence in the arts and humanities.

Guided by the motto, Vision 2020–Growing with Excellence, WAU aims to improve all facets of its operations to become a thriving university in the competitive higher education market. In academics, the University aims to exceed accreditation standards; develop a strong curriculum in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; expand service learning; conduct ongoing program review; make strategic reinvestment in the quality of programs; and promote and strengthen support services that reflect 21st century best practices.

At the centerpiece of the plans, is the Health Professions and Wellness Center, conceived as a collaboration with like-minded organizations, the center will provide vibrant opportunities for holistic development through education, health, and wellness for the WAU community and beyond.

Also, on the drawing board is Phase Two of the Leroy & Lois Peters Music Center. The performance hall would connect to the Music Center to facilitate the practice, teaching, and study of the performing arts, integrating performance and curriculum for students.

“When the plans and actions are implemented, every person, program, and building associated with the school will be transformed,” Spence said.

**VP for Ministry Honored by General Conference Youth Department**

TAKOMA PARK, Md. (July 26) - Vice President for Ministry at Washington Adventist University and former General Conference Youth
Ministries Director, Baraka Muganda, Ed.D., was honored by the General Conference Youth Department at the third World Conference on Youth and Community Service in Pretoria, South Africa July 8 - 13, for outstanding contribution to the Seventh Day Adventist Church worldwide.

Youth, Children, and Chaplaincy Director of Uganda Union, Israel M. Kafeero, Ph.D, CFLE, in a citation, described Muganda as “a man of all season, whose service record spanned several generations.”

“He started college in the late ‘60s, with worldview miles apart from the post-modern world but he refused to be left behind,” the citation said. “His ideas, words, and behaviors always marched with the generation. Like the Apostle Paul, he mastered the art of speaking the language of the people before him, of whatever generation.”

Kafeero said Muganda was righteous, obedient and humble even when it meant sleeping in a thatched tent in the bushes of Uganda during a youth camp in 1986 “where the nights were filled with the music of a lion scare.”

“I was humbled and grateful to God for using me to impact the lives of so many youth around the world and leading them to the cross of Calvary, “Muganda said.

Muganda served as world youth director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church from 1995 to 2010. During that time, he gave leadership to activities for eight million young people around the world, developed programs and strategies for (Adventure Club, Pathfinders, Ambassadors Club and Senior Youth. Under his leadership the World Conference on Youth and Community Service, an event held every five years, was introduced.

“The work of leading young people in this fast paced world is enormous,” Kafeero said. “With a lot of options being offered by the world to the youth, we still have a lot to do, but he has done his part.”

Mission Trip to India Pulls together Major Religious Faiths

TAKOMA PARK, Md. (July 19) - Students from Washington Adventist University continue to take the institutions passion for excellence and service abroad, this time with a three-week trip to Pune, a bustling metropolis in Maharashtra, India’s second largest state.

Fifteen students made the trip, led by Vice President of Ministry Baraka Muganda, Ed.D. and Chaplain for Ministry, Regina Johnson. The students left the University June 7 and returned June 23.

“Washington Adventist University is preparing students not only academically but also spiritually, to impact the local and global world through service,” said Muganda.

Students participated in a health fair, under the theme NEWSTART (nutrition, exercise, water, sunlight, temperance, air, rest, and trust in divine power) and visited the Good Shepherd School and the Roger School, both secondary institutions, and Spicer Memorial College, a Seventh-day Adventist Institution of higher learning in Pune.

Students also preached at the locations and conducted Vacation Bible School, attended mostly by children from Buddhist, Hindu, and Muslim homes.

“It was awesome to hear these children sing with joy and excitement and not only at the schools but also in their own homes. What these young missionaries from Washington Adventist University have done in Pune will go a long way to plant seeds of faith among the people of Pune,” said Thomson Parackal, pastor of the Good Shepherd Church in Pune and coordinator for the group’s evangelistic activities. “This mission trip planted the seeds of Jesus in many Indian homes in the city of Pune. The children in those homes are now singing songs like, “Jesus Loves Me” and “He is Able.”
The trip ended June 22 with the baptism of 30 new converts.

“Under the heat of a beautiful Indian day, we watched as our brothers and sisters in Christ gave their lives to Him, rebirth. A distinct visual I will forever cherish,” said Sola Campbell, recent graduate of Oakwood University who accompanied the WAU students on this trip.

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